

1:100,000 SCALE MAP REPORT

National Wetlands Inventory

IRON RIVER NW

USER CAUTION

The map document was prepared primarily by stereoscopic analysis of high altitude aerial photographs. Wetlands were identified on the photographs based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography in accordance with Classification of Wetlands and Deep Water Habitats of the United States (An Operational Draft) Cowardin, et al, 1977.

The aerial photographs typically reflected conditions during the specific year and season when they were taken. In addition, there is a margin of error inherent in the use of aerial photographs. Thus a detailed on-the-ground and historical analysis of a single site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries established through photographic interpretation. In addition, some small wetlands and those obscured by dense forest cover may not be included on the map document.

Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either design or products of this inventory, to define limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, State, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, State, or local agencies concerning specific agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Additional information regarding this map or other National Wetland Inventory activities may be obtained by contacting:

Wetland Protection Unit
Division of Land Resource Programs
Box 30028
Lansing, MI. 48909

Map Preparation

Wetland delineation and classification for the Iron River NW 1:100,000 wetland maps were produced through interpretation of black and white transparencies from the U.S. Geological Survey at a scale of 1:80,000 taken during September and October of 1976. The photography is considered leaves-on. The transparencies were viewed stereoscopically at 6X magnification and delineations were made on mylar overlays attached directly to the photographs.

Delineations were enlarged using a zoom transfer scope to overlays of 1:62,500 scale and 1:24,000 scale to fit the USGS topographic map series.

The photo interpretation phase of the project was conducted in May of 1980 by the contractor, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land Resource Programs (address on page 1). The interpreters were located at the Rose Lake Field Office, 8562 E. Stoll Road, Route #1, East Lansing, Michigan 48823.

Iron River NW was field checked for photo interpretation accuracy on June 23, 24 and 25, 1980 by the two photo interpreters and the project manager. Another field check was made October 17, 1980 by the regional quality controller of the Fish and Wildlife Service. Corrections were made on the photographs before submitting them to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for map making.

Collateral data used to assist in the photo interpretation of Iron River NW consisted of eight (8) 1:62,500 scale (15 minute) and two (2) 1:24,000 (7 1/2 minute) U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps. The 15 minute maps were made between 1949 and 1956, and the 7 1/2 minute maps were made in 1946 and 1948.

Geography

The general location of the Iron River NW is 46° 30' to 47° N latitude and 89° to 90° W. longitude. According to Bailey's Ecoregion Classification*, the Iron River NW is described as 2112L, in the Humid Cool-Summer Continental Division, Laurentian Mixed Forest Province, Northern Hardwoods-Fir Section.

Hammond's Land Surface Form for Iron River NW is 111.3: Interior, Eastern North-Central Lake-Swamp-Morraine Plains. Two physical subdivisions are present, B4b and B2b. B4b is 50-80% of the area, gently sloping, 500-1000 feet local relief and 50-75% of gentle slope in the lowland. B2b is the same except for 100-300 feet local.

The climate of the Iron River NW is generally described as follows (from Bailey's). Winters are moderately long and somewhat severe, but more than 120 days have temperatures above 50° F (10° C). Average annual temperature ranges from 35-50° F (2-10° C). Snow usually stays on the ground all winter. During winter the province lies north of the main cyclonic belt, but during summer it lies within this belt and the weather is changeable. The moderate precipitation ranges from 24-45 in (600-1150 mm.); maximum precipitation comes in summer. A short growing season imposes severe restrictions on agriculture; the frost-free season lasts from 100-140 days.

*From Descriptions of the Ecoregions of the United States, by R.G. Bailey, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 1970.

1 R. NW

Wetland Communities

The wetlands of the Iron River NW are predominantly in the Palustrine system. The following list is a guide to the species of vegetation generally found on the wetland as classified as shown in the legend.

- ✓ PFOY) — balsam fir, hemlock, white birch, northern white cedar-saturated
- ✓ PFOB) — balsam fir, hemlock, white birch, northern white cedar-saturated
- ✓ PFO4B northern white cedar, black spruce, hemlock, balsam fir-saturated
- ✓ PFO4/1B(y) black spruce, hemlock, balsam fir, white birch, red maple-saturated
- ✓ PFO1(y) white birch, yellow birch, red maple, trembling aspen - saturated
- ✓ PFO/SSB(y) hemlock, black spruce/tag alder, dogwood-saturated-seasonal
- ✓ PSS1B tag alder, willow, dogwood-saturated
- ✓ PSSB(y) tag alder, willow, dogwood, northern white cedar-saturated-seasonal
- ✓ BSS3B leatherleaf, labrador tea - saturated
- ✓ PSS/EMY tag alder, dogwood-saturated-seasonal
- ✓ PSS/EMB- leatherleaf/grasses, sedges - saturated
- ✓ PEMB(y) cattail, sedges, rushes-saturated - seasonal - semi-permanent
- ✓ PEM/ABZ rushes, sedges, cattail/yellow water lily-permanent-intermittantly exposed
- ✓ PFO5/OWZb dead elm, spruce-beaver flooding-impounded
- ✓ POWZb beaver flooding - impounded
- ✓ PFO5-EMY dead elm and spruce/rushes, sedges-saturated-seasonal - semi-permanent
- ✓ PBBY sand bar along river

Special Mapping Problems

ok
Problem: Much of the terrain is very steep and some wetlands are located on slopes; other times, steep slopes appear darker and could be confused with ~~PFOs~~. *forested*
Resolution: Check topo carefully. Very steep slope will most likely be upland, whereas gentler slopes may have ~~ground-slope wetlands~~.

ok
Problem: Many PSS/EM areas look like pure PEM; some contain leatherleaf and sedges which have a very light tone and a hard-to-distinguish texture.
Resolution: Check carefully for texture. Low growing leatherleaf makes it very difficult to see typical shrub texture and may be nearly impossible to correctly classify. Thus, many emergent wetlands may have low shrub growth present. *- U. few EM without SS.*

ok
Problem: Some forested areas appear similar to PFO4 or PFO4/1, containing balsam fir, hemlock, northern white cedar, aspen and birch. However, soil borings reveal the soil to be somewhat poorly drained clay and ~~not considered to be a wetland.~~
Resolution: Check carefully for subtle tone differences and check topo carefully. However, errors in delineation of ~~this~~ wetland classification will ~~unavoidably~~ occur. *these with similar species.*

ok
Problem: Forested areas next to rivers were difficult to classify, since many of them were broad-leaved deciduous trees, and only seasonally flooded, whereas the majority of the forested wetlands in this region were needle-leaved evergreens.
Resolution: Pay close attention to contour lines on the topo and look for old oxbows.

ok
Problem: Riverine systems were difficult to classify as ~~to whether they were~~ upper or lower perennial. Most of the ~~topo maps~~ were of 15 minute scale, ~~so~~ ~~they~~ were of limited help.
Resolution: Check ~~the~~ topo maps to see if the river system goes across contour lines and for steep-sided gorges, which would indicate upper perennial-type streams.
↳ look for rapids etc.