SMX - Wet Meadow/Fen Mosaic/Complex

Photo credit: Kevin Hop

The Wet Meadow/Fen Mosaic/Complex Map Unit (SMX) represents 5 herbaceous associations: Canada Bluejoint Eastern Meadow, Northern Sedge Wet Meadow, Wiregrass Sedge Shore Fen, Eastern Reed Marsh, and Midwest Cattail Deep Marsh. SMX occurs along shorelines of lakes, beaver impoundments, and low areas surrounded by upland.

This map unit was created to account for photo limitations and patterns of the vegetation on the ground. The photographs do not always show distinctive signatures between these associations, so mapping specific associations cannot be done confidently. Also, these associations often occur together in a mosaic pattern and fall below the minimum mapping unit of .5 ha., so they are not mapped as separate polygons.

In any given polygon designated as SMX, one or more of these associations might occur. If only one association occurs, it is because the confidence level in interpreting the specific vegetation for that polygon was low.

Midwest Cattail Deep Marsh and Eastern Reed Marsh are mapped with SMX only when occurring in shallow water and either could not be distinguished from the other wet meadow herbaceous associations, or were seen as a mosaic pattern with the other wet meadow associations. In deeper water, they are mapped with other map units associated with deep water marsh types.

Polygons of SMX vary in appearance because it represents different combinations of these associations.

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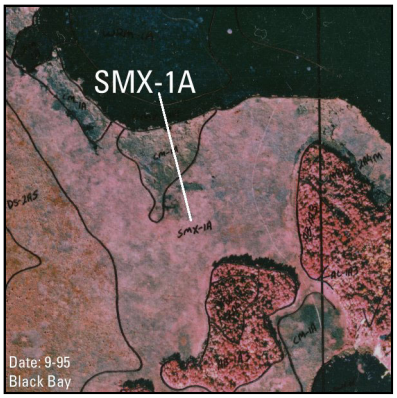
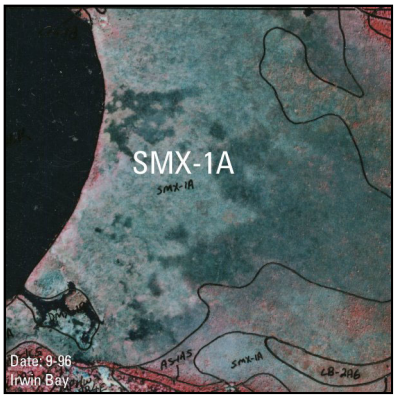
SMX-1A appears as a mottled pink and blue-gray signature next to a water body in this photo. The texture is relatively smooth. The color varies, reflecting the presence of different herbaceous species and variable water depths. The coverage is continuous and evenly dispersed. The photo was taken in September 1995.



SMX-1A appears as a mottled signature of pinks and greens, occurring either side of a stream. The signature, with its relatively smooth texture, varies in color, showing patches of the various associations that are part of SMX. The photo was taken in September 1995.

SMX-1A appears as blue-gray, indicating that much of the vegetation has lost its chlorophyll. The varying shades of gray are due to variable water depths, change in herbaceous species, or possibly depth of substrate deposition. The photo was taken in September 1996.



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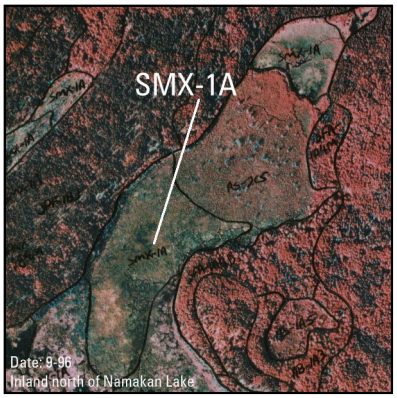
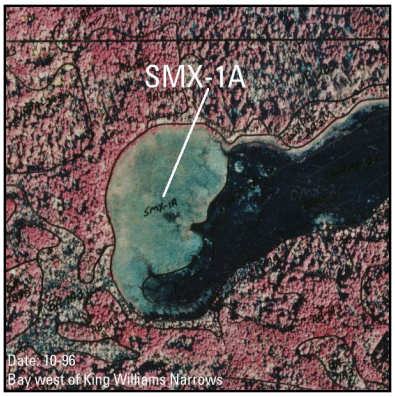
SMX-1A appears as a mottling of dark greens, blues, grays, and browns. This polygon is located in the tail of a large beaver pond, falling between a Speckled Alder Swamp (AS) and a Deep Marsh Mosaic Complex (DMX). The photo was taken in September 1996.



SMX-1B appears as a mottled signature of pinks and greens. There are several small beaver ponds interspersed with the vegetation, resulting in a clumped coverage of SMX. The photo was taken in September 1996.

SMX-1A appears as a blue-green signature, indicating that much of the vegetation has lost its chlorophyll. The photo was taken in October 1996.



Area Report for SMX Map Unit
Polygons: 2,012
Hectares: 4,484
Acres: 11,080
Average size: 2 hectares, 6 acres

Accuracy Assessment Results for SMX Map Unit
The Wet Meadow/Fen Mosaic/Complex Map Unit was assessed at 67% producers' accuracy (confidence interval 55-80%) and 76% users' accuracy (confidence interval 64-89%). Errors in producer's accuracy were primarily associated with Map Unit BJ. Errors in users' accuracy were primarily associated with Map Unit WL.