

FIELD SUMMARY REPORT
CHARLOTTE NE, SE, and SW

I. STUDY AREA

A. Maps Involved 1:100,000:

Charlotte NE, SE, and SW

B. Quads Involved:

Charlotte NE

Mooresville
Lake Norman North

Charlotte SE

Midland	Derita
Matthews	Cornelius
Mint Hill	Fort Mill*
Harrisburg*	Charlotte West*
Kannapolis	Mountain Island Lake
Weddington*	Lake Norman South
Charlotte East	

Charlotte SW

Lake Wylie
Belmont
Mount Holly

* Indicates Quads with Checksites

C. Personnel:

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

D. Date of Field Trip:

August 6 - 11, 1989

E. Available Photography:

NHAP 1:58K
March 2, 1983; March 3, 1983; February 2, 1984

F. Collateral Data:

U.S.G.S. Topographic Quadrangles
Soil Survey - Mecklenburg County

II. OVERVIEW

The book by Robert G. Bailey, "Descriptions of the Ecoregions of The United States", describes the region that includes the study area as a Southeastern Mixed Forest Province. Gulf Coastal Plains and the Piedmont make up the Province. Forested streams, lakes, large 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' - 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. Frost occurs each winter. Snow is rarely accumulated at any depth.

III. BIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF WETLAND HABITATS

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

The major rivers and streams in the study area are: the Catawba River, Sugar Creek, Paw Creek, and Long Creek. These and other perennial streams are classified as lower perennial R2UBH and R2UBHx except when vegetation is prevalent and the streambed is obscured.

Intermittent streams classified as R4SBC or R4sbcx except when obscured by vegetation. The U.S.G.S. Quad is used to determine whether a stream is perennial or intermittent. Riverine bars are classified as R2USA or R2USC.

- D. Lacustrine:

No natural lakes are found within the study area. Many large man-made lakes are found here. These are classified as L1UBHh. Some aquatic beds are present. When duckweed (Lemna minor) or duckmeal (Wolffia sp.) is present, they are classified L2AB4Hh. When watermilfoil (Myrophyllum sp.) or parrot feather (Myrophyllum brasiliense) or (Hydrilla sp.) is present they are classified L2AB3Hh.

Shallows and flats with the lacustrine environment are classified L2UBFh or L2USCh or L2USAh.

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, h or PUB3Hh, x.

In the emergent class the water regimes A and C includes: smartweed (Polygonum 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.

DF/drs.nwi