



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Walla Walla District
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Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Public Notice

Regional Supplemental to Corps of Engineers
Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region
(Version 2.0)

Date of Notice: October 31, 2008

SUBJECT: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, announces the availability of the September 2008 Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0).

This supplement was developed by regional expert delineators with input from state and Federal agencies, academia and other local experts. It was peer reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal agencies to determine the clarity and ease of use of the document and whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland jurisdiction for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes. This final version of the supplement may be found at online at http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm.

EARLIER GUIDANCE RESCINDED: This Regional Supplement supersedes the following list of earlier guidance which is hereby rescinded by this public notice:

- "*Implementation of the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual*" memorandum from John P. Elmore, dated 27 August 1991
- "*Questions & Answers on the 1987 Manual*" memorandum from John F. Studt, dated 7 October 1991
- "*Clarification and Interpretation of the 1987 Manual*" memorandum from Major General Arthur E. Williams, dated 6 March 1992
- "*Revisions to National Plant Lists*" memorandum from Michael L. Davis, dated 17 January 1996
- "*NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils*" memorandum from John F. Studt, dated 21 March 1997

CHANGES: The following changes were incorporated into Version 2.0 of the Arid West Regional Supplement:

1. Minor wording and organizational changes throughout the document to improve its clarity and consistency with other regional supplements.
2. Clarification that the recommended excavation depth for soil sampling is 20 inches, although a shallower soil pit may suffice for some hydric soil indicators. Examination of the soil below the 20-inch depth is required only in soils with deep, dark surface layers that may meet indicator A12 (Thick Dark Surface) (Page 33).
3. Added information on combining the characteristics of different hydric soil indicators to Chapter 3 (Pages 36-37).

4. Updated wording of hydric soil indicators in Chapter 3 to conform to Version 6.0 of the NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States.
5. Clarified that the preferred approach to determine the initiation of the growing season in a given location and year is based on onsite observations of (1) vegetation green-up, growth, and maintenance, and/or (2) soil temperature at the 12-inch depth. These onsite techniques are preferred over estimates of growing-season dates published in WETS tables, which are based on median air temperatures recorded at National Weather Service meteorological stations (Pages 59-61).
6. Reworded wetland hydrology indicator A3 (Saturation) to include situations in which saturated soils are perched on a shallow restrictive layer, such that there is no water table below (Page 66).
7. Added “soft masses” to wetland hydrology indicator C6 (Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils) (Page 79), as illustrated in Figure 41.
8. Changed wetland hydrology indicator C7 (Thin Muck Surface) to “primary,” as recommended by the National Advisory Team. This change acknowledges the fact that muck layers can only develop and be maintained on sites that are inundated or saturated to the surface for long periods each year (Page 80 and Appendix C (Data Form)).
9. Clarified that more than one wetland factor (vegetation, soil, and/or hydrology) may be disturbed or problematic on a given site (Chapter 5, Page 85).
10. Clarified that procedures given in Chapter 5 (General Approaches to Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation) may be used to determine whether hydrophytic vegetation is present in areas dominated by FACU, NI, NO, or unlisted species that are functioning as hydrophytes. This change was needed because changes in plant nomenclature and distributions since the 1988 wetland plant lists were developed resulted in some unlisted plant species in the Arid West not necessarily being upland (UPL) species (Page 94).
11. Added some additional terms to the Glossary (e.g., absolute cover, aquitard, episaturation, halophyte, nodules and concretions, phreatophyte, reduced matrix).

COMMENTS: The Corps will continue to accept comments/suggestions and new data on this supplement. Comments may be submitted to Ms. Jennifer McCarthy (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or via e-mail to 87Manual@usace.army.mil.

POINT OF CONTACT: The Walla Walla District contact for this supplement is Mr. Greg Martinez and may be reached by phone at phone (208) 345-2154 or via e-mail at greg.j.martinez@usace.army.mil. For further information about the Walla Walla District and Department of the Army permit program, please contact us at (509) 527-7150 or visit our website at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.asp>.

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