USER NOTES
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY
AURORA SE

Map Preparation

The wetland classifications that appear on the Aurora SE National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map are in accordance with Cowardin et. al. (1977). The delineations were produced through stereoscopic interpretation of 1:58,000 scale color infrared aerial photographs taken during 4/83, 4/84, and 5/84. Initial ground truthing of the photography was completed between 8/16/85 and 8/17/85.

The user of the map is cautioned that, due to the limitation of mapping primarily through aerial photointerpretation, a small percentage of wetlands may have gone unidentified. Changes in the landscape could have occurred since the time of photography, therefore, some discrepancies between the map and current field conditions may exist. Any discrepancies that are encountered in the use of this map should be brought to the attention of Ron Erickson, Regional Wetlands Coordinator; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 3, Federal Building, Ft. Snelling, Twin Cities, MN. 55111

Geography

This 1:100,000 scale map is located in central Illinois. The northeast section is occupied by the towns of LaSalle and Oglesby, which border the Illinois River. The Illinois runs west from this area for 10 miles where it curves south. due to a lock and dam system in Peoria, the Illinois River will be classified as a lake. The floodplain consists of several shallow lakes, also a result of the dam, and much of the floodplain is used for agriculture. Bailey's Ecoregion Classification (1978) describes the area as Subhumid Prairie Division, Oak-Hickory-Bluestem Parkland Section, Interior East Central Drift and Lake Bed Flats. The topography is characterized by rolling plains and deeply entrenched streams with steep bluffs. This area is drift plain, being glaciated during the Pleistocene Epoch. Vegetation is forest-steppe, supporting prairie, groves, and deciduous trees along drainages.

Climate

The majority of precipitation falls during the growing season and ranges from 23 to 40 inches annually. The subhumid classification by Bailey indicates that precipitation and evapotranspiration balance each other on an annual basis. Temperatures can average up to 55°F annually.

Wetland Communities

Most forested areas lie within river floodplains. The majority of the palustrine forested acreage is seen as temporarily flooded. Those species include elm (Ulmus sp.), red maple (Acer rubrum), silver maple (A. saccharinum), box elder (A. negundo), green ash (Fraxinus sp.), hackberry (Celtis sp.), cottonwood (Populus sp.), honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos), sycamore (Platanus sp.), hickory (Carya sp.), Osage orange (Maclura pomifera), burr and swamp white oak (Quercus sp.) and willow (Salix sp.).

Seasonally flooded trees were found in old meander scars and depressions. They usually have a less vegetated understory, where as poison ivy, (Rhus radicans), and stinging nettle (Urtica sp.) were often dense in temporarily flooded forests. Willow and silver maple are good indicator species for a seasonally flooded forest.

No semipermanently flooded trees were observed in the field, however one would expect such an area to be predominantly willow.

There were some areas that have been impounded and as a result of this impoundment there are dead trees standing in permanent water.

The scrub shrub classification is used in the semipermanent, seasonal and temporary water regimes.

Willow shrubs in pure stands usually indicates seasonal or even semipermanent flooding. Buttonbush (Cephalanthus sp.) is a good indicator for semipermanently flooded scrub shrub. and

Tree saplings, which will become characteristic of temporarily flooded forests, make up many of the scrub shrub areas classifed as temporarily flooded.

Palustrine emergents are found in semipermanently, seasonally and temporarily flooded water regimes.

Common semipermanently and seasonally flooded indicator species are cattail (Typha sp.), reed canary Grass (Phalaris sp.), rushes (Juncus sp.), bulrushes (Scirpus sp.), sedges (Carex sp.), Arrowhead (Sagittaria sp.) and smartweed (Polygonum sp).

Those emergents most commonly encountered in a temporarily flooded wetland are smartweed (Polygonum sp.), giant ragweed (Ambrosia trifida), cutgrass (leerisa sp.), curly leaf dock (Rumex sp.), cocklebur (Xanthium sp.), sedges (Carex sp.) and foxtail (Setaria sp.).

The farmed modifier will be used in seasonally or temporarily flooded basins that hold water during the early spring but are dry enough to plant crops in by late spring. A basin, as used in this case, is a pothole, depression, or floodplain meander scar.

Both floating and rooted aquatic beds are present. Duckweed (lemna sp.) is a common floating aquatic, with water lily (Nymphaea sp.), and pondweed (Potamageton sp.) as common rooted vascular plants.

Farm ponds are either the result of an impoundment or an excavation, and all carry the appropriate modifier. All ponds are classified as being intermitantly exposed (G regime) except for ponds less than two acres. These latter ponds exhibit semipermanent flooding.

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
R4SB	Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed	Creek, Streambed	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
R2UB	Riverine, Lower Perennial Unconsolidated Bottom	River	Unvegetated. Mud to Sand, Cobble-Gravel
R2US	Riverine Lower Perennial. Unconsolidated Shore	River Flat	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
L1UB	Lacustrine Limnetic Unconsolidated Bottom	Open Water Lake	Unvegetated. Sand to Mud
L2UB	Lacustrine Littoral Unconsolidated Bottom	Shallow Lake	Unvegetated. Sand to Mud
L2US	Lacustrine Littoral Unconsolidated Shore	Lake Shore	Unvegeted. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
L1AB	Lacustrine Limnetic Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed (Lemna sp.)
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom	Open water, Pond	Unvegetated. Sand to Mud
PAB	Palustrine Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed (Lemna sp.) Water Lily (Nymphaea sp.) Pondweed (Potomageton sp.)

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
PEM	Palustrine Persistant Emergents	Marsh or Meadow	Cattail (Typha latifolia) Reed canary grass (Phalaris sp.) Rush (Juncus sp.) Bulrush (Scirpus sp.) Sedges Carex sp.) Arrowhead (Sagittaria sp.) Smartweed (Polygonum sp.) Cutgrass (Leersia sp.) Dock (Rumex sp.) Cocklebur (Xanthium sp.) Foxtail (Setaria sp.) Giant ragweed (Ambrosia trifida)
PSS	Palustrine Scrub Shrub	Shrub Wetland	Willow (Salix sp.) Buttonbush (Cephalanthus occidentalis)
PFO	Palustrine Forested	Forested Wetland	Slippery elm (Ulmus rubra) Red Maple (Acer rubrum) Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum) Box elder (Acer negundo) Green ash (Fraxinus sp.) Hackberry (Celtis sp.) Cottonwood (Populus deltoides) Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos) Sycamore (Plantus sp.) Hickory (Carya sp.) Osage orange (Maclura pomifera) Burr and swamp white oaks (Quercus sp.) Willow (Salix sp.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The purpose of this report is to provide general information about wetland classifications found within the area covered by the Base Map. There has been no attempt to describe all wetlands occurring in the area nor provide complete faunal and floral lists of those wetlands discussed. The references listed below refer to literature cited in the text of this report as well as sources of additional information.

Cowardin, L.M., V. Carter, F.C. Golet, and E.T. LaRoe. 1977. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States (an operational draft). USDI. Fish and wildl. Serv. Wash., D.C. 100 p.

Bailey, R.G. 1978. Description of the ecoregions of the United States. USDA For. Serv., Intermt. Reg., Ogden, UT. 77 p.