

Great Plains Prairie Pothole

Found primarily in the glaciated northern Great Plains of the United States and Canada, and is characterized by depressional wetlands formed by glaciers scraping the landscape during the Pleistocene era. Because of periodic droughts and wet periods, many wetlands within this system undergo vegetation cycles. This system includes elements of aquatic vegetation, emergent marshes, and wet meadows that develop into a pattern of concentric rings.

Wet = currently or frequently filled; open water and well-developed emergent vegetation

Dry = currently or frequently dry; open soil, less developed emergent, forb and grass dominated