

NATIONAL WETLAND INVENTORY

NOTES TO USERS

Los Angeles NE

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of Notes to Users is to provide general information regarding the production of National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps and wetlands found within a relatively similar geographic area. Notes to Users are not intended to include descriptions of all wetlands found in the area nor provide complete plant species information.

2. AREA COVERED

The area covered is defined by by the Lancaster U.S.G.S. intermediate scale maps (see attached index maps). The western portion of this area consists of the Tehachapi mountains and the eastern edge of the Sierra Madre chain. The eastern portion consists of the western prong of the Antelope Valley of the Mojave Desert. According to Bailey's ecoregions, the mountains of this area falls within the Humid Temperate Domain, Mediterranean Division, California Chaparral Province.

The climate is characterized by hot, dry summers and rainy, mild winters. Precipitation ranges from 12 to 40 inches (300 to 1,000 mm.) evenly distributed through fall, winter, and spring; precipitation increases with elevation. Most of this is rain; the little snow that falls in winter melts quickly. Frost and short periods of freezing weather occur occasionally in the winter. Temperatures average 32° to 60° F. (0° to 15° C.) in the mountains, always decreasing at progressively higher altitudes.

The montane vegetation of this region consists of species having thick, hard, evergreen leaves. One climax, dominated by trees, is called sclerophyll forest. The other, called chaparral, is a shrub climax. These two climaxes appear in alternating patches in almost any part of the region, but chaparral occupies the greater area. The forest consistently appears on north-facing slopes and the wetter sites, chaparral on south-facing slopes and drier sites.

Valleys have sagebrush and grassland communities. A riparian forest, containing many broadleaf species, grows along streams.

The pattern of Alfisols, Entisols, and Mollisols is complex in this mountainous region.

Antelope Valley falls within Bailey's Dry Domain, Desert Division, American Desert Province, Creosote Brush Section.

Its topography is characterized by extensive plains, most gently undulating, from which isolated low mountains and buttes rise abruptly. The mountains are rocky and rise abruptly from their outwash aprons and alluvial faces. A large part of the province drains to the sea through washes that are dry most of the year, or by underground seepage.

Summers are long and high temperatures prevail. The average annual temperature is 60° to 75° F. (15° to 24° C.). Though the winters are moderate, the entire province is subject to occasional frosts. Rains do not occur regularly, and a year or more may pass without measurable rainfall. Average annual precipitation is 2 to 10 in. (50 to 250 mm.) in valleys but as much as 25 in. (610 mm.) on mountain slopes. The evaporation rate in summer is very high.

Vegetation is usually very sparse, with bare ground between individual plants. Cacti and thorny shrubs are conspicuous, but many thornless shrubs and herbs are also present.

Gravel or bare rock appears on the surface near the bases of some mountains and much bare rock is exposed on the mountains because the heavy, violent desert rainstorms allow little soil to accumulate on the steep slopes. Entisols occur on the older alluvial fans and terraces and in the better drained basins. Aridisols dominate throughout the rest of the area.

3. MAP PREPARATION

Wetland classification for the NWI maps is in accordance with "Classification of Wetlands and Deep-Water Habitats of the United States (An Operational Draft)," Cowardin, et al, 1977.^{1/}

Wetland classification and delineations were produced by air photointerpretation of high level aerial photography. The following aerial photography was used for wetlands photointerpretation:

<u>Scale</u>	<u>Film</u>	<u>Date</u>
1:80,000	Black and White	6/77, 2/87
1:130,000	Color infrared	12/72, 11/73, 10/76

Limited field reconnaissance was conducted in December of 1978.

^{1/}The classification system was published in 1979: Cowardin, Lewis M., Virginia Carter, Francis C. Golet, and Edward T. LaRoe. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC, December 1979.

Stereoscopically reviewed aerial photographs had wetland boundaries and labels delineated on the photographs. Delineations were enlarged to a scale of 1:24,000 using a zoom-transfer scope and fitted to USGS 7 1/2 minute topographic maps. The 1:100,000 scale wetland maps were prepared from the 7 1/2 minute series. Large scale NWI wetland maps (1:24,000 scale) are available for the USGS 7 1/2 minute topographic sheets indicated on the attached index map.

The Project Officer for production of the wetland maps was Dennis Peters, Regional Wetlands Coordinator, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Lloyd 500 Building, 500 NE Multnomah Street, Portland, Oregon 97232, telephone (503) 231-6154. Aerial photo interpretation was completed by Area Information Systems (AIS), Crestline, California. Maps were prepared by Martel Laboratories, Inc., and the NWI National Team in St. Petersburg, Florida.

4. USER CAUTION

The map documents were prepared primarily by stereoscopic analysis of high altitude aerial photographs. Wetlands were identified on the photographs based on vegetation, visible hydrology, and geography. The aerial photographs typically reflected conditions during the specific year and season when they were taken. In addition, there is a margin of error inherent in the use of aerial photographs. Thus a detailed on-the-ground and historical analysis of a single site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries established through photographic interpretation. In addition, some small wetlands and those obscured by dense forest cover may not be included in the map document.

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specific agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

5. WETLAND COMMUNITIES

Wetlands within the subject area fall within the Lacustrine, Riverine, and Palustrine system. Deepwater habitats are areas that are permanently flooded (except during periods of extreme drought) and are characterized by open water on the aerial photography. These habitats are present in the Lacustrine system (L1OW), Riverine system (R2OW, R3OW) and Palustrine system.

Natural or artificial basins greater than 20 acres are in the Lacustrine system. The Lacustrine system on the NWI maps includes the classes Lacustrine open water (L1OW, L2OW), and flats (L2FL). The open water areas are covered by water whereas the flats are exposed at some time during the growing season. Basins less than 20 acres are identified as Palustrine, with classes as described above; i.e., Palustrine open water (POW), and Palustrine flat (PFL).

The Riverine system includes the classes open water (OW), flats (FL), and streambeds (SB). Open water and flats are restricted to the Riverine lower (R2OW), and upper (R3OW) perennial subsystems. While the flats are not covered by a perennial flow, they are associated with the reach of the river that contains permanent water and are included in the perennial subsystems.

Streams which do not flow year round are classified as Riverine intermittent streambeds (R4SB). Some Riverine systems have their banks lined with trees or shrubs. In cases where streamside Palustrine scrub/shrub or Palustrine forested wetlands cannot be separately delineated from the Riverine system, the wetlands are mapped as linear Palustrine wetland features (PSS or PFO).

Alkali basin wetlands contain site specific wetland species. Typical Palustrine scrub/shrub alkali basin wetlands (PSSW) contain such wood plants as shad scale (*Atriplex* spp.) and grease wood (*Sarcobatus* spp.) with an emergent (EM) understory of salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) or pickle weed (*Salicornia* spp.). Where excessive alkalinity in wetland basins prohibits vegetation growth, such areas are classified as palustrine flats (PFL) or Lacustrine flats (L2FL) depending upon acreage.

Modifiers

The intermediate-scale (1:100,000) NWI maps' legends do not include water regime nor special modifiers. Mapping codes for these modifiers are indicated in parentheses in the discussion that follows.

Hydrologic characteristics are an important aspect of wetlands. The water regime modifiers describe in general terms the duration and timing of surface inundation, as well as groundwater fluctuations.

For the purpose of mapping, nontidal water regime modifiers have been lumped into three broad categories. These are:

Intermittently flooded-temporarily flooded (W). The substrate is usually exposed, but surface water is present for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity, or surface water is present for brief periods during the growing season.

Saturated/Seasonally-flooded/Semipermanently flooded (Y). The substrate is saturated to the surface for extended periods during the growing season, or surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season but is absent by the end of the season in most years, or surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years.

Intermittently exposed/Permanently flooded (Z). Surface water is present throughout the year except in years of extreme drought, or water covers the land surface throughout the year in all years.

An artificially flooded (K) water regime modifier can be applied with all water regime modifiers. In this case, flooding is under the direct and purposeful control of man.

Special modifiers included on 1:100,000 scale NWI maps, where applicable, are:

Diked/impounded (h). Created or modified by a barrier, dike, or dam which obstructs the inflow or outflow of water.

Excavated (x). Lies within a basin or channel excavated by man.

6. SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Since the purpose of the Notes to Users is to provide a general overview of a relatively large geographic area, in this case about 1600 square miles, it is important to be aware of sources of additional information. The following is a list of reports providing information about the area of concern.

Bailey, Robert G. 1978. Description of the ecoregions of the United States. U. S. Forest Service, USDA, Ogden, Utah.

Barbour, M. G. and J. Major (eds). 1977. Terrestrial Vegetation of California. John Wiley and Sons, New York.

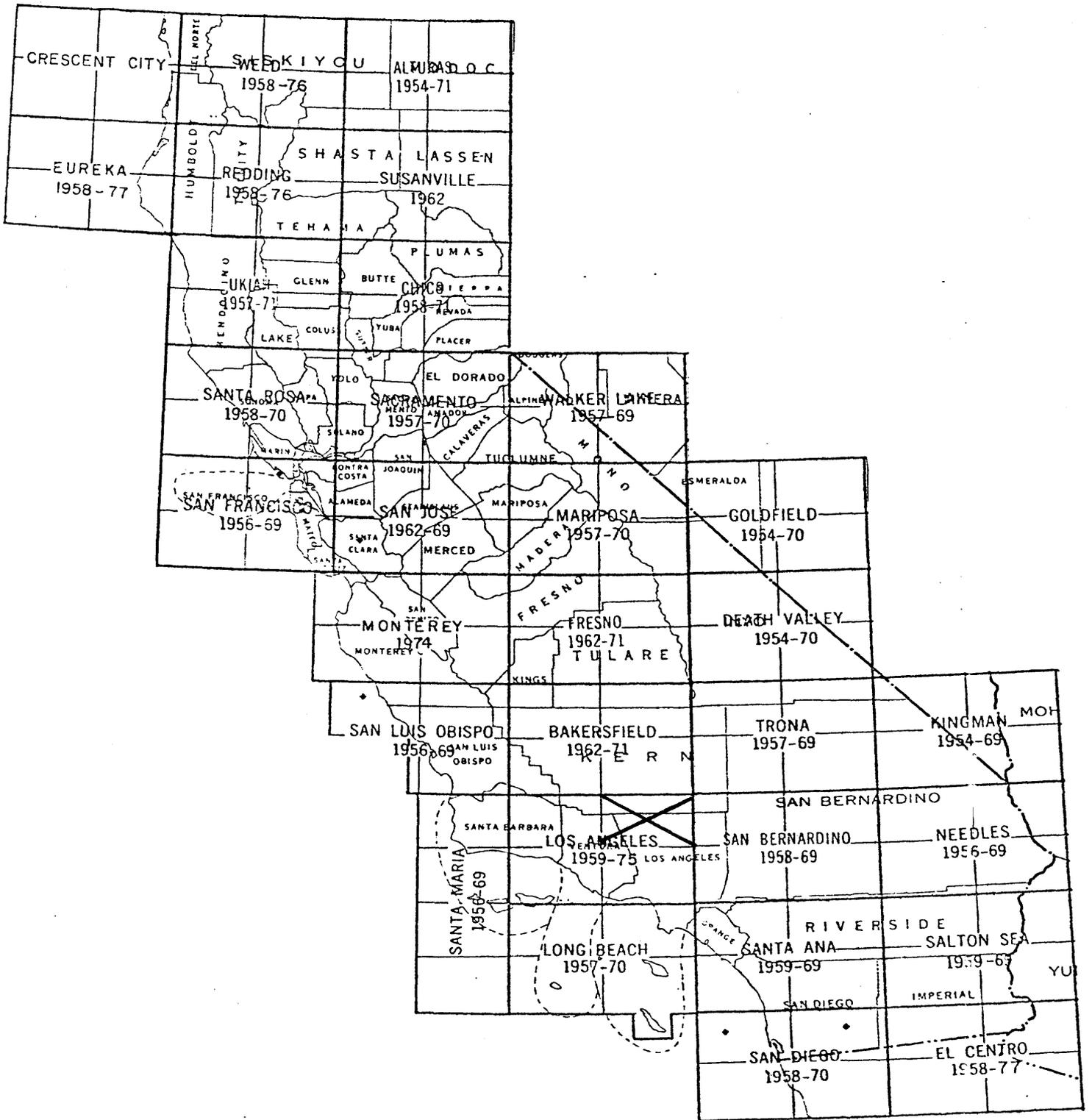
Cowardin, Lewis M., Virginia Carter, Francis C. Golet, and Edward T. LaRoe. 1977. Classification of wetlands and deep-water habitats of the United States (An Operational Draft), U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, October 1977.

Mason, H. L. 1969. A Flora of the Marshes of California. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.

Warner, Richard E. (ad). 1982. California Riparian Systems: Proceeding of a Conference on Their Ecology, Conservation and Productive Management. University of California Press.

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1:100,000 location





CUDEBACK LAKE 1952

FREMONT PEAK 1956

BOBON 1922-34

CASTLE BUTTE 1943-56

ROGERS LAKE 1933-56

ROSAMOND 1943-56

MOJAVE 1943-64

CROSS MTN 1943

EMERALD MTH 1943

CLARVILLE 1943

W. G. HILLS 1939-54

SW

LONG BEACH SE

SW

LONG BEACH NE

SW

LONG BEACH SE

SW