

User Notes - West Palm Beach Southeast

Wetland delineations appearing on the West Palm Beach Southeast maps were produced from 1:80,000 color infrared stereo models taken in December 1972. The wetland units are classified in general accordance with Cowardin, et. al, Classification of Wetlands and Deep-water Habitats of the United States, October 1977. Field checks were conducted in November 1977, and March 1978. Field checks revealed significant alteration to the landscape has taken place since 1972; however, since the photography has been used as the basic data source, the maps reflect the status of the wetlands as they existed in 1972.

Over 50 percent of the area included within the West Palm Beach Southeast map area has been impounded within dikes for water conservation purposes. Because water levels throughout the area are under direct control of man, the "artificially flooded" water regime modifier could be correctly applied. However, in an effort to provide the user with delineations of the various plant communities found within the water management areas, water regime modifiers which reflect and describe the natural water regimes normally associated with the specific plant communities have been applied. Traditionally this portion of the Everglades has been subdivided into the following vegetative communities: (1) aquatic, (2) wet prairie, (3) sawgrass, and (4) brush-sawgrass.

For the purpose of mapping, these communities have been classified in the following manner.

<u>Community</u>	<u>Predominant Species</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Aquatic	<u>Nymphaea adorata</u> <u>Utricularia</u> spp.	System: Palustrine Class : Aquatic Bed Subclass: Submergent vascular or Floating leaved Water Regime: Permanent
Wet Prairie	<u>Rhynchospora tracyi</u> <u>Panicum hemitomon</u> <u>Peltandra virginica</u> <u>Pontederia lanceolata</u> <u>Panicum paludivagum</u>	System: Palustrine Class : Emergent Subclass: Persistent Water Regime: Semipermanent
Sawgrass	<u>Cladium jamaicense</u> <u>Eleocharis elongata</u> <u>Sagittaria lancifolia</u> <u>Eriocaulon compressum</u>	System: Palustrine Class : Emergent Subclass: Persistent Water Regime: Seasonal
Brush-sawgrass	<u>Rhynchospora filifolia</u> Ferns <u>Andropogon</u> spp. <u>Myrica cerifera</u>	System: Palustrine Class : Scrub-shrub/Emergent Water Regime: Intermittently flooded

Major modifications to wetlands throughout the mapped area since time of the photography include filling for housing and commercial development, extensive segmentation by road construction, and drainage for farming and livestock grazing. In some instances the wetlands have been entirely obliterated; while in other situations, only the water regime has been changed and plant succession is progressing toward species associations reflective of drier conditions. It is therefore essential that the user be continuously cognizant of the fact that the 1972 photographic materials have been used as the basic data source and supersede in many instances recently collected ground truth information.