

National Wetlands Inventory

Notes to Users

El Paso NE

1:100,000 Scale Map

**DRAFT**

USER NOTES  
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY  
EL PASO NE

Map Preparation:

The wetlands classifications that appear on the El Paso NE 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 photography taken from June, 1983 to June, 1984.

Field checks were made in December, 1985 to correlate photo signatures with qualifying descriptions of the field conditions in order to achieve consistency.

The user of the map is cautioned that, due to the limitation of mapping, primarily through aerial photo interpretation, 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 Warren Hagenbuck, Regional Wetlands Coordinator; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87103.

Geography:

The El Paso NE 1:100,000 scale base map is located between New Mexico and Mexico in the western most region of Texas. Its eastern border is the Franklin Mountains. It consists of one ecoregion classified as Chihuahuan Desert Province - Grama Tobosa by Bailey's Ecoregions of the United States (1980).

The western part of the map area is desert. To the east there is one perennial river, the Rio Grande. It is heavily channelized and its water flow controlled.

There are several irrigation canals that extend from the Rio Grande, supplying a water source to the farmed areas located within the immediate vicinity of the river.

Climate:

The climate is distinctly arid, spring and early summer are extremely dry. During July the summer rains begin and they usually continue through October. The summer rains are torrential storms, mostly local. Average annual temperature ranges from 50° to 65° F.

### Wetland Communities:

The Rio Grande, with its network of irrigation canals that extend into the peripheral farm land, is the area's major water source. The river is channelized, and its water flow controlled. The irrigation canals receive water from the Rio Grande seasonally. Salt Cedar (Tamarix gallica) and occasionally cottonwood (Populus sp.) define the external boundary of the floodplain, with Salt Cedar clearly being the dominant vegetation.

Excavated ponds are present within the farmed valley, and are often vegetated along their perimeter. Common vegetation is Hardstem Bulrush (Scirpus acutus), Reed Grass (Phragmites sp.), and Cattail (Typha sp.). These excavations often have a controlled water supply depending upon their use. Many are perennial.

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
R4SB	Riverine, Intermittent, Streambed	Creek, Streambed Irrigation Canal	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
PUS	Palustrine Unconsolidated Shore	Intermittent Pond	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom	Open water, Pond	Unvegetated. Sand to Mud
PAB	Palustrine Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed ( <u>Lemna sp.</u> ) Water Lily ( <u>Nymphaea sp.</u> ) Creeping Willow Primrose ( <u>Ludwigia sp.</u> )
PEM	Palustrine Persistent Emergents	Marsh or Meadow	Cattail ( <u>Typha sp.</u> ) Reedgrass ( <u>Phragmites sp.</u> ) Bulrush ( <u>Scirpus sp.</u> )
PSS	Palustrine Scrub Shrub Needle-leaved Deciduous	Shrub Wetland	Salt Cedar ( <u>Tamarix gallica</u> )
PF01	Palustrine Forested Broadleaved Deciduous	Forested Wetland	Cottonwood ( <u>Populus sp.</u> )

## 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.

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 Wildlife Serv. Wash., D.C. 100p.

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

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