NATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART I: RECONNAISSANCE Maine Natural Areas Program

IDENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Survey area: Housatonic River [Small Mammal Trap site 8]			Date: 16 September 1998
(Site name:)		(Quadcode:)	Airphoto (#, scale, date):
Surveyors: Arthur Haines, Eugenie Moore	Town: Lenox 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): follow western field edge (fault road) from New Lenox Road just east of RR and pump station south to road through forest that parallels RR. After ca. 0.15 miles take right fork and continue south into Red Maple swamp.

VEGETATION / HABITAT

Observation Point 1	Observation Point 2	Observation Point 3
Community type: Circumneutral hardwood Swamp	Community type:	Community type:
Soil:	Soil:	Soil:
Slope, aspect, topography: flat, relatively even ground	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 rubrum Prunus serotina Populus tremuloides	Tree layer: Total cover (%):	Tree layer: Total cover (%):
Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%): 25 Acer rubrum Fraxinus americanus	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)	Sapling / tall shrub layer: Total cover (%)
Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%): 40 Viburnum dentatum Vaccinium corymbosum	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)	Shrub (1-2 m) layer: Total cover (%)
Herb layer: Total cover (%): 40 Osmunda cinnamomea Athyrium felix-femina Rubus hispidus	Herb layer: Total cover (%)	Herb layer: Total cover (%)
Bryoid layer: Total cover (%) Only present on downed woody material	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: Some trail construction for Archery targets	Condition / evidence of human use:	Condition / evidence of human use:
Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? yes relatively dry red maple tree cores? yes swamp ~ +/- sometimes photos? yes poorly drained soils	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?	Additional data collected / COMMENTS plots (size)? tree cores? photos?

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ATURAL COMMUNITY SURVEY PART II: DESCRIPTION

complete separate description forms for each notable natural community on reconnaissance page. 2 of 4

ENTIFIERS / LOCATION

Area (specific/general): Housatonic River, Small Mammal Trap Site 8			Obs. Pt. # 1
Community type: Circumneutral Hardwood Swamp			Adjacent communities: Circumneutral Shrub Swamp, Low Gradient Stream, Anthropogenic Fields (Hay Fields)
Quad: Pittsfield, East 1:25,000	~~(Lat.:)~~ Northing: 469360	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: 0644370		

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):	
70 feet	① Acer rubrum 15 dbh, 54 ybp ② Acer rubrum 10 dbh, 40 ybp ③ Prunus serotina, 11 dbh, +/- 55 years before present	Little deadwood present, what exists is relatively small (< 15 inches diameter) and scarce.	
supercanopy trees? NO			

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

Fire:	Wind:	Cutting:	Agriculture:	Impoundment:
NO	NO	None observed but likely within last 60 years.	Agricultural fields are present bordering the community.	NO

Comment:

DDITIONAL SPECIES LIST

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

Cornus amomum	Thelypteris noveboracensis	Berberis vulgaris	
Rubus idaeus	Dryopteris intermedia	Lysimachia ciliata	
Viburnum acerifolium	Vaccinium corymbosum	Lycopodium hickeyi	
Onoclea sensibilis	Prunus virginiana	Diphasiastrum complanatum	
Osmunda regalis	Maianthemum canadense	Lycopodium clavatum	
Spiraea alba	Solidago rugosa	Gentiana clausa	
Rhododendron viscosum	Ilex verticillata	Ulmus americana	Lycium ligustrina
	Cornus sericea		

Species list sketchy or basically complete? Comment: Moderate survey effort

VEGETATION PLOT DATA

Area: Housatonic River, Small Mammal Trap Site 8	Obs. pt. #:
Community type: Circumneutral Hardwood Swamp	(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!	Populus tremuloides 8, 9	Acer rubrum 5, 6, 7, 7, 7, 8, 10, 15, 18 Quercus rubra 12	Acer rubrum 9, 9, 8, 10, 5	Acer rubrum 18, 8, 9, 8, 11 Prunus serotina 8 Populus tremuloides 11, 12
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	Fraxinus americanus 9 Prunus serotina 9 Acer rubrum 3	Acer rubrum 1	Prunus serotina 19	Acer rubrum 9
SHRUB cover class* by species of shrubs/trees 1 - 2 m tall. QUAD SIZE: 2.8 m radius or 25 m²	Acer rubrum 3 Viburnum dentatum 9 Vaccinium corymbosum 3	Prunus serotina 9 Viburnum dentatum 9 Pinus strobus 3	Prunus serotina 9 Viburnum dentatum 9 Amelanchier cf. arborea 3	Viburnum dentatum 9 Fraxinus americana 3
HERS 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 Osmunda cinnam. 9 Rubus hispidus 19 ② Osmunda cinnam. 37 Rubus idaeus 3 Rubus hispidus 19 Prunus virginiana 1	① Viburnum dentatum 9 Rubus hispidus 1 ② Osmunda cinna. 37 Viburnum dent. 9 Rubus hispidus 1	① Osmunda cinn. 19 Rubus hispidus 3 ② Osmunda cinn. 19 Osmunda regalis 9 Viburnum dentatum 1	① Onoclea sensibilis 3 Rubus hispidus 37 Viburnum dent. 1 ② Osmunda regalis 37 Osmunda cinnamomea 19 Onoclea sensibilis 3 Prunus serotina 1
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				

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

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TOPOGRAPHY / SOILS

Area: Housatonic River, Small Mammal Trap site 8 | Obs. pt. #: 1

Community type: Circumneutral Hardwood Swamp | (Regional alliance/community:)

Elevation:	Aspect:	Slope:	Microtopography:
294 meters	flat magnetic or true?	0° measured or estimated?	Even ground with only slight mounds present around some tree clump bases/ or fern plants

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	Relatively uniform

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)

Hydrologically relatively dry compared against most red maple swamps, but vegetation is mostly hydrophytic.

Surficial deposit:	Surface:	Average Texture:
bedrock	____% Bedrock	gravel
talus slope	____% Boulders (>50 cm)	sand
glacial till	____% Cobbles/Gravel	loamy sand / sandy loam
moraine	____% Bare mineral soil	loam
esker/outwash	____% Organic soil	silt loam
glacial delta	55 % Litter (note type) broadleaf	clay loams
lacustrine/fluvial	____% Water	sandy clay / clay
marine	45 % Total vegetation	peat
aeolian	____ Other:	muck
other:		

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 MAFPSS 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