



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Public Notice

Interim Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Regional Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual

Date of Notice: June 4, 2008

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District, announces the publication and 1 year trial implementation period of the Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Interim Regional Supplement (supplement) to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual). This supplement was developed by wetland delineation experts from state and Federal agencies and academia with experience within this part of the country. It has been peer-reviewed by an independent panel of scientists and practitioners and made available for a 90-day public comment period. This interim document will be tested for 1 year prior to finalization; the 1 year period will begin 30 days from the date of this public notice. The supplement will be field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal scientists to assess its clarity and ease of use, and to determine whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland delineation for Clean Water Act purposes. Comments on this supplement should be submitted to Ms. Katherine Trott (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or by email to 1987Manual@usace.army.mil.

The 1987 Manual, this supplement, including data forms, and field evaluation questionnaire, as well as the independent peer review report and response document, the environmental assessment/FONSI prepared under NEPA, and copies of public comments are available on the Regulatory Homepage Website at http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm

Region and subregion boundaries are depicted in these documents as sharp lines. However, climatic conditions and the physical and biological characteristics of landscapes do not change abruptly at the boundaries. In reality, regions and subregions often grade into one another in broad transition zones that may be tens or hundreds of miles wide. The lists of wetland indicators presented in these regional supplements may differ between adjoining regions or subregions. In transitional areas, investigators must use experience and good judgment to select the supplement and indicators that are appropriate to the site based on its physical and biological characteristics. Wetland boundaries are not likely to differ between two supplements in transitional areas, but one supplement may provide more detailed treatment of certain problem situations encountered on the site. If in doubt about which supplement to use in a transitional area, apply both supplements and compare the results. For additional guidance, contact the appropriate Corps of Engineers District Regulatory Office. Contact information for District regulatory offices is available at the Corps Headquarters web site <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/district.htm>.

Effective 30 days from the date of this public notice, the supplement data forms and indicators must be used for any data collection for wetland delineations. Field data collected for wetland delineations using the 1987 Manual prior to the effective date of this notice, but not yet submitted to the appropriate Corps District for review and formal approval will be grandfathered. Documentation must be submitted to the appropriate Corps District which clearly shows the field data was collected prior to 30 days from the date of this notice in order to qualify for this grandfather provision. Once this documentation and the field data have been reviewed and approved by the appropriate Corps District, a written jurisdictional determination will be issued.

The following guidance is superseded by this Supplement, and 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.

While we are confident the supplement will improve the accuracy of wetland delineation in Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast, anyone performing a wetland delineation during this interim period using the supplement who believes it has resulted in a significantly different boundary line than the 1987 Manual may also complete the delineation using the 1987 Manual and submit both delineations. Enough points to adequately describe the representative plant communities, soils, and hydrology of the site(s) and to clearly document the difference in boundaries between the two methods must be included. Data recorded on both the existing 1992 data forms and the new supplement data forms, maps indicating the location of the field site and data collection points (upland and wetland), and a completed field evaluation questionnaire for each delineation must be submitted as part of the jurisdictional determination request to the appropriate Corps District Office. The District will make the final determination based on analysis of all the submitted information. This information will also be used in evaluation and potential modification of the supplement.

//signed//

A. Bradley Daly
Chief Regulatory Division

Agency Contact:

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WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region

Project/Site: _____ City/County: _____ Sampling Date: _____
 Applicant/Owner: _____ State: _____ Sampling Point: _____
 Investigator(s): _____ Section, Township, Range: _____
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): _____ Local relief (concave, convex, none): _____ Slope (%): _____
 Subregion (LRR): _____ Lat: _____ Long: _____ Datum: _____
 Soil Map Unit Name: _____ NWI classification: _____

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes _____ No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)
 Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes _____ No _____
 Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No _____ Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No _____	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes _____ No _____
Remarks:	

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: _____)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A)
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: _____ (B)
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A/B)
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
_____ = Total Cover				
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: _____)				Prevalence Index worksheet:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	OBL species _____ x 1 = _____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	FACW species _____ x 2 = _____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	FAC species _____ x 3 = _____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	FACU species _____ x 4 = _____
_____ = Total Cover				UPL species _____ x 5 = _____
				Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B)
				Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
Herb Stratum (Plot size: _____)				Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Dominance Test is >50%
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 ¹
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Morphological Adaptations ¹ (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Wetland Non-Vascular Plants ¹
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation ¹ (Explain)
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	¹ Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
9. _____	_____	_____	_____	
10. _____	_____	_____	_____	
11. _____	_____	_____	_____	
_____ = Total Cover				
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)				Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Yes _____ No _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
_____ = Total Cover				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____				

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: _____

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix		Redox Features				Texture	Remarks
	Color (moist)	%	Color (moist)	%	Type ¹	Loc ²		

¹Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix, CS=Covered or Coated Sand Grains. ²Location: PL=Pore Lining, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils³:

<input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Redox (S5)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 cm Muck (A10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stripped Matrix (S6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Red Parent Material (TF2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Black Histic (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1) (except MLRA 1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)	³ Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present, unless disturbed or problematic.
<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Matrix (F3)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thick Dark Surface (A12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Redox Dark Surface (F6)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Depleted Dark Surface (F7)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Redox Depressions (F8)	

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No _____

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (minimum of one required; check all that apply)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (except MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)	<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9) (MLRA 1, 2, 4A, and 4B)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphic Position (D2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Algal Mat or Crust (B4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Tilled Soils (C6)	<input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
<input type="checkbox"/> Iron Deposits (B5)	<input type="checkbox"/> Stunted or Stressed Plants (D1) (LRR A)	<input type="checkbox"/> Raised Ant Mounds (D6) (LRR A)
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/> Frost-Heave Hummocks (D7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sparsely Vegetated Concave Surface (B8)		

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No _____ Depth (inches): _____

Water Table Present? Yes _____ No _____ Depth (inches): _____

Saturation Present? Yes _____ No _____ Depth (inches): _____
(includes capillary fringe)

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No _____

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks: