

Summary

The purpose of this feature class is to provide locations and associated attributes of wetlands and fens on the GMUG National Forests. They were mapped during a multi-year inventory effort focused on fens, that included aerial photo interpretation and random field verification. The feature class also contains the results of previous fen inventories on the Forest. It is the best available information regarding wetlands and fens for project planning and implementation.

Description

An inventory of fens was initiated in 2008 by the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (approximately 3.1 million acres) in order to better understand their abundance and distribution across the Forests, and to provide relevant information to Forest Service and other resource managers. A fen is a unique type of wetland that is predominantly sustained by ground water inflows promoting the accumulation of peat due to saturated soil conditions. Fens commonly occur within a “fen-wetland complex” that includes a number of distinct plant communities, and a range of soil and hydrologic characteristics. The presence and thickness of peat are the defining characteristics of fens which must be determined in the field to distinguish this wetland type.

A total of 3,270 fen-wetland complexes were identified by photointerpretation across the Forests that potentially contain fens, covering roughly 17,500 acres. A random sample of those complexes was selected for field validation and sampling. A total of 336 complexes were visited over a two year period; of those, 271 were confirmed to be wetlands (81%), 121 of these wetlands proved to be fens (36%).

This feature class shows the location of field verified fens, as well as areas photointerpreted to very likely be wetlands and potential fens. It includes field verified fen data from the GMUG inventory described above as well as data from other inventory efforts: Gay Austin’s Thesis work conducted on the Grand Mesa, Fens of the San Juan Mountains, Dave Bathke’s inventory work in Taylor Park, and the ongoing efforts of the Forest Botanist and others to verify fens in field.

Fen Inventory report, including complete citation of references, can be downloaded at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/gmug/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5363685>

Description of Attributes

Wetland Class: “Field Verified Fen”- a wetland that has been verified by one of the inventory efforts as having sufficient peat depth to be classified as a fen, or “Wetland- Potential Fen” a photointerpreted polygon that is very likely (81% probability) a wetland and possibly a fen (36% probability).

WFID: this is a unique identifier given to all potential fen polygons and field verified fens that relates the polygon to additional field data when available.

Sitename: This is a common name that was given to a fen during inventory.

CentroidUTMX and CentroidUTMY: Northing and easting of centroid of the polygon in UTM Zone 13. Datum is NAD83.

Longitude and Latitude: The Geographic Coordinate System longitude and latitude of the centroid of each polygon. Datum is NAD83.

Credits:

Barry C. Johnston, Botanist bcjohnston@fs.fed.us

Ben Stratton, Hydrologist bstratton@fs.fed.us

Warren Young, Soil Scientist wyoung@fs.fed.us

Use Limitations

ATTENTION. This product is reproduced from geospatial information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Geographic Information Systems data and product accuracy may vary. They may be: developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incomplete while being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace, GIS products "based on new inventories, new or revised information, and if necessary in conjunction with other federal, state or local public agencies or the public in general as required by policy or regulation. Previous recipients of the products may not be notified unless required by policy or regulation".