DURANGO - MONTROSE, COLORADO

DURANGO NE, DURANGO SE
MONTROSE SE

PHOTO INTERPRETATION CONVENTIONS

RIVERINE SYSTEM

The U.S.G.S. Water Resource Book Co. 1990, along with local information collected while ground truthing, will be used to determine the water regime on streams and rivers. If information is unavailable then photo signature or convention will dictate water regime.

R3UBH - Upper perennial, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded. These rivers have a cobble bottom, some velocity, and little or no developed floodplain. The Rio Grande, Rio Blanco and Conejos Rivers are some examples of upper perennial streams. While ground truthing we discovered that even the smallest streams in the mountains flow year round. We will delineate all these as R3UBH. This includes named and unnamed perennial or intermittent on topo. Photo signature may also be very weak. We will not use the R3UBF classification in the mountains except where photos tie to final maps.

R3USC - Upper perennial, unconsolidated shore, seasonally flooded. These are unvegetated cobble, sand or mud flats along upper perennial streams. Signatures will vary from white to gray blue mixture.

R3USA - Upper perennial, unconsolidated shore, temporarily flooded. These are along upper perennial streams. Signature will be white.

R3UBF - Upper perennial, unconsolidated bottom, semipermanently flooded. This classification will be used in the lower, dryer elevations on smaller streams.

R4SBC/A - Intermittent, streambed, seasonally/temporarily flooded. These streambeds will be smaller in size with little or no water present. Signature will dictate water regime.

R4SBCx - Intermittent, streambed, seasonally flooded, excavated. This classification will be used on irrigation canals. These will either have water present or be void of vegetation. Vegetated irrigation canals will be covered under the PEMCx classification.

LACUSTRINE SYSTEM

All lacustrine systems will be greater than twenty (20) acres except those found in mountain areas (see L1UBH classification). Emergent vegetation around these lakes will be classified under the palustrine system. Those areas influenced by impoundments will carry the impounded (h) modifier.

L1UBH - Limnetic, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded. This classification will be used on mountain lakes with any part of the shoreline as bedrock regardless of size.

L2ABGh - Littoral, aquatic bed, intermittently exposed, impounded. This classification will be used on lakes seen in Durango SE.

L2UBGx - Littoral, aquatic bed, intermittently exposed, excavated. This will be used on large mining pits.

PALUSTRINE SYSTEM

PEMA - Emergent, temporarily flooded. Temporarily flooded wetlands were seen in the lower elevations usually in hayed field pastures or associated with floodplains. Signature will be a light pink.

PEMC - Emergent, seasonally flooded. These also seen in lower elevations in hayed fields, pasture or along rivers. Signatures are usually mottled and have deeper tones then temporarily flooded signatures. These will vary from pink, red and brown and may be a mixture of these shades.

PEMF - Emergent, semipermanently flooded. These were found in lower elevations as oxbows, pockets and swales. Signatures vary from red, brown, black or green usually a mixture of two or more and have texture to the signature.

PEMB - Emergent, saturated. This classification will be used on springs, wetlands on slopes and on all emergents in mountain areas. While ground truthing we found that emergent wetlands regardless of slope were saturated in the higher elevations. Signatures varied from a light pink to mottled deeper shades of pink, red and brown.

PSSA - Scrub-shrub, temporarily flooded. This classification will be used on shrubs away from streams and in lower elevations. Signature will be a pink-red. Shrubs will be compact and fluffy in texture.

PSSC - Scrub-shrub, seasonally flooded. These shrubs were found to be in or next to streams. Signature will be the same as above but usually with a strong emergent understory.

PSSB - Scrub-shrub, saturated. These shrubs will be associated with a spring, on a slope or in the higher elevations. Signature same as above.

PABG - Aquatic bed, intermittently exposed. Found as ponds in higher elevations these will have either an open water or aquatic bed signature.

PABF - Aquatic bed, semipermanently flooded. Found as ponds and oxbows. Signature will be open water and may have aquatic bed present. The semipermanently flooded water regime will be used in the lower elevations.

PABGb - Aquatic bed, intermittently exposed. This label is used strictly for beaver dams. Vegetation directly affected by these dams will have the beaver modifier (b) added to the classification (example: PSSCb).

PUSC - Unconsolidated shore, seasonally flooded. This signature varies from shallow blue to a grey/blue.

PUSA - Unconsolidated shore, temporarily flooded. This signature will usually be a bright white. Areas in this classification usually vary from year to year, one year being vegetated, the next with no vegetation present. Photo signature will determine the classification.

PFOA - Forested, temporarily flooded. Most of the forested areas ground truthed were upland with the exception of some temporarily flooded areas found along streams or down in channels.

PEMCx - Emergent, seasonally flooded, excavated. This classification will be used on all irrigation canals and road ditches with an emergent signature.

All palustrine classifications that are impounded will carry the impounded (h) modifier, those that are excavated will carry the excavated (x) modifier.