

FIELD SUMMARY REPORT
MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL FORESTS

I. STUDY AREA

A. Maps Involved:

Hattiesburg NW	Natchez NE
Hattiesburg SW	Natchez NW
Jackson NE	Natchez SE
Meridian NW	Natchez SW
Meridian SW	West Point SW

B. Personnel:

C. Storrs - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
D. Fowler - Geonex Martel, Inc.
F. Sargent - Geonex Martel, Inc.

C. Date of Field Trip:

October 8 - 13, 1989

D. Available Photography:

NHAP 1:58K
Mid to late March 1980 - 1982

E. Collateral Data:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangles
SCS County Soil Surveys

II. OVERVIEW

The book by Robert G. Bailey, "Descriptions of the Ecoregions of The United States", defines the region that includes the study area as a Southeastern Mixed Forest Province. Gulf Coastal Plains and the Piedmont make up the Province. Forest lined streams, lakes, large meandering rivers, swamps, and a gently rolling topography are common in the area. The climate is humid subtropical which means mild winters and hot summers. Average annual temperature is 60° F - 70° F. Rainfall is spread fairly evenly throughout the year, with a slight increase during spring. Average annual precipitation is 40 - 60 inches per year. The growing season varies between 200 - 300 days per year.

III. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WETLAND HABITATS

- A. Marine: None represented
- B. Estuarine: None represented
- C. Riverine:

Perennial streams and rivers will be classified as lower perennial R2UBH and R2UBHx except where vegetation is prevalent. Intermittent streams will be classified as R4SBC or R4SBCx except when vegetation is prevalent. The U.S.G.S. Quadrangle is the basic information for determining whether a stream is perennial or intermittent. Riverine bars are classified as R2USA or R2USC.

- D. Lacustrine:

No natural lakes were noted within the study area, however man-made lakes were noted. They will be classified as L1UBHh or L1UBHx. Aquatic bed within this system was seen in the field. When duckweed (Lemna minor) or duckmeal (Wolffia sp.) is present, they will be classified L2AB4Hh or L2AB4Hx. When watermillfoil (Myriophyllum sp.) or parrot feather (Myriophyllum brasiliense) or (Hydrilla sp.) is present they will be classified L2AB3Hh or L2AB3Hx.

- E. Palustrine:

The majority of wetlands found in the study area are in this class. They are generally located on river floodplains and in streambeds.

The temporarily flooded (A) water regime included many tree species, the main ones in the study area were: water oak (Quercus nigra), willow oak (Quercus phellos), yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), pecan (Carya illinoensis), and cottonwood (Populus deltoides).

The seasonally flooded water regime includes all of the above mentioned plus willow (Salix nigra), green ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica), red maple (Acer rubrum), and cypress (Taxodium distichum).

The semi-permanently flooded water regime includes these species: cypress, willow, and buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis).

Open water is the next most prevalent class. Some naturally occurring ponds and oxbows will be classified PUBH. Excavated ponds will be classified PUBHx. Several ponds may be classified using the (b) beaver modifier. Their label will be PUBHb. All other ponds will be classified using the (h) impounded modifier.

If aquatic bed is present the labels will be PUB4Hx, PUB4Hh or PUB3Hh, PUB3Hx.

In the emergent class the water regimes A and C includes: smartweed (Polygnum sp.), soft rush (Juncus effusus), and cattail (Typha latifolia). All areas of emergents noted in the field were in the backs of ponds or being drained in open fields.

The class scrub-shrub has limited use in this area. The species are the same as in the forested areas. The SS is less than 6 meters in height.

IV. IMAGERY:

The photography was of good clarity and emulsion throughout the study area. The dates of photography are early enough in the year to allow clear, accurate wetland upland breaks and easy distinguishability between deciduous and evergreen trees.

V. SUMMARY:

The mild climate and sufficient year round precipitation allows a diverse and well established wetland community to develop.