CANADIAN BORDER BASINS

Field Conventions
7 July - 18 July, 1987

The format for this review will analyze wetland signatures for North Dakota and Montana. Temporary, seasonal, and semi-permanent wetlands will be discussed.

The reader should note that these conventions are a supplement to the previous Prairie Pothole Field Conventions and Notes, 1985. The foundations for basin and linear conventions remain applicable.

NORTH DAKOTA

TEMPORARY WATER REGIMES

Great care should be taken in typing temporary wetlands. Close attention must be paid to tone differences between uplands and temporary emergents.

Light gray and white tones that appear smooth in texture are upland. Some of these smooth grays along linears may look wet, but avoid them. Stick to darker blue tones along linears as temporary.

Basin temporaries may have open water or a dark blue signature. If there is a dark draw down tone around the open water, check to see if it is part of the basin, and not an overflow condition. If so, pull it out with the open water as temporary.

White and blue mottled tones have been seen as temporary wetlands. These tones generally do not occur in a basin situation. Look for these tones as temporary in key areas such as: around PABFX dug outs, along linears and adjacent to Riverine Systems and oxbows.

SEASONAL WATER REGIMES

Open water tones in basins that show no evidence of cattail or hardstem will be typed as seasonal. Open water basins that appear deep and strong can be typed as PABF. Basins that have a smooth, white tone around the edges and inside the basins, probably contain slough grass and are seasonal. There will most likely be some confusion concerning the "C" and "F" break. If the white tone in basins is a rough textured white that is distributed over a great majority of the basin, we will type it as "F". This white tone is sometimes hard to distinguish from the slough grass tone; it will be up to the P.I. to make this determination.

SEMI-PERMANENT WATER REGIMES

As discussed earlier, rough, white tones across the basin will be PEMF. Any evidence of cattail cloning or hardstem will also be PEMF. Larger basins we will pull out the EM, and label the water ABF or L2ABG. Split classes can be used, but sparingly. PABF will be used on deep water basins. Field checking revealed many of these basins were in fact PABF and not seasonal.

MISCELLANEOUS

PFO along river floodplains and oxbows will be temporary.

PSS around basins and linears will be temporary. Be careful not to confuse cattail with PSS.

Roadside ditches will be PEMCx or Fx as the situation warrants.

The white rings around "C" and "F" basins that are within the basins will be pulled.

May 1983 photography is dry, and will have to be pushed in terms of basins and water regimes.

MONTANA:

TEMPORARY WATER REGIMES

Great care should be taken in typing temporary wetlands. Close attention must be paid to tone differences between uplands and temporary emergents.

Light gray and white tones that appear smooth in texture are upland. Some of these smooth grays along linears may look wet, but avoid them. Stick to darker blue tones along linears as temporary.

Basin temporaries may have open water or a dark blue signature. If there is a dark draw down tone around the open water, check to see if it is part of the basin, and not an overflow condition. If so, pull it out with the open water as temporary.

White and blue mottled tones have been seen as temporary wetlands. These tones generally do not occur in a basin situation. Look for these tones as temporary in key areas such as: around PABFX dug outs, along linears and adjacent to Riverine Systems and oxbows.

Red tone peripheries around basins are temporary. These zones usually contain western wheatgrass and foxtail barley. These red tones that appear in basins will also be temporary.

Shotgun tones (white and blue/gray signatures) will be typed as PEMA. Pure white tones adjacent to basins, in native prairie, or near-shotgun areas are unconsolidated shore-temporary.

SEASONAL WATER REGIMES

Seasonal vegetation was showing as red (photosynthesized) and white tones (smooth). Open water seasonals were also evident, but look for shallower basins.

SEMI-PERMANENT WATER REGIMES

P.I. will again look for evidence of cattail or hardstem. PABF will have deeper basins with no cattail, except around periphery. Try to avoid split classes.

MISCELLANEOUS

Short drainages that have buckbrush, red tones, or gray upland tones will not be pulled.

Most linear drainages that are wetland will be R4SBA or, occasionally, C.

Linears connecting small PEMC polygons will be R4SBA.