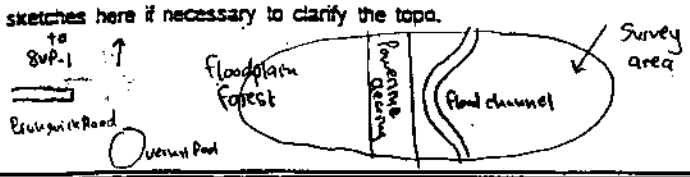
NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART I: RECONNAISSANCE Maine Natural Areas Program

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Survey area: Housatonic River (Small Mammal Trap site 1B)			Date: 15 October 1998
(Site name:)		(Quadcode:)	Airphoto (#, scale, date):
Surveyors: Arthur Haines, Bob Roy	Town: Pittsfield County: Berkshire, MA (Biophysical Region:)	USGS 7.5' Quad: Pittsfield East (1:25,000)	

Mark all observation points on a copy of the topo. Add any comments or sketches here if necessary to clarify the topo.



Directions (if not obvious from topo or Maine Atlas):
From the end of the Brunswick Road, Pass through low, wet forest in a South-Southwest direction for ca. 100 meters to enter a cleared Powerline right-of-way. Community lies mostly of Southside of right-of-way.

VEGETATION / HABITAT

Observation Point 1	Observation Point 2	Observation Point 3
Community type: Floodplain Forest	Community type:	Community type:
Soil: Alluvial	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography	Slope, aspect, topography:	Slope, aspect, topography:
STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each	STRATA*: cover & 1-2 dominant spp. for each
Tree layer: Total cover (%): 70 Acer saccharinum Acer negundo Ulmus americana	Tree layer: Total cover (%):	Tree layer: Total cover (%):
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%) 10 Acer negundo	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%) 50 Lonicera Morrowii Fallopia Japonica	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)
Herb layer: Total cover (%) 60 Zizea aurea Matteuccia Struthiopteris Argentina altissima	Herb layer: Total cover (%)	Herb layer: Total cover (%)
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%) NA	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)
Other diagnostic or notable species: Ribes americanum	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use: Powerline clearing bisects community	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? yes, 5.6 m radius tree cores? yes photos? yes	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART II: DESCRIPTION

-> complete separate description forms for each notable natural community on reconnaissance page.

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): Housatonic River (Small Mammal Trap site 1B)			Obs. Pt. # 1
Community type: Floodplain forest			Adjacent communities:
Quad: Pittsfield East 1:25,000	~~(Lat:)~~ Northing 4699100	Size (acres) of community EO (not site):	BE SURE TO MAP EXTENT OF COMMUNITY ON TOPO. Distinguish between portions ground-truthed vs. portions presumed to be part of community based solely on photo/map interpretation, where applicable.
(Quadcode:)	~~(Long:)~~ Easting 0643975		

CLASSIFICATION HIERARCHY

Physiognomy (Class)	Phenology (Subclass)	Leaf type (Group)
(forest)	evergreen woody	(broad-leaf woody)
woodland	(deciduous woody)	needle-leaf woody
shrubland	mixed woody	graminoid
dwarf shrubland	perennial	forb
herbaceous	annual	pteridophyte
sparse vascular/nonvascular		non-vascular

(ALLIANCE:)

ADDITIONAL DATA FOR FORESTS

Tree canopy height	Core data: ring counts (~ 5 cores) of larger trees (give sp. & dbh)	Deadwood (describe distribution, abundance, degree of decay):
70 feet	① Acer negundo 19 in DBH, 51 feet tall +/- 29 years before Present	Ample deadwood in floodplain, some quite large (>15 inches), much has been cut with a saw at one end.
supercanopy trees? NO	② Acer saccharinum, 25 in, 75 feet tall +/- 54 years before Present	
	③ Ulmus americana 27 in, 69 feet tall 63 years before Present	

HISTORY (describe evidence or lack thereof; please do not leave boxes blank. Indicate approximately how recent where possible.)

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
		-cleared strip for powerline right-of-way		

comment:

ADDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

List additional plant species in community not included in the plot data that follows.

Xanthium strumarium
Digitaria sanguinalis
Bidens cernua
Echinochloa muricata
Panicum capillare
Lycopus uniflorus
Glechoma hederacea
Equisetum arvense
Lonicera morrowii
Symphyotrichum cordifolium
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum
Ribes americanum
Onoclea sensibilis
Poa pratensis
Vitis riparia
Hesperis matronalis
Toxicodendron radicans
Pergularia virginiana
Salix alba
Lysimachia ciliata
Ligustrum vulgare
Euonymus alatus
Boehmeria cylindrica
Cardamine pratensis
Cinna latifolia
Cornus amomum
Populus deltoides
Thalictrum pubescens

Species list sketchy or basically complete? Comment:

Moderate survey effort

VEGETATION PLOT DATA

Area: Housatonic River [Small Mammal Trapsite 18]	Obs. pt. #: 1
Community type: Floodplain forest	(Regional alliance/community:)

LAYER	plot # 1a	1b	1c	1D
TREE list species and dbh for all trees >= 5 cm dbh; count standing dead as 1 species. note units: QUAD SIZE: note which size used 5.64 m radius for 1/100th ha 7.98 m radius for 2/100th ha use same size throughout!	N/A	Acer saccharinum 14, 31, 10, 16 Ulmus americana 22, Acer negundo 14, 18, 8	Acer negundo 18, 8 Acer saccharinum 8 Standing dead 5	Ulmus americana 9 Acer saccharinum 14, 12, 18, 16, 13, 13
SAPLING / TALL SHRUB cover class by species of: trees > 2 m tall but < 5 cm dbh; and shrubs > 2 m tall QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	N/A	Acer saccharinum 9	Acer negundo 3	Rhamnus cathartica 37
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	Ulmus americanus 1	Acer negundo 9 Euonymus europaea 3 Fallopia japonica 63	Lonicera morrowii 3	Lonicera morrowii 19
HERB cover class* by species for all herbaceous plants plus any woodies < 1 m tall QUAD SIZE: 1 m², 2-4 herb quads per tree plot. Enter individual values in left-hand column and average in right-hand column. Remember the zeros for spp present in some but not all herb quads when figuring averages!	① Elymus riparius 9 Solidago gigantea 3 Argentina anserina 3 Muhlenbergia frondosa 3 Matteuccia struthiopteris 9 Zizea aurea 3 ② Pesicaria punctata 19 Pesicaria perfoliata 3 Lythrum salicaria 3 Muhlenbergia frondosa 9 Solanum dulcamara 3	① Geum canadense 9 Alliaria petiolata 3 Euonymus europaea 3 Zizea aurea 1 ② Zizea aurea 19	① Zizea aurea 37 Matteuccia struth. 19 ② Solidago flexicaulis 9 Zizea aurea 37 Acer platanoides 1	① Zizea aurea 37 ② Zizea aurea 37 Matteuccia struth. 37
BRYOID ground-layer mosses, liverwort, lichens in herb quads. resolution (check one): __"moss"/"liverwort"/"lichen" only; __identified to major group; __identified to genus; __identified to species.	NA	NA	NA	
REMARKS	Plot taken from a spring flood channel, now dry, sandy bed.			

In box on previous page, list plant spp. present in the community but not in the sample plots so we have a complete species list.

* cover classes (record midpoint): < 2 1 2-5% 3 6-12% 9 13-24% 19 25-49% 37 50-74% 63 75-100% 87

date: initials: p. 3 of 4

TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: Housatonic River [small Mammal trap site (B)] | Obs. pt. #: 1

Community type: floodplain forest | (Regional alliance/community:)

Elevation: 296 meters

Aspect: flat
magnetic or true?

Slope: 0-5°
measured or estimated? estimated

Microtopography: flat plain cut by spring flood channels

pH
(note kit or meter type)

Topographic position:

(P) low plain, level
T toe of slope
LS lower slope
MS middle slope
TB hillside terrace/bench
US upper slope
E cliff/ledge
C crest
M high plateau
N narrow valley
D drainage channel

Habitat patchiness (describe zones or patches if present): Relatively uniform, though sometimes altered near vernal pools from remainder of forest

Mineral Soil Profile:

horizon	depth (cm)	color	mottling	other
O				
A				
E				
B				
C				

Organic Soil Profile:

peat depth: _____ cm OR > 1 m _____

vonPost decomposition: _____

ALL SOILS:

DEPTH TO WATER TABLE: _____

DEPTH to OBSTRUCTION: _____

Soil temperature reading _____ F/C at _____ (depth)

Surficial deposit:
- bedrock
- talus slope
- glacial till
- moraine
- esker/outwash
- glacial delta
- (lacustrine/fluvial) alluvial
- marine
- aeolian
- other:

Surface:
- ____% Bedrock
- ____% Boulders (>50 cm)
- ____% Cobbles/Gravel
- 10 % Bare mineral soil
- ____% Organic soil
- 90 % Litter (note type) Broadleaf
- ____% Water
- ____% Total vegetation
- ____ Other:

Average Texture:
- gravel
- sand
- loamy sand / sandy loam
- loam
- silt loam
- clay loams
- sandy clay / clay
- peat
- muck

Bedrock type:
Igneous
- granite
- dioritic
- gabbroic
- other igneous

Metamorphic
- slate/phyllite
- schist/gneiss
- other metamorphic

Sedimentary
- limestone
- other sedimentary

details?

Soil stoniness:
- v. little (< 1%)
- moderate (2-25%)
- very (25-100%)

Drainage & moisture regime (see MAPPSS key):
- very poorly drained
- poorly drained
- somewhat poorly drained
- moderately well drained
- well drained
- somewhat excessively drained
- excessively drained

Hydrologic regime:
- upland
- nontidal wetland:
  - permanently flooded
  - semiperm'ly flooded
  - (seasonally flooded)
  - saturated
- tidal - irregularly
- tidal - regularly
  - saltwater
  - brackish
  - freshwater
- unknown