TREE COMMUNITIES

DARK GREEN = TROPICAL HARDWOOD HAMMOCKS: Mixed stands with relatively closed canopy consisting predominantly of tropical hardwoods with *Quercus virginiana* (only important species with primary range northward), *Lysiloma latisiliqua, Bursera simaruba, Nectandra coriacea, Coccoloba diversifolia, Myrsine floridana, Ardisia escallonioides, Eugenia axillaris,* and numerous other tree and shrub species. Epiphytes are common. The substrate is eroded limestone covered by a veneer (5-15 cm) of organic matter. Solution holes in the limestone are abundant. The elevations are as high as any in the area, and the ground surface is rarely, if ever, under water.

PURPLE = PINELANDS: Open stands of *Pinus elliottii* var. *densa* with an understory typically very rich in species consisting of many of the tropical hardwoods found in hammocks as well as *Serenoa repens, Myrica cerifera, Ilex cassine, Persea borbonia, Dodonea viscosa, Guettarda* spp. and other tree and shrub species. Many herbaceous species are present. Pinelands are perpetuated by periodic fire. Tropical hardwood hammock species become dominant in the absence of fire for 15 years or more. The substrate is jagged limestone with numerous solution holes and relatively little soil development. The elevations are higher than adjacent prairies and are often as high as those of hammocks. Inundation is rare.

BLUE-GREEN = BAYHEADS: Closed-canopy forests composed of *Myrica cerifera, Ilex cassine, Persea borbonia,* and *Chrysobalanus icaco. Ficus aurea* is sometimes present. Mature individuals of *Taxodium distichum* and *Salix caroliniana* may be present at bayhead margins. The substrate is usually 30-200 cm of peat overlying either a trough or a ridge in the limestone. Mean hydroperiod is 1-4 months.

BLUE-GREEN STRIPED = FORMER AGRICULTURAL LANDS: Former prairie areas on marl from which the native vegetation has been removed, the land planted to agricultural crops and later abandoned between the 1930's and 1950's. These areas are now forested, dominated by *Ilex cassine, Persea borbonia, Myrica cerifera,* and the exotics *Schinus terebinthifolius* and *Psidium guajava.*

GREEN = WILLOW HEADS: Stands of *Salix caroliniana* growing on 1-2 m of peat in the deepest areas of the slough. The willow is often mixed with *Thalia geniculata* and *Phragmites australis* and often surrounds a round pool 1-1.5 m deep. Willow heads are oval or lanceolate in outline with margins of tall *Cladium jamaicense* or *Phragmites australis.* Mean hydroperiod is 3-10 months.

YELLOW-GREEN = CYPRESS FOREST: Includes cypress domes, heads, and strands, all of which have an overstory of *Taxodium distichum.* Domes and heads are generally circular or lens-shaped; strands are elongated. Substrate is peat. Domes and strands have relatively long (4-9 months) hydroperiods and are nearly devoid of understory shrubs. Cypress heads have shorter (less than 3-4 months) mean hydroperiods and have an understory of bayhead tree species. Cypress heads in certain areas along the slough margins have been severely damaged by fire.

GRAMINOID COMMUNITIES

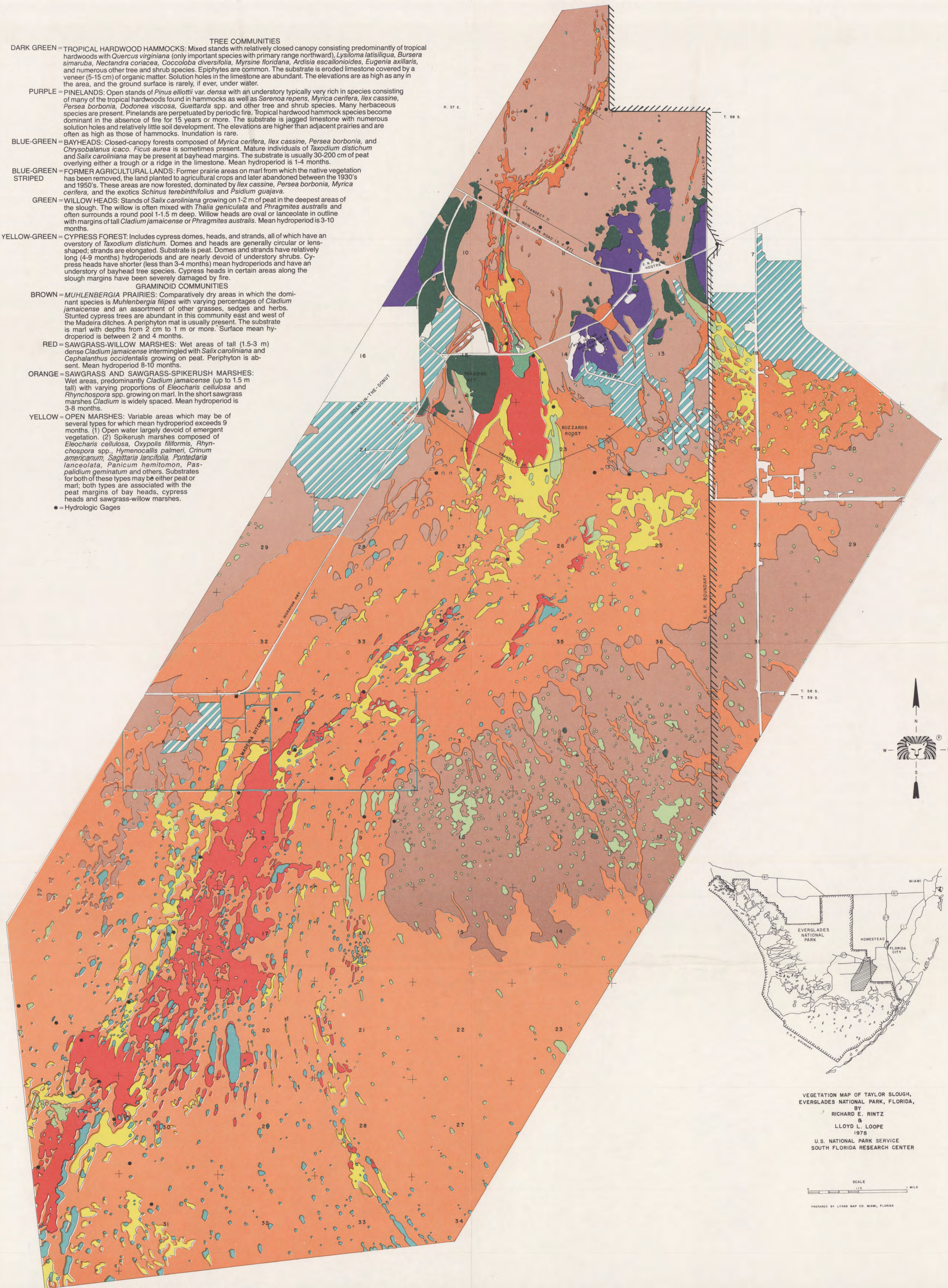
BROWN = *MUHLENBERGIA* PRAIRIES: Comparatively dry areas in which the dominant species is *Muhlenbergia filipes* with varying percentages of *Cladium jamaicense* and an assortment of other grasses, sedges and herbs. Stunted cypress trees are abundant in this community east and west of the Madeira ditches. A periphyton mat is usually present. The substrate is marl with depths from 2 cm to 1 m or more. Surface mean hydroperiod is between 2 and 4 months.

RED = SAWGRASS-WILLOW MARSHES: Wet areas of tall (1.5-3 m) dense *Cladium jamaicense* intermingled with *Salix caroliniana* and *Cephalanthus occidentalis* growing on peat. Periphyton is absent. Mean hydroperiod 8-10 months.

ORANGE = SAWGRASS AND SAWGRASS-SPIKERUSH MARSHES: Wet areas, predominantly *Cladium jamaicense* (up to 1.5 m tall) with varying proportions of *Eleocharis cellulosa* and *Rhynchospora* spp. growing on marl. In the short sawgrass marshes *Cladium* is widely spaced. Mean hydroperiod is 3-8 months.

YELLOW = OPEN MARSHES: Variable areas which may be of several types for which mean hydroperiod exceeds 9 months. (1) Open water largely devoid of emergent vegetation. (2) Spikerush marshes composed of *Eleocharis cellulosa, Oxypolis filiformis, Rhynchospora* spp., *Hymenocallis palmeri, Crinum americanum, Sagittaria lancifolia, Pontederia lanceolata, Panicum hemitomon, Paspalidium geminatum* and others. Substrates for both of these types may be either peat or marl; both types are associated with the peat margins of bay heads, cypress heads and sawgrass-willow marshes.

● = Hydrologic Gages



VEGETATION MAP OF TAYLOR SLOUGH, EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, FLORIDA,
BY
RICHARD E. RINTZ
&
LLOYD L. LOOPE
1978
U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTH FLORIDA RESEARCH CENTER

SCALE
0 1/2 1 MILE

PREPARED BY LYONS MAP CO. MIAMI, FLORIDA