

sand or exposed clay. Because surficial drainage is better developed in this part of the basin, numerous small tributary creeks branch off the river channel.

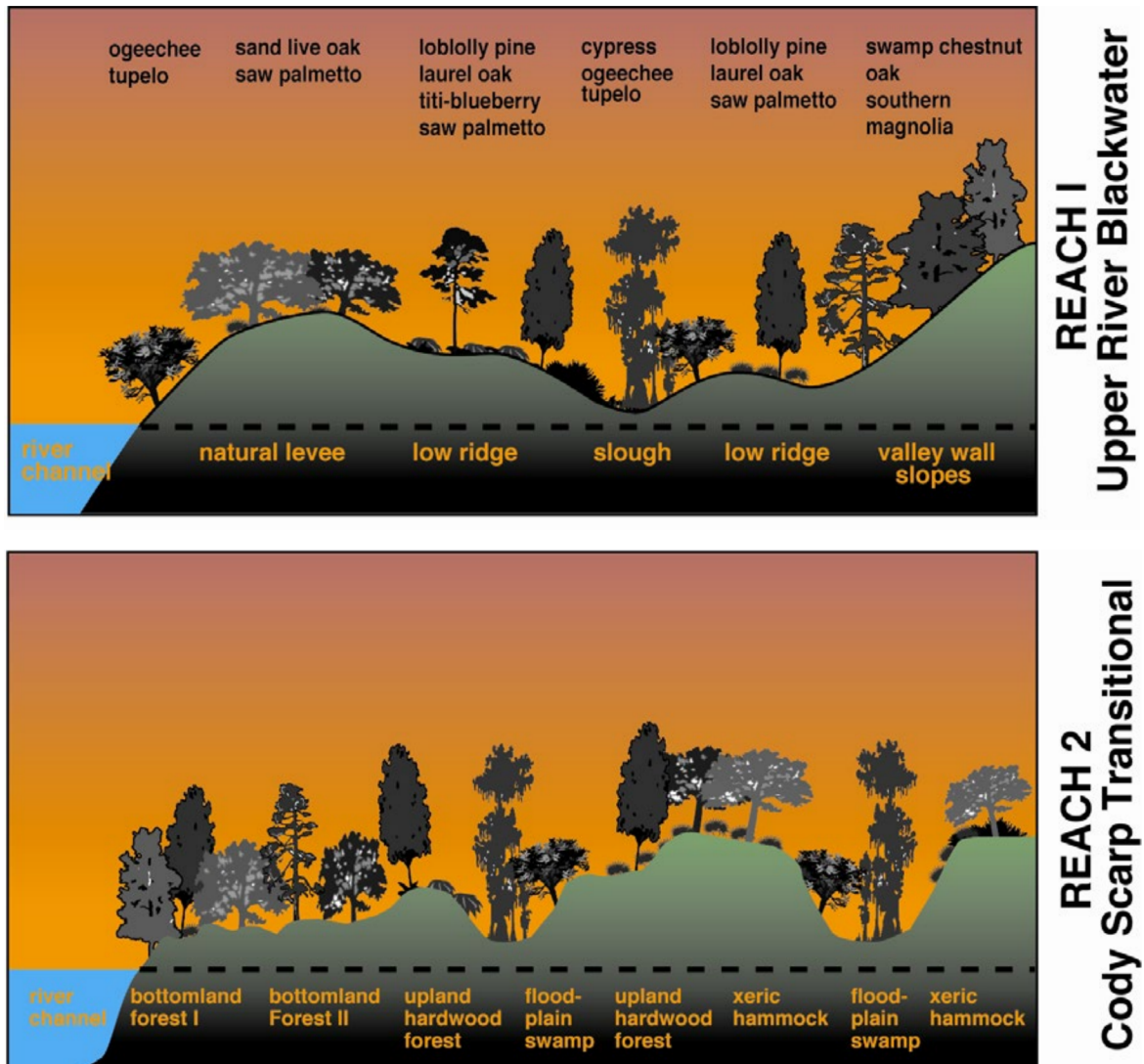


Figure 40. Basic geomorphology of the river channel and floodplain and typical plant communities in the two ecological reaches of the upper Suwannee River study area
[Source: (WRA, 2005)]

The river floodplain is inundated only by larger floods (i.e., floods with 5-10 year recurrence intervals), and flooding duration is often less than 30 continuous days. Plant communities in the floodplain are mostly upland forests, dominated by natural or planted pine, oaks, magnolia and hickory. Wetlands in the floodplain are mainly associated with the tributary creeks branching off the main channel and consist of cypress and deciduous hardwoods such as swamp tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica* var. *biflora*), river birch, Ogeechee tupelo, and others. The Suwannee in this reach is a classic, southeastern blackwater stream. Benthic invertebrate communities are dominated by caddisflies and chironomids. Highest invertebrate densities are found in the shoal habitats (Bass & Cox, 1985).