

**National Wetlands Inventory**

**Notes to Users**

**Tucumcari SW**

**1:100,000 Scale Maps**

USER NOTES  
NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY  
TUCUMCARI SW

Map Preparation:

The wetlands classifications that appear on the Tucumcari SW 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 the Regional Wetlands Coordinator; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 2, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87103.

Geography:

The area covered by Tucumcari 1:100,000 quadrangle is in east central New Mexico. It consists of one ecoregion classified as Great Plains-Shortgrass Prairie Province; Grama-Buffalograss (Baileys Ecoregions 1980).

This region is characterized by rolling plains and tablelands of moderate relief. The plains are notably flat, but there are occasional valleys and buttes.

The Canadian River and Ute Creek are the two major river systems within the map area, both flowing from higher elevations out of the west and north, respectively.

Land is primarily used for grazing livestock.

Climate:

The climate is a semi-arid continental regime in which maximum rainfall comes in summer. Evaporation usually exceeds precipitation. The average annual temperature is 60°F in the south. Winters are cold and dry; the summers warm to hot. Average precipitation is 15 to 15' annually.

### Wetland Communities:

The most dynamic wetland community is the Canadian River. It is diked and controlled in the northeastern section of the map at Ute Dam. The flow is regulated according to water rights from downstream.

The Canadian river's main channel consists of an unvegetated substrate of sand. Salt Cedar (Tamarix chinensis), and occasionally cottonwood (Populus sp.) define the external boundary of the floodplain, with Salt Cedar clearly being the dominant vegetation. Saltgrass, smartweed (Polygonum sp.) Cocklebur (Xanthium sp.) and common reed are all common emergent vegetation found within the temporarily flooded region of the floodplain.

Vegetation associated with the Ute Reservoir are Salt Cedar, and common draw down species such as cocklebur (Xanthium sp.) and smartweed (Polygonum sp.).

There are several playa lakes within the work area. They will generally be classified within the Palustrine system due to the presence of emergent vegetation. Common emergent species include saltgrass, smartweed, wheat grass (Agropyron sp.) and spikerush (Eleocharis sp.).

By far, the most common palustrine wetlands are the impounded arroyos. These impoundments provide water for the numerous cattle found in the area. These impoundments will be classified as temporarily or intermittently flooded (PUSAh, PUSJh). If emergent vegetation is established, then surface water is present for at least brief periods during the growing season.

Springs are also a common wetland within the map area and contribute to the riverine systems by way of small adjoining tributaries. Common species in spring-fed locations are reed grass (Phragmites sp.), Saltgrass (Distichlis spicata), rushes (Juncus sp.), Giant Sacaton (Sporobolus sp.), bulrush (Scirpus sp.), cattail (Typha sp.), and sedges (Carex sp.).

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
R4SB	Riverine, Inter- mittent, Streambed	Creek, Streambed	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
R2UB	Riverine, Lower Perennial	River Unconsolidated Bottom	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	Open Water Shallow Lake	Unvegetated Sand to Mud
L2US	Lacustrine Littoral Unconsolidated Shore	Lake Shore Salt Flat	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel
L1AB	Lacustrine Limnetic Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed ( <u>Lemna sp.</u> )
PUB	Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom	Open water, Pond	Unvegetated. Sand to Mud
PAB	Palustrine Aquatic Bed	Pond Weeds, Water Weeds	Duckweed ( <u>Lemna sp.</u> )
PUS	Palustrine Unconsolidated Shore	Intermittent Pond	Unvegetated. Sand to Cobble-Gravel

NWI CODE	NWI DESCRIPTION	COMMON DESCRIPTION	CHARACTERISTIC VEGETATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHIC FEATURES
PEM	Palustrine Persistent Emergents	Marsh or Meadow	Cattail ( <u>Typha sp.</u> ) Reedgrass ( <u>Phragmites sp.</u> ) Sedges ( <u>Carex sp.</u> ) Bulrush ( <u>Scirpus sp.</u> ) Rush ( <u>Juncus sp.</u> ) Spikerust ( <u>Eleocharis sp.</u> ) Cocklebur ( <u>Xanthium sp.</u> ) Salt Grass ( <u>Distichlis spicata</u> ) Wheatgrass ( <u>Agropyron sp.</u> ) Giant Sacaton ( <u>Sporobolus sp.</u> )
PSS2	Palustrine Scrub Shrub Needle Leaved Deciduous	Shrub Wetland	Salt Cedar ( <u>Tamarix chinensis</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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