

USER NOTES: MARBLE CANYON - NW, NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAP

Map Preparation

NW  
The wetland classifications that appear on the Marble Canyon-NW National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map are in accordance with the Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, by Cowardin et al. (1977). The delineations were produced through stereoscopic interpretation of 1:120,000 scale black and white aerial photographs taken in May and October of 1973. These delineations were then transferred to produce 1:100,000 scale wetland maps.

Field checks of the delineated wetlands of the Marble Canyon-NW NWI map were conducted in August of 1979 and 1982, to determine the accuracy of the aerial photointerpretation and to provide qualifying descriptions of mapped wetland designations.

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 Warren Hagenbuck, Regional Wetlands Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87103.

Geography

The area covered by Marble Canyon-NW NWI map lies in the north central portion of Arizona. The area is within Coconino County in Arizona. Included within this area is the Colorado River and a portion of Lake Powell. The towns of Page, Marble Canyon, Tanner Well and Kaibito are also located here.

Bailey's Ecoregion Classification (1969) identifies the area as predominantly Colorado Plateau Province, Grama-Galleta Steppe/Juniper-Pinyon Woodland Section (3142P). This area is characterized as having some tablelands of high relief, but most of the area is rangeland. Much of the area within Marble Canyon-NW is used for grazing by domestic livestock. A small portion, usually along the valleys of major streams, is used for irrigated crops. Dominant crops are hay and tame pasture grasses. Overgrazing is a problem and can cause soil erosion to occur.

Climate

The climate is predominantly arid and warm. Annual precipitation ranges from about 10 to 14 inches per year.

Wetland Communities

The dominant feature on the quadrangle is the Colorado River (R30WH) and Lake Powell (L10WKH). Because of the narrow channel of the Colorado River, there isn't much wetland vegetation. What little there is, is dominated by salt cedar (PSS). Because of its artificial nature and deep canyons, Lake Powell is also without much wetland vegetation.

Scattered throughout the remainder of the quadrangle are small dry flats (PFL) and watered depressions (POW). There are also a series of perennial streams (R20W, R30W) draining either into the Colorado River or Lake Powell.

To summarize, if, when the photograph was taken for this quadrangle, there were small depressions or catchments that were dry, they were categorized as PFL. If water was present, they were designated as POW. Larger nonvegetated wetland areas, greater than 20 acres have been designated as lakes or L2FL. Lake Powell, an artificial permanent lake, has been designated L10WKH. Riverine Intermittent Stream Beds (R4SB) occur as drainages or arroyos of usually sandy substrate. They can be subjected to flash flooding; water availability usually of brief duration. Salt cedar and cottonwood may be associated with these wetland types and are designated as Palustrine Scrub Shrub (PSS) or Palustrine Forested (PFO).

NWI Code	Description	Common Name	Circular 39 Type	Characteristic Plant Species and Physiographic Features
L1OW	Lacustrine Limnetic open water	lake, pond, playa	5,11	Unvegetated, fine sediment bottom, open water
L2FL	Lacustrine Littoral Flat	flats, playas	1,9	Unvegetated, sand bottom, clay
PFL	Palustrine Flat	playa, stock tank, water catchments	1,9	Unvegetated, sand to clay bottom
POW	Palustrine Open Water	stock tank, playa, irrigation catchment	5,9	Unvegetated, sand to mud bottom
PEM	Palustrine Emergent	lake, pond, stock tank, playa	3,5 1,11	Bulrush, common cattail, commonly flooded
PSS	Palustrine Scrub-Shrub	bosque, forest	6,7	Salt cedar, along edges of playas, catchments, and waterways
PFO	Palustrine forest	bosque, forest	6,7	Cottonwoods, along edges of arroyos or waterways
R4SB	Riverine Intermittent Streambed	arroyo, dry streambed, gulch, gully	-	Unvegetated, sand, cobble-gravel bottom

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.

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

Cowardin, L. M., V. Carter, F. C. Golet, and E. T. LaRoe. 1977. Classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. USDI. Fish and Wildl. Serv. Wash., DC. 100 p.

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