

3

WETLAND USER NOTES -- Ajo SE Quadrangle

1. Map Preparation

Wetland classification for the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetland map overlay to the Ajo SE 1:100,000 scale map are in accordance with L. M. Cowardin et al (1979). Wetland delineations and classifications were produced through the interpretation of black and white aerial photographs at a scale of 1:120,000 taken during October 1972. The photographs were viewed stereoscopically at a 6X magnification. Delineations were enlarged using a zoom-transferscope to overlays of 1:24,000 and 1:62,500. Overlays were then transferred to 1:100,000 scale base maps. Limited field checks were performed during December 1978.

The Project Officer for production of the wetland map was Warren Hagenbuck, Regional Wetlands Coordinator, (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, (505) 766-2914). Aerial photo interpretations were completed by the School of Renewable Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson 85721, Project Director: Dr. Jon Rodiek (602) 626-2313.

The user of the map is cautioned that due to mapping, primarily through photo interpretation, a small percentage of wetlands may have gone unidentified. Landscape changes could have taken place since the time of photo acquisition; therefore, discrepancies or land use changes should be provided to the Regional Wetlands Coordinator, Region 2, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

2. Collateral Data

A. General Location

The area is within Pima County, Arizona.

Northern boundary	32° 30' N Latitude
Southern boundary	32° N Latitude
Eastern boundary	112° W Longitude
Western boundary	113° W Longitude

B. Land Ownership

There are five (5) major land holdings within the Ajo SE quadrangle. These are:

Papago Indian Reservation	BLM Maricopa District
Luke - Williams Air Force Range	Cabeza - Prieta Game Range
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument	

User Notes: Ajo SE Quadrangle Arizona Wetland Map

C. Soils

There are five (5) major soil associations found on the Ajo SE according to J. E. Jay et al (1975). These are:

Hyperthermic arid soils (HA) -- mean annual soil temperatures of more than 72°F and less than 10 inches mean annual precipitation.

HA 1	Torrifluent Association
HA 4	Gunsight-Rillito-Pinal Association
HA 6	Lithic Cambrid-Rock Outcrop-Lithic Haplargids Association
HA 8	Tremant-Coolidge-Mohall Association
HA 2	Casa Grande - Mohall - La Palma Association

Detailed soil information may be found in: M. L. Richardson and M. L. Miller (1974) and USDA Soil Conservation Service (1972).

D. Biotic Communities

The descriptions of the biotic communities are summarized from C. H. Lowe (1977) and Brown, Lowe and Pase (1977). The community types are listed here in descending order of their relative dominance in the Ajo SE quadrangle.

The Sonoran Desertscrub - Arizona Upland subdivision represents 14.0% of Arizona's land area and is comprised of the paloverde - sahuaro community, consisting of small desert trees, shrubs and numerous cacti. The best development of these is best attained on rocky hills, bajadas, and other coarse soiled slopes. It is a rich community of desert plants and animals, exhibiting highly varied and often spinose life-forms. The foothill understory is often comprised of a mixture of 5 to 15 or more shrub and dwarf shrub species in the form of a three, four or five layered understory. The primary desert trees are foothill paloverde, sahuaro, ironwood, elephant tree and a few others including some riparian species. Mean annual precipitation is approximately 10 inches.

The Sonoran Desertscrub -- The Lower Colorado Subdivision represents 17% of Arizona's land area and is dominated by the creosote bush - bur sage community, composed mainly of shrubs and dwarf shrubs. Over extensive areas, creosote bush and white bur-sage are the plant dominants. Other occasional dominants are mostly shrubs. Any trees present usually exist in drainageways and are classified as desert riparian trees. This shrub community characterizes habitats less rocky and of lower relief (valleys, mesas and shelving plains) in the lower Colorado desert section. Precipitation occurs primarily during the winter and rarely exceeds 10 inches annually.

The Semidesert Grassland, accounting for 8.0% of Arizona's total land area, is a transitional type of grass dominated landscape positioned between desert below and evergreen woodland or chaparral above. Its lower limit is about 3,500 feet in elevation and its best development is

User Notes: Ajo SE Quadrangle Arizona Wetland Map

tween 4,000 and 5,000 feet. In Arizona it occurs largely in the southeastern quarter of the state. A small area also occurs in the northwestern quarter near Kingman. The grasses are often bunch-growth perennials in which the bases of clumps are separated by bare ground. Where the soil is deep black gramma, blue gramma, slender gramma and others may be the dominant cover over large areas. A wider variety of shrubs, trees and cacti life forms occur on shallow-soiled rocky and gravelly hills and slopes. Mesquite trees have invaded large areas of former grasland. Mean annual precipitation ranges between 10 and 15 inches.

3. SUPPLEMENTAL DATA (N.W.I.)

A. Hydrologic Units

Major hydrologic units found within the Ajo SE quadrangle are defined by the U.S. Geologic Survey (1974). For example, the coding designates region (15) Lower Colorado, subregion (01), accounting unit (00), and cataloging unit (05).

15050306
15080101
15070203
15080102
15070202

There are four groundwater areas designated within the quadrangle by the U.S. Geological Survey (1979). These are:

Gila River Drainage from Painted Rock
Dam to Texas Hill
Lower Santa Cruz Basin - San Simon Wash
Gila River from Texas Hill to Dome

B. Geography

Landforms

Physical subdivisions and land surface forms are classified according to E. H. Hammond (1965). The major type found in this quadrangle is:

(V-4) B5a -- Intermontane; Basin and Range Area; Plains with low mountains.

Bailey's Ecoregions

Bailey's Ecoregion Classification, R. G. Bailey (1975), identifies the area as within the following province(s):

3222L Dry Domain; Arid Desert Division; Creosote Bush-Bur Sage Section.

User Notes: Ajo SE Quadrangle Arizona Wetland Map

4. Wetland Communities

The wetland and deepwater habitats displayed on the αSITEα map are dominated by those types occurring along the dry washes and arroyos. The prominent type R₄SB is the only extensive type found. Lesser wetland types do exist along this type where water accumulates from runoff and groundwater pumping. The L₂FL and L₂OW are in fact mine activity related types.

R₄SB Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed

L₂FL Lacustrine, Littoral, Flat

L₂OW Lacustrine, Littoral, Open Water/Unknown Bottom

PFL Palustrine, Flat

POW Palustrine, Open Water/Unknown Bottom

5. Field Checks

A. Plants Observed

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Mesquite	Prosopis juliflora

6. Wetland Loss and Vulnerability

The only extensive wetland type found here is R₄SB. These intermittent streambeds are formed by the flow of surface water runoff following summer thunderstorms or winter rains. Surface water is very scarce. That which is found does not remain for very long.