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USER NOTES
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY
AURORA NW

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 5/83 and 4/84. Initial ground truthing of the photography was completed between 6/19/85 and 6/20/85.

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 or habitat 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 northwestern Illinois. The towns of Sterling and Rock Falls are located in the central portion of the map and are situated on the Rock River, which flows northeast to southwest across the map area. The other major drainage within this map is the Green River, flowing northeast to southwest in the southern portion of the map area. Bailey's Ecoregion Classification (1978) describes the area as the northward extent of the Prairie Parkland Province (Oak-Hickory-Bluestem Parkland Section). Within the north-central portion of the map area, the topography is gently undulating with ravines and bluffs along the Rock River. The topography of the southern map portion is more level, deriving its low relief from glacial outwash influence. The Green River and lower segment of the Rock River have relatively broad valleys. The map's boundaries are 41.5° - 42°N latitude and 89° - 90°W longitude.

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 palustrine forested wetlands occur within the floodplains. These forests are, for the most part, either temporarily or seasonally flooded habitat. Species comprising these include elm (Ulmus spp.), silver maple (Acer saccharinum), box elder (A. negundo), cottonwood (Populus sp.), ash (Fraxinus spp.), willow (Salix sp.), hackberry (Celtis sp.), basswood (Tilia sp.), and bigtooth aspen (Populus grandidentata).

Seasonally flooded palustrine forests occur in old riverine meander scars, depressions and in islands along the Rock River. Species indicative of this habitat (water regime) are silver maple, black willow, box elder and eastern cottonwood.

No semipermanently flooded forests were observed in the field. It is assumed that willow would predominate a semipermanently flooded forest.

Scrub shrub wetlands are found, for the most part, in temporarily flooded and seasonally flooded water regimes.

Sapling, or shrub, willows and occasional cottonwood sapling are characteristic of a temporarily flooded habitat. Scrub shrub habitats are generally located adjacent to emergent systems, such as along the fringe of a marsh. In disturbed areas, usually where impoundment occurs, black willow dominates in a seasonal or semipermanent water regime.

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

Emergent habitats most commonly encountered as temporarily flooded contained reed canary grass (Phalaris sp.), sedges (Carex spp.) and foxtail (Setaria sp.)

Common species occurring in seasonally and semipermanently flooded water regimes are common cattail (Typha latifolia), bulrushes (Scirpus spp.), sedges (Carex spp.), arrowhead (Sagittaria sp.), narrow-leaved cattail (Typha angustifolia) and spike rush (Eleocharis sp.). The semipermanently flooded water regime is found mainly near riparian-associated habitat such as meander scars, oxbows or sloughs.

The farmed modifier is used to delineate basins that normally contain water during the growing season, but have been used for planting crops. A basin, as used in this case, may occur as a pothole, depression or meander scar.

Aquatic bed habitats occurring within the map are classified as intermittently exposed or semipermanently flooded. The common indicator species is duckweed (Lemna sp.).

Farm ponds are either the result of an impoundment or excavation, and are delineated with the appropriate modifier. All farm ponds are classified as intermittently exposed, unless they are under two acres, in which case they will be delineated as semipermanently flooded.

Lacustrine habitat, primarily open water systems that are larger than twenty acres, occurs throughout the map area as an impounded reservoir. For the most part, these range from twenty to one hundred acres in size. These open water systems are generally classified as limnetic, unconsolidated bottom. The water regime is permanently flooded with an impounded modifier.

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.

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	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
L1AB	Lacustrine Limnetic Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed (<u>Lemna</u> sp.)
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom	Open water, Pond	Unvegetated. Sand to Mud
PAB	Palustrine Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed (<u>Lemna</u> sp.) Pondweed (<u>Potamogeton</u> sp.)

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
PEM	Palustrine Persistent Emergents	Marsh or Meadow	Cattail (<u>Typha latifolia</u>) Narrow-leaved cattail (<u>Typha angustifolia</u>) Reed canary grass (<u>Phalaris sp.</u>) Rush (<u>Juncus sp.</u>) Bulrushes (<u>Scirpus sp.</u>) Spike rush (<u>Eleocharis sp.</u>) Sedges (<u>Carex sp.</u>) Arrowhead (<u>Sagittaria sp.</u>) Smartweed (<u>Polygonum sp.</u>) Cutgrass (<u>Leersia sp.</u>) Dock (<u>Rumex sp.</u>) Cocklebur (<u>Xanthium sp.</u>) Foxtail (<u>Setaria sp.</u>) Giant ragweed (<u>Ambrosia trifida</u>)
PSS	Palustrine Scrub Shrub	Shrub Wetland	Willow (<u>Salix sp.</u>) Buttonbush (<u>Cephalanthus occidentalis</u>)
PFO	Palustrine Forested	Forested Wetland	Silver Maple (<u>Acer saccharinum</u>) Cottonwood (<u>Populus deltoides</u>) Willow (<u>Salix sp.</u>) Box elder (<u>Acer negundo</u>) Green ash (<u>Fraxinus sp.</u>) Slippery elm (<u>Ulmus rubra</u>) American elm (<u>Ulmus americana</u>) Basswood (<u>Tilia sp.</u>) Honey locust (<u>Gleditsia triacanthos</u>)

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
PFO	Palustrine Forested	Forested Wetland	Hackberry (<u>Celtis sp.</u>) Sycamore (<u>Plantus sp.</u>) Hickory (<u>Carya sp.</u>) Bigtooth aspen (<u>Populus grandidentata</u>)

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