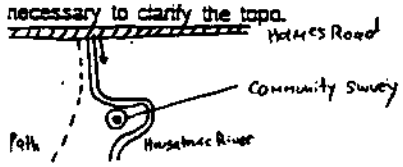
NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART I: RECONNAISSANCE Maine Natural Areas Program

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Survey area: Housatonic River [Small Mammal trapping site 3]			Date: 10 September 1998
(Site name:)		(Quadcode:)	Airphoto (#, scale, date):
Surveyors: Arthur Haines, Eugenie Moore	Town: County: Berkshire, MA (Biophysical Region:)	USGS 7.5' Quad: 1:25,000 X15' Pittsfield East, MA	

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 Holmes Road, follow field and mowed path (East side of River) downstream (from yellow gate at Road near bridge) until river diverges away from path. Follow cut path +/- SE and E out to a lobe of land near bend in River.

VEGETATION / HABITAT

Observation Point 1	Observation Point 2	Observation Point 3
Community type: floodplain forest — Silver Maple-False Nettle-Sensitive Fern association	Community type:	Community type:
Soil: Alluvial silt	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography: Flat, with occasional drainages	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 (%): 65 Acer saccharinum Acer negundo	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 (%) 15 Prunus pensylvanica	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)_____
Herb layer: Total cover (%) 70 Laportea canadensis Matteuccia struthiopteris Pilea pumila	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____	Herb layer: Total cover (%)_____
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____ essentially absent	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____	Bryoid layer: Total cover (%)_____
Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:	Other diagnostic or notable species:
Condition / evidence of human use: None	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? yes, 5.64 m tree cores? yes photos? yes	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

date: 9/10 initials: AH p. 1 of 4

...URAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART II: DESCRIPTION

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

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...DENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): Horsatonic River [small mammal trapping site 3]			Obs. Pt. # 1
Community type: Silver Maple floodplain forest			Adjacent communities: River, early successional forest
Quad: Pittsfield East MA	~~(Lat.)~~ Northing 4698100	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 0645050		

...LASSIFICATION 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:)

...DDITIONAL 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):	
80 feet	(1) Acer negundo DBH - 10 inches, +/- 25 ybp	Few, large (>15 inches) logs with some bryophyte cover on them (essentially the only substrate with bryophytes in survey).	
supercanopy trees? NO	(2) Acer saccharinum DBH - 23, 37 ybp		
	(3) Acer saccharinum DBH - 19, 38 years before present		

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

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
NO	NO	NO	yes, adjacent to community are areas of open field and early successional forest	no

comment:

...ADDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

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

Alliaria petiolata
Oxalis stricta
Cardamine pratensis
Urtica dioica
Chelidonium majus
Echinocystis lobata
Lysimachia nummularia
Pilea pumila
Rudbeckia laciniata
cf. Helianthus tuberosus
Viola
Poa nemoralis
Eucarymus
Symphyotrichum lateriflorum
Persicaria hydropiper
Lythrum salicaria
Myosotis scorpioides
Penthorum sedoides
Cinna latifolia
Bidens vulgata

Species list sketchy or basically complete? Comment:

Brief survey

VEGETATION PLOT DATA

Area: Housatonic River [Small Mammal Trapping site 3] | Obs. pt. #: 1

Community type: floodplain forest — silver maple-false nettle-sensitive fern association | (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: inches 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!	Acer negundo 6,6,7,5	Acer negundo 13,6,7,18,10 Acer saccharinum 15	Acer negundo 7 Acer saccharinum 11,8,7,14,19,9 Standing dead 6	Populus deltoides 51 Acer negundo 9,7
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 m^2	NA	NA	Acer saccharinum 19	NA
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m^2	Prunus virginiana 1	Acer saccharinum 3	NA	NA
HERB cover class* by species for all herbaceous plants plus any woodies < 1 m tall QUAD SIZE: 1 m^2, 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 Matteuccia Struth. 63 Geum 9 Agerotina altissima 3 Alliaria petiolata 1 ② Matteuccia S. 87	① Matteuccia S. 37 Onoclea sensibilis 9 Laportea canadensis 3 Boehmeria cylindrica 3 ② Matteuccia S. 19 Laportea canadensis 37	① Matteuccia S. 37 Laportea canadensis 9 Geum 1 ② Matteuccia S. 19 Laportea can. 37 Alliaria petiolata 9	① Matteuccia S. 19 Laportea can. 9 ② Laportea can. 37 Matteuccia S. 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	NA
REMARKS	Open area dominated by Matteuccia Struthiopteris between the canopy trees.		Forest is open under canopy and is largely Matteuccia and Laportea dominated	This plot with areas of deposited silt that is bare of vegetation.

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:

TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: Housatonic River [Small Mammal Trapping site 3] | Obs. pt. #: 1

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

Elevation:	Aspect:	Slope:	Microtopography:
288 meters	Flat magnetic or true?	0-3° measured or estimated?	Somewhat flat toe of land with occasional dips and bumps and infrequent drainage ditches.

pH	Topographic position:			Habitat patchiness (describe zones or patches if present):
(note kit or meter type)	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	Patchy, canopy is broken and fields of Ostrich fern (Matteuccia s.) exist between the forested areas where sun reaches herb layer.

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	Surface:	Average Texture:
bedrock	____% Bedrock	gravel
talus slope	____% Boulders (>50 cm)	sand
glacial till	____% Cobbles/Gravel	loamy sand / sandy loam
moraine	15 % Bare mineral soil	loam
esker/outwash	____% Organic soil	silt loam
glacial delta	15 % Litter (note type) ferns, tree leaves	clay loams
lacustrine/fluvial Alluvial	____% Water	sandy clay / clay
marine	70 % Total vegetation	peat
aeolian	____ Other:	muck
other:		

Bedrock type:		Soil stoniness:
Igneous granite dioritic gabbroic other igneous _____	Sedimentary limestone other sedimentary _____ details?	v. little (< 1%) moderate (2-25%) very (25-100%)
Metamorphic slate/phyllite schist/gneiss other metamorphic _____		

Drainage & moisture regime (see MAPPSS key):	Hydrologic regime:
very poorly drained	upland
poorly drained	nontidal wetland: permanently flooded semiperm'ly flooded seasonally flooded saturated
somewhat poorly drained	
moderately well drained	
well drained	tidal - irregularly tidal - regularly saltwater brackish freshwater
somewhat excessively drained	
excessively drained	
	unknown