

# Visual Guide to National Wetland Inventory (NWI) Palustrine Wetland Classes in West Virginia

Aerial and ground photos of PFO, PSS, PEM, PAB, PUB types

**PFO: Palustrine Forested Wetland** has at least 30% cover of trees that are 6 meters (20 feet) tall or taller. Example: silver maple swamp. Note the long straight shadows of the tree trunks in the aerial photos.





**PSS: Palustrine Scrub-Shrub Wetland** has at least 30% cover of woody vegetation less than 6 m (20 feet) tall, but less than 30% cover of taller trees. Growth forms include shrubs, young trees (saplings), and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions. Example: alder swamp.





**PEM: Palustrine Emergent Wetland** has at least 30% cover of erect, rooted, herbaceous plants, excluding mosses and lichens, but less than 30% cover of woody vegetation. Examples: rice cutgrass marsh, tussock sedge fen.





**PAB: Palustrine Aquatic Bed** has at least 30% cover of plants that grow principally on or below the surface of the water, but less than 30% cover of emergent plants or woody vegetation. Example: water lily pond.





**PUB: Palustrine Unconsolidated Bottom** has vegetative cover less than 30%. Example: open water pond without submerged or floating vegetation.

