



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Phone: (509) 527-7020

Corps seeks comments on draft regional supplement to national Wetland Delineation Manual

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comments on its draft regional supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual, the federal “how-to” book used in the Clean Water Act Section 404 regulatory program for the identification and delineation of wetlands.

A public notice regarding the Draft Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Regional Supplement to the manual was issued on May 1. This draft was developed by regional expert wetland delineators with input from state and Federal agencies, academia and other local experts. It is being peer reviewed by a panel of independent scientists, the report from which will be available upon request. The draft supplement is also being 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 Section 404 Clean Water Act purposes. A 90-day field testing period begins on June 1 and ends on Aug. 30 for the geographical region within the State of Idaho covered by this supplement.

“This supplement is intended to provide additional guidance for conducting wetland delineations specific to mountain, valley and coastal ecosystems found within the Western United States,” said Brad Daly, Walla Walla District’s Regulatory Division chief.

The Corps is specifically seeking public input, including scientific information and data, on the proposed hydrology, soils and vegetation indicators and data collection procedures in this draft document. Reviewers may wish to field test this manual as part of the public comment procedure. The protocol for this testing is to perform wetland delineations using both the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and this draft regional supplement on the same data points. Reviewers should include data sheets from the manual and draft supplement, maps indicating data collection points (upland and wetland) and a completed questionnaire for each delineation point. The draft supplement, and the testing protocol and questionnaire are available on the Internet at www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm.

Comments must be submitted by Aug. 30, to Ms. Katherine Trott (CECW-CO); U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; 441 G. Street, N.W.; Washington, DC 20314-1000; or by e-mail to 1987Manual@usace.army.mil. Another public notice will be issued by this district announcing the publication of the final supplement and the implementation date of this supplement. Please, contact Mr. Greg Martinez at Walla Walla District’s Boise Regulatory Field Office by calling (208) 345-2154 or by sending email to greg.j.martinez@usace.army.mil, if you have any questions.

The Corps issues or denies permits for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and for work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899.

For more information on any public notice under consideration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, please visit the Current Public Notices section on the Walla Walla District’s website at www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/rf/rfhome.htm.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil