

DRAFT

USER REPORT: TALLAHASSEE NE, DOTHAN NE & SE, PHENIX CITY SE
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY MAPS

A. INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory is producing maps showing location and classification of wetlands and deepwater habitats of the United States. The Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States by Cowardin et al. is the classification system used to define and classify wetlands. Photointerpretation conventions, hydric soils lists and wetland plant lists are also available to enhance the use and application of the classification system.

B. PURPOSE

The purpose of the notes to users is threefold: (1) to provide localized information regarding the production of NWI maps, including specific imagery and interpretation discussion; (2) to provide a descriptive crosswalk from wetland codes on the map to common names and representative plant species, and (3) to explain local geography, climate and wetland communities.

C. STUDY AREA

Geography:

The study area covered by Tallahassee NE, Dothan NE and SE, and Phenix City SE is located in southwest Georgia (Appendix A). Bailey classifies the study area primarily into the Outer Coastal Plains Forest Province, with a small portion lying in the Southeastern Mixed Forest Province.

The relief of the Coastal Plain is flat to gently sloping and contains a multitude of swamps, lakes and slow-moving streams and rivers. Major perennial rivers in the study area include the Flint, Chickasawhatchee, Ichawaynochaway and Kinchafoonee.

Climate:

The climate for this region is fairly uniform with hot, humid summers and mild winters (60-70 degrees Fahrenheit average annual temperature). High rainfall amounts, ranging from 40-60 inches, is evenly distributed over the year.

Vegetation:

According to Bailey (1980), the study area is characterized as a Temperate Rainforest. Forests on the Coastal Plains frequently consist of evergreen oaks along with species of the magnolia and laurel families. The Southeastern Mixed Forest, generally found on the gentle slopes of the Gulf Coastal Plains and the Piedmont, supports a variety of broadleaf deciduous and needleleaf evergreen trees. At least half of forest stands consist of pines (shortleaf, loblolly and southern yellow) and are found primarily in upland areas. Common deciduous trees are sweetgum, red maple, oaks and blackgum. Cypress and the gums predominate in swamps. Bogs, found in shallow depressions, support thick stands of evergreen shrubs. Extensive sections of both upland and wetland areas have been planted in pine.

Soils:

Supporting a temperate rainforest, the soils of the coastal plains range from sand, to gravel, to heavy clays. Sandy materials are predominant, with most of the upland soils being well drained. On the level floodplains and low terraces can be found the more poorly drained, loamy soils. Soil groups, representative of wetland habitats may include the Herod-Muckalee, Kinston-Bibb, Osier-Pelham-Ocilla, Alapaha-Mascotte, and Meggett-Grady associations.

D. WETLAND CLASSIFICATION CODES AND WATER REGIME DESCRIPTIONS

TABLE - Cowardin Classification Codes and Descriptions

NWI CODE (Water Regime)	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION
R2UB (H)	Riverine, lower perennial, unconsolidated bottom	River or drainage ditches	Unconsolidated bottoms
L1UB (H)	Lacustrine, limnetic, unconsolidated bottom	Lakes	Unconsolidated bottoms
L2AB3 (G,H)	Lacustrine, littoral, aquatic bed rooted vascular	Lake Marshes	<u>Utricularia</u> <u>purpurea</u> (bladderwort) <u>Nymphaea odorata</u> (white water lily) <u>Nelumbo lutea</u> (American lotus)
L1AB4 (H)	Lacustrine, limnetic, aquatic bed floating vascular	Lakes	<u>Lemna</u> spp. (duckweed)
PUB (F,G,H)	Palustrine, unconsolidated bottom	Ponds	Unconsolidated bottoms
PAB3 (G,H)	Palustrine, aquatic bed rooted vascular	Ponds or deep marshes	<u>Utricularia</u> <u>purpurea</u> (bladderwort) <u>Nymphaea odorata</u> (white water lily) <u>Nelumbo lutea</u> (American lotus)
PAB4 (G,H)	Palustrine, aquatic bed floating vascular	Ponds	<u>Lemna</u> spp. (duckweed)
PEMI (A,C,F,G)	Palustrine, emergent persistent	Ponded prairies, marshes, depressions or drainage areas	<u>Scirpus cyperinus</u> (wool grass) <u>Typha latifolia</u> (common cattail) <u>Scirpus</u> sp. (bullrush)

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PEM1 (A, C, F, G) (cont'd)			<u>Polygonum</u> spp. (smartweed) <u>Juncus</u> spp. (rushes) <u>Rhexia</u> spp. (meadow beauties) <u>Xyris</u> spp. (grasses) <u>Panicum</u> spp. (maidencane) <u>Pontederia cordata</u> (pickerelweed) <u>Rumex</u> sp. (dock) <u>Sagittaria</u> sp.
PSS1 (A, C, F, G)	Palustrine, scrub shrub, broad-leaved deciduous	Willow thicket	<u>Salix</u> sp. (willow) <u>Cephalanthus</u> <u>occidentalis</u> (buttonbush) <u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Liquidambar</u> <u>styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Alnus</u> sp. (alder) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Quercus nigra</u> (water oak) <u>Ulmus americana</u> (elm) <u>Baccharis</u> sp.

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NWI CODE (Water Regime)	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION
PSS3 (A,B,C,F)	Palustrine, scrub shrub, broad-leaved evergreen	Thicket	<u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Myrica cerifera</u> (wax myrtle) <u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (sweet bay) <u>Cyrilla racemiflora</u> (titi) <u>Hypericum</u> <u>virginicum</u> (marsh St. johnswort) <u>Lyoni lucida</u> (fetterbush) <u>Ilex glabra</u> (gallberry) <u>Smilax</u> spp. (greenbrier)
PSS7 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, scrub shrub mixed evergreen	Shrub forest	<u>Persea borbonia</u> (Red bay) <u>Myrica cerifera</u> (wax myrtle) <u>Pinus taeda</u> (lobolly pine) <u>Pinus elliotii</u> (slash pine)
PF01 (A,C,F)	Palustrine, forested, broad-leaved deciduous	Floodplains, swamps or depression	<u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Quercus laurifolia</u> (laurel oak) <u>Liquidambar</u> <u>styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (black gum) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> var <u>biflora</u> (swamp tupelo)

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PF01 (A,C,F) (cont'd)			<u>Quercus nigra</u> (water oak) <u>Salix</u> sp. (willow) <u>Fraxinus</u> <u>pennsylvanica</u> (green ash) <u>Betula nigra</u> (river birch) <u>Liriodendron</u> <u>tulipifera</u> (tulip poplar)
PF02 (C,F,G)	Palustrine, forested, needle-leaved deciduous	Cypress domes, sloughs, swamps	<u>Taxodium distichum</u> (bald cypress)
PF03 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, forested, broad-leaved evergreen	Bayheads or bay swamps	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (sweet bay) <u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Gordonia lasianthus</u> (loblolly bay) <u>Myrica cerifera</u> (wax myrtle)
PF04 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, forested, needle-leaved evergreen	Pine flatwoods	<u>Pinus elliottii</u> (slash pine) <u>Pinus taeda</u> (lobolly pine)
PF06 (C,F,G)	Palustrine, forested, mixed deciduous	Sloughs, swamps	<u>Taxodium distichum</u> (bald cypress) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> (blackgum) <u>Nyssa sylvatica</u> var <u>biflora</u> (swamp tupelo) <u>Acer rubrum</u> (red maple) <u>Liquidambar</u> <u>styraciflua</u> (sweetgum) <u>Quercus nigra</u> (water oak)

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PF06 (C,F,G) (cont'd)			<u>Quercus laurifolia</u> (laurel oak) <u>Salix sp.</u> (willow) <u>Betula nigra</u> (river birch)
PF07 (A,B,C)	Palustrine, forested, mixed evergreen	Bay swamp/Pine Flatwoods	<u>Magnolia virginiana</u> (sweet bay) <u>Persea borbonia</u> (red bay) <u>Pinus taeda</u> (Loblolly pine) <u>Pinus elliottii</u> (slash pine)

Water Regime Description

- (A) Temporarily Flooded - Surface water present for brief periods during growing season, but water table usually lies well below soil surface. Plants that grow both in uplands and wetlands are characteristic of this water regime.
- (B) Saturated - The substrate is saturated to surface for extended periods during the growing season, but surface water is seldom present.
- (C) Seasonally Flooded - Surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is very variable, extending from saturated to a water table well below the ground surface.
- (F) Semipermanently Flooded - Surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years. When surface water is absent, the water table is usually at or very near the land's surface.
- (G) Intermittently Exposed - Surface water is present throughout the year except in years of extreme drought.
- (H) Permanently Flooded - Water covers land surface throughout the year in all years.
- (K) Artificially Flooded - The amount and duration of flooding is controlled by means of pumps or siphons in combination with dikes or dams.

General Note: Table 1:

In the Palustrine Forested NWI codes, the split subclasses will be meant to also include the inverse subclasses. However, the vegetation characteristics will be the same only in different percentages.

Also, any split classes will generally contain those vegetation characteristics found in the singular class.

F. MAP PREPARATION

The wetland classification that appears on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Base Map (Figure 1) is in accordance with Cowardin et.al. (1977). The delineations were produced through stereoscopic interpretation of 1:58,000 scale color infrared photography. The photography was taken during January of 1982 and 1984, February of 1981, 1982 and 1984, March of 1981, 1982 and 1983, and December of 1981.

Field checks of areas found within Tallahassee NE, Dothan NE & SE and Phenix City SE were made prior to the actual delineation of wetlands. Field check sites were selected to clarify varying signatures found on the photography. These photographic signatures were then identified in the field using vegetation types and soil types, as well as additional input from field personnel.

Collateral data included USGS topographic maps, SCS soil surveys, climate, vegetation and ecoregional information.

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. Since the photography was taken during a particular time and season, there may be discrepancies between the map and current field conditions. Changes in landscape which occurred after the photography was taken would result in such discrepancies.

Aerial photo interpretation and drafting were completed by Martel Laboratories, Inc. St. Petersburg, Florida.

G. SPECIAL MAPPING PROBLEMS

None

H. MAP ACQUISITION

To discuss any questions concerning these maps or to place a map order, please contact:

John Hefner
Regional Wetland Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-Region IV
R.B. Russell Federal Building
75 Spring Street SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

To order maps only, contact:

National Cartographic Information Center
U.S. Geological Survey
National Center
Reston, Virginia 22092

Maps are identified by the name of the corresponding USGS 1:24,000 scale topographic quadrangle name. Topographic map indices are available from the U.S. Geological Survey.

LITERATURE CITED

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Appendix A. 1:250,000-scale Index Map

