

DRAFT

USER REPORT: WILLISTON SW

NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAPS

A. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory are producing maps showing the location and classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. The Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States by Cowardin et al. is the classification system used to define and classify wetlands. Photointerpretation conventions, hydric soils lists and wetland plant lists are also available to enhance the use and application of the classification system.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of the notes to users is threefold: (1) to provide localized information regarding the production of NWI maps, including specific imagery and interpretation discussion; (2) to provide a descriptive crosswalk from wetland codes on the map to common names and representative plant species, and (3) to explain local geography, climate, and wetland communities.

C. STUDY AREA

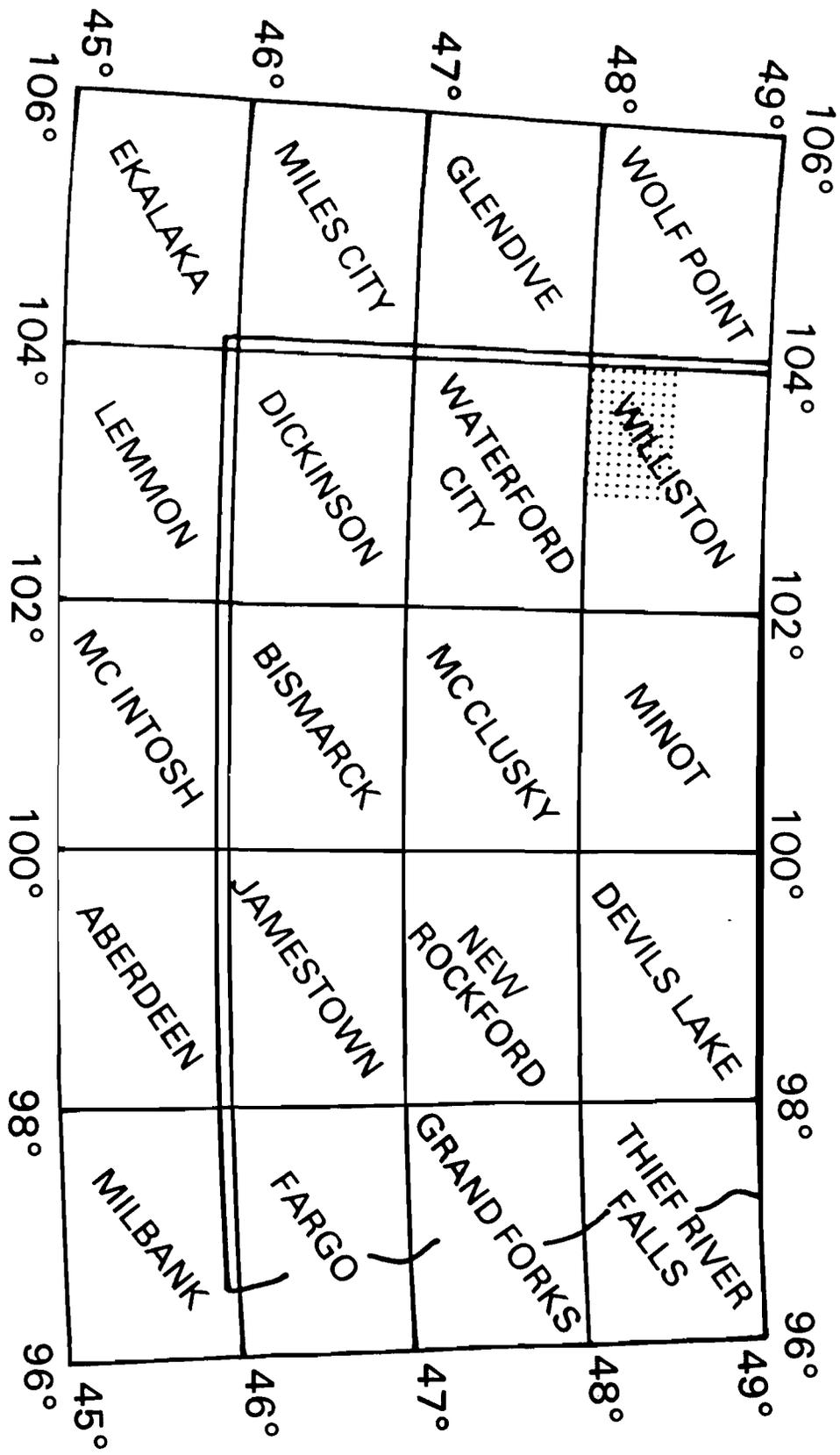
Geography:

The map, Williston SW is located in central North Dakota. The map is bounded on the west by the 104° meridian, and on the east by the 103° meridian. On the north it is bounded by the 48° 30' parallel, and on the south by the 48° parallel (see illustration).

According to Bailey, Description of the Ecoregion of the United States (1980), the study area lies in the Great Plains Short-Grass Prairie Province. This region is characterized by rolling plains and tablelands of moderate relief. They are in a broad belt that slopes gradually eastward down from an altitude of 5,500 ft. (1,520 m.) near the foot of the Rocky Mountains to 2,500 (760 m.) in the Central States. The plains are notably flat, but there are occasional valleys, canyons, and buttes. In the northern section, badlands and isolated mountains break the continuity of the plains.

Climate:

The climate is a semiarid continental regime in which maximum rainfall comes in summer, but the total supply of moisture is low. Evaporation usually exceed precipitation. The average annual temperature is 45°F (8°C) throughout most of the region but can reach 60°F (15°C) in the south. Winters are cold and dry; the summers warm to hot. The frost free season is generally fewer than 100 days with precipitation being about 10 in. (250mm.) at this latitude of the Short-Grass Prairie Province.



Vegetation:

The Short-Grass Prairie Province is a formation class of short grasses that are bunched and sparsely distributed (Bailey, 1980). Some trees and shrubs are scattered throughout the Prairie Province, and can be found in all covertypes ranging from semidesert to woodland. In many areas ground cover is scarce, exposing soil to erosion by wind and water. Buffalo grass is a typical short-grass prairie growth; sunflower and locoweed are typical plants.

Soils:

Soils in the Short-Grass Prairie are generally chestnut brown and the dominant pedogenic process is calcification (Bailey, 1980). Salinization of the soil is dominant in poorly drained sites. Soils are rich in bases as they contain a large amount of precipitated calcium carbonate. Humus content is small because vegetation is sparse.

WETLAND CLASSIFICATION CODES AND WATER REGIME DESCRIPTIONS

Table 1 - Cowardin Classification Codes and Description:

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION
L1UB (H)	Lacustrine limnetic uncon- solidated bottom	Open water, Lake	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
L2UB (F,G)	Lacustrine littoral uncon- solidated bottom	Open water, Lake	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
L2US (A,C)	Lacustrine littoral uncon- solidated shore	Lake shore	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
L2AB (F,G)	Lacustrine littoral aquatic bed	Floating or rooted water plants	Coontail ( <u>Ceratophyllum demersum</u> ) Water milfoil ( <u>Myrio- phyllum heterophyllum</u> )
R2UB (G,H)	Riverine lower perennial uncon- solidated bottom	Open water, river	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
R2US (A,C)	Riverine lower perennial uncon- solidated shore	River flat or bar	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
R4SB (A,C,F)	Riverine Inter- mittent streambed	Intermittent stream or creek	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
PUB	Palustrine uncon- solidated bottom	Open water pond unvegetated	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
PUS (A,C)	Palustrine uncon- solidated shore	Pond shore	Unvegetated mud, sand or gravel
PAB (F,G)	Palustrine aquatic bed	Floating or rooted water plants	Pond weed ( <u>Potamogeton</u> spp.) Yellow crowfoot ( <u>Ranunculus purshii</u> ) Duckweed ( <u>Lemna minor</u> ) Coontail (Hornwort) <u>Ceratophyllum demersum</u> ) Water milfoil ( <u>Myrio- phyllum heterophyllum</u> )

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION
PAB (F,G) (cont'd)	Palustrine emergent	Marsh or wet meadow	Bladderwort ( <u>Utricularia</u> spp.)
PEM (A,C,F)			Hardstem bullrush ( <u>Scirpus acutis</u> ) Cattail ( <u>Typha latifolia</u> ) White top ( <u>Scolochloa festucacea</u> ) Spikerush ( <u>Eleocharis</u> spp.) Prarie cordgrass ( <u>Spatina pectinata</u> ) Smartweed ( <u>Polygonum</u> spp.) Slough sedge ( <u>Carex trichocarpa</u> ) Rush ( <u>Juncus</u> spp.) Fowl bluegrass ( <u>Poa palustris</u> ) Foxtail barley ( <u>Hordeum jubatum</u> ) Reed canary grass ( <u>Phalaris arundinacea</u> )
PSS (A,C)	Palustrine scrub-shrub	Shrub wetland	Black willow ( <u>Salix nigra</u> )
PFO (A,C,G)	Palustrine Forest	Forest wetland	Blackwillow ( <u>Salix nigra</u> ) Cottonwood ( <u>Populus deltoides</u> ) American elm ( <u>Ulmus americanus</u> ) Box elder ( <u>Acer negundo</u> )

## Water Regime Description

### Tidal

#### Salt and Brackish Areas - Marine and Estuarine Systems

(L) Subtidal--The substrate is permanently flooded with tidal water.

(M) Irregularly Exposed--Land surface is exposed by tides less often than daily. This corresponds to the area on NOS charts from seaward edge of light green tone (mean low water) to depth contour approximating extreme low water. (N) Regularly Flooded--Tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.

(P) Irregularly Flooded--Tidal water floods land surface less often than daily. The area must flood by tide at least once yearly as a result of extreme high spring tide.

#### Freshwater Tidal Areas--Lacustrine, Palustrine and Riverine Systems

(N) Regularly Flooded--Fresh tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.

(R) Seasonally Flooded - Tidal

(S) Temporarily Flooded - Tidal

(T) Semipermanently Flooded - Tidal

(V) Permanently Flooded - Tidal

(U) Unknown--The water regime is not known

### Non-Tidal

(J) Intermittently Flooded--Substrate is usually exposed, but surface water present for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity. Weeks or months or even years may intervene between periods of inundation. The dominant plant communities under this regime may change as soil moisture conditions change. Some areas exhibiting this regime do not fall within our definition of wetland because they do not have hydric soils or support hydrophytes.

(A) Temporarily Flooded--Surface water present for brief periods during growing season, but water table usually lies well below soil surface. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands are characteristic of this water regime.

(B) Saturated--The substrate is saturated to surface for extended periods during the growing season, but surface water is seldom present.

(C) Seasonally Flooded--Surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is very variable, extending from saturated to a water table well below the ground surface.

(F) Semipermanently Flooded--Surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years. When surface water is absent, the water table is usually at or very near the land's surface.

(G) Intermittently Exposed--Surface water is present throughout the year except in years of extreme drought.

(H) Permanently Flooded--Water covers land surface throughout the year in all years.

(K) Artificially Flooded--The amount and duration of flooding is controlled by means of pumps or siphons in combination with dikes or dams.

(U) Unknown--The water regime is not known.  
water.

(M) Irregularly Exposed--Land surface is exposed by tides less often than daily. This corresponds to the area on NOS charts from seaward edge of light green tone (mean low water) to depth contour approximating extreme low water. (N) Regularly Flooded--Tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.

(P) Irregularly Flooded--Tidal water floods land surface less often than daily. The area must flood by tide at least once yearly as a result of extreme high spring tide.

#### Freshwater Tidal Areas--Lacustrine, Palustrine and Riverine Systems

(N) Regularly Flooded--Fresh tidal water alternately floods and exposes the land surface at least once daily.

(R) Seasonally Flooded - Tidal

(S) Temporarily Flooded - Tidal

(T) Semipermanently Flooded - Tidal

(V) Permanently Flooded - Tidal

(U) Unknown--The water regime is not known

#### Non-Tidal

(J) Intermittently Flooded--Substrate is usually exposed, but surface water present for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity. Weeks or months or even years may intervene between periods of inundation. The dominant plant communities under this regime may change as soil moisture conditions change. Some areas exhibiting this regime do not fall within our definition of wetland because they do not have hydric soils or support hydrophytes.

(A) Temporarily Flooded--Surface water present for brief periods during growing season, but water table usually lies well below soil surface. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands are characteristic of this water regime.

(B) Saturated--The substrate is saturated to surface for extended periods during the growing season, but surface water is seldom present.

(C) Seasonally Flooded--Surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is very variable, extending from saturated to a water table well below the ground surface.

(F) Semipermanently Flooded--Surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years. When surface water is absent, the water table is usually at or very near the land's surface.

(G) Intermittently Exposed--Surface water is present throughout the year except in years of extreme drought.

## WETLAND COMMUNITIES

### Palustrine:

A majority of the acreage of palustrine vegetated wetlands is made up of basin oriented potholes. The remainder of vegetated palustrine wetlands are covered with forest or scrub-shrub. Gravel pits and unconsolidated shore areas are the only unvegetated palustrine wetlands.

Temporary emergent vegetation in basins includes rush (Juncus spp.) and foxtail barley (Hordeum jubatum). Non-basin temporary emergents occur in wet meadow or floodplain situations and include reed canary grass (Phalaris arundinacea), fowl bluegrass (Poa Palustris), and prairie cordgrass (Spartina Pectinata). Seasonal emergents for basins are dominated by white top (Scolochloa festucacea). The white top also occurs in meadows along with common spikerush (Eleocharis spp.), three square (Scirpus americanus), prairie cordgrass (Spartina pectinata) and slough sedge (Carex Trichocarpa). Smartweed (Polygonum spp.), three square and slough sedge occur regularly in roadside ditches. Semipermanent emergents include hardstem bulrush (Scirpus acutus) and cattails (Typha Latifolia). Both occur mostly in pothole basins, but may occasionally occur in non-basin situations such as meadows, river scars or overflow areas near rivers.

Aquatic bed vegetation is widespread later in the growing season. Both rooted and floating vascular types exist in basin situations and in "dug outs" which are used to retain water for cattle and the larger sewage settling tanks. Types of aquatics include pond weed (Potamogeton spp.), yellow crowfoot (Ranunculus purshii), duckweed (Lemna minor), coontail (Hornwort) (Ceratophyllum demersum), water milfoil (Myriophyllum heterophyllum) and bladderwort (Utricularia spp.).

Forested wetlands are scarce and occur only in narrow bands or small pockets. They are temporary in nature and can be associated with wet basins or river floodplains. Species include black willow (Salix nigra), cottonwood (Populus deltoides), American elm (Ulmus americanus) and box elder (Acer negundo).

Scrub-shrub wetland assemblages occur in similar situations as forested wetlands, the dominant species being shrub willows (Salix nigra).

Unvegetated palustrine wetlands are fairly common in the form of gravel pits and unconsolidated shore. Dug out gravel pits are always typed as intermittently exposed due to their ability to hold water for long periods of time. The great majority of unconsolidated shore is seasonal. Most impounded unconsolidated shore areas have the ability to support wetland vegetation, but frequent trampling by live stock prevents establishment of wetland plants.

### Lacustrine

Wetlands in this category are in excess of 20 acres. Only the largest and most permanent are considered limnetic; e.g. Lake Sakakawea. The lacustrine littoral zone occurs as unconsolidated shore; this being usually a fringe of sand or mud at lake's edge, or as aquatic beds. Aquatics found in this zone are: coontail (Ceratophyllum demersum) and water milfoil (Myriophyllum heterophyllum). These lakes can be intermittently exposed or semipermanent. Semipermanent lacustrine bodies are shallower and occasionally alkaline in nature.

### Riverine

The only permanent river is the Missouri, which is typed as lower perennial. The Little Missouri and the Cheyenne are considered intermittent streams, semipermanent, with streambed bottom (no vegetation). Some similar but smaller rivers are seasonal. Both seasonal and semipermanent rivers may have storage pools in the stream which contain emergents and/or aquatic bed, either floating or rooted.

## Map Preparation

The wetland classifications that appear on these National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps are in accordance with Cowardin et al. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States (1980). The delineations were produced by stereoscopic interpretation of 1:65,000 scale, color infrared photographs taken 4-26-82 and 5-26-83. Initial ground truthing of the photography occurred during the period of June 3, to June 9, 1985. Photointerpreters used collateral information from soil surveys, and USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic maps to assist in wetland recognition.

The user of the map is cautioned that, due to the limitations of mapping primarily through aerial photointerpretation, a small percentage of wetlands may be unidentified. Changes in landscape, or habitat, could have occurred since the time of photography, therefore, some discrepancies between the maps and current field conditions may exist. Any questions regarding omissions, inclusions, or errors should be brought to the attention of the Regional Wetlands Coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 6, Habitat Resources, Lake Plaza North Building, 134 Union Boulevard, Lakewood, Colorado, 80228.

### Special Mapping Problems:

Wetland descriptions were provided for Lake Garrison, a mainstem reservoir in western North Dakota. Lake Garrison is formed by an earth-fill dam along the Missouri River, and covers the southern portions of Williston SE and SW 1:100,000 scale maps. Contour data for Lake Garrison were used to define the limits of the wetland classifications. This information was provided by 1943 Corps of Engineers Missouri River Diversion Project 1:10,000 scale maps. The 1850' contour is used to establish the wetland/upland break, and approximates the mean high water level for Lake Garrison. Wetland classifications and their contour intervals are:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Elevation (in feet)</u>
L2USCh	1837-1850
L2UBGh	1831-1837
L1UBHh	<1831

### Map Acquisition:

To place an order for a National Wetland Inventory map product, please contact:

Charles Elliott  
Regional Wetland Coordinator  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Region 6 - Habitat Resources  
Lake Plaza North Bld.  
134 Union Blvd.  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

-or-

Rocky Mountain Mapping Center  
National Cartographic Information Center  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, Stop 504, Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Maps are identified by the name of the corresponding USGS  
1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle name. Topographic map  
indices are available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

LITERATURE CITED:

Bailey, R.G., 1980. Description of the Ecoregions of the United States. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication No. 1391, 77 pp.