Supplemental Map Information (User Report)
Outline

Project ID: R04Y13P04_FLUCCS_update_20121101

Project Title or Area: FLUCCS_update

Source Imagery (type, scale and date):

True Color, 1 meter, 2010 National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) was used in the review process. Downloaded from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/

Source Data

- Florida Land Use and Cover Classification (FLUCCS) data From Florida’s Water Management Districts (WMD): Saint John’s River WMD Land Cover Land Use 2009 (MMU 2 acres for wetlands) http://www.sjrwm.com/gisdevelopment/docs/themes.html
- The FLUCCS data was updated from 2004-05 FLUCCS by photo-interpretation from the 2008-09 aerial photography (true color County-based aerial photography (4 in - 2 ft pixel).

Collateral Data (include any digital data used as collateral):

- National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) data: http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/
- Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) hydric soils: http://soils.usda.gov/survey/geography/ssurgo/
- Esri World Imagery: http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=10df2279f9684e4a9f6a7f08f0bac2a9

Inventory Method (original mapping, map update, techniques used):

The dataset was created by converting the FLUCCS dataset, a land use/land cover (LULC) map produced by the State of Florida’s Water Management Districts, to a wetland map that meets current NWI schemas and conventions. In the first step of the process the FLUCCS LULC codes were crosswalked to the analogous Cowardin code, down to subclass where possible. Hydric soils from the SSURGO database were crosswalked to a Cowardin water regime based on soil type. These water regimes from the soils layer were extracted in a GIS and applied to spatially intersecting polygons in the FLUCCS dataset. In cases where a corresponding soil polygon was not present the water regime from the current NWI dataset was extracted and applied to the FLUCCS conversion.

Photo interpreters reviewed this conversion output using NAIP 2010 imagery, at a scale of approximately 1:8,000. Spatial and attribution errors introduced during the conversion process were corrected and attributes that were not assigned through the automated process were added manually. Areas designated as wetland in the FLUCCS dataset that showed indications of human development, or had otherwise been converted from wetland to another land use type, were removed. Additional discrete wetland features identified in the imagery, but not included
in the original FLUCCS layer, such as ponds, were manually added to the dataset. Outside of the aforementioned changes no other spatial alterations were made to the FLUCCS dataset.

Classification (Cowardin wetlands, riparian, uplands, hydrogeomorphic, etc.): Cowardin

Data Limitations: None

General description of the Project Area:

Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains, Florida, 173,800 mi2 (450,100 km2)

Land-surface form.--This province comprises the flat and irregular Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains down to the sea. Well over 50 percent of the area is gently sloping. Local relief is less than 300 ft (90 m), although some areas are gently rolling. Most of the region's numerous streams are sluggish; marshes, swamps, and lakes are numerous.

Climate.--The climate regime is equable, with a small to moderate annual temperature range. Average annual temperature is 60 to 70F (16 to 21C). Rainfall is abundant and well distributed throughout the year; precipitation ranges from 40 to 60 in (1,020 to 1,530 mm) per year.

Vegetation.--Temperate rainforest, also called temperate evergreen forest or laurel forest, is typical in this province. Temperate rainforest has fewer species of trees than its equatorial or tropical counterparts, and hence larger populations of individual species. Trees are not as tall here as in low-latitude rainforests; leaves are usually smaller and more leathery, and the leaf canopy less dense. Common species include evergreen oaks and members of the laurel and magnolia families. There is usually a well-developed lower stratum of vegetation that may variously include tree ferns, small palms, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. Lianas and epiphytes are abundant. At higher elevations, where fog and clouds persist, the trunks and branches of trees are often sheathed in moss. A striking example of epiphyte accumulation at lower elevations is the Spanish "moss" that festoons the Evangeline oak, baldcypress, and other trees of the eastern Gulf coast.

Along the Atlantic coast, the extensive coastal marshes and interior swamps are dominated by gum and cypress. Most upland areas are covered by subclimax pine forest, which has an understory of grasses and sedges called savannas. Undrained shallow depressions in savannas form upland bogs or pocosins, in which evergreen shrubs predominate.

A word about the vegetation of the coastal Southeastern United States may prevent some misunderstanding. On forest maps of the United States and on numerous maps of world vegetation, this coastal zone is shown as having needleleaf evergreen or coniferous forest. It is true that sandy uplands have forests of loblolly and slash pine, and that baldcypress is a dominant tree in swamps; but such vegetation represents either xerophytic and hydrophytic forms in excessively dry or wet habitats, or second-growth forest following fire and deforestation. The climax vegetation of mesophytic habitats is the evergreen-oak and magnolia forest.
Soils.--Soils are mainly Ultisols, Spodosols, and Entisols. Temperate rainforest grows on a wide variety of upland soils, but most tend to be wet, acidic, and low in major plant nutrients. The soils are derived mainly from coastal plain sediments ranging from heavy clay to gravel, with sandy materials predominant. Silty soils occur mainly on level expanses. Sands are prevalent in hilly areas, but they also cover broad flats in central Florida.

Fauna.--This region provides habitat for a wide variety of animals. Except for a few isolated areas where black bear or the endangered Florida panther are found in small numbers, the whitetail deer is the only large indigenous mammal. Common small mammals include raccoons, opossums, flying squirrels, rabbits, and numerous species of ground-dwelling rodents. Bobwhite and wild turkey are the principal game birds. Migratory nongame bird species are numerous, as are migratory waterfowl. Winter birds are diverse and numerous. The red-cockaded woodpecker is an endangered species.

Of the numerous species of reptiles found in this province, the American alligator is the largest.

Description of wetland habitats:
- Organize by Cowardin classification type:
- Wetland classification codes and corresponding community type(s):

Description of other habitats:
- Riparian
- Uplands

List of wetland plant species with indicator status:

Regional specialized conventions:

Other discussion of mapping issues (image quality, water conditions, etc.):

References:


US Forest Service Website, Ecosystem Provinces -
http://www.fs.fed.us/land/ecosysmgmt/colorimagemap/ecoreg1_provinces.html
(viewed 11/01/2012)