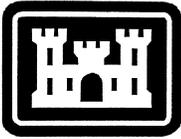


# SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Kansas City District**

**Great Plains Interim Regional Supplement to the  
1987 Wetland Delineation Manual**

**Issue Date: April 14, 2008**

**Effective Date: May 14, 2008**

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**ANNOUNCEMENT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, announces the publication and one-year trial implementation period of the Great Plains 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 the Great Plains. It has been peer reviewed by an independent panel of Great Plains scientists and practitioners and made available for 90-day public comment period. This interim document will be tested for one year prior to finalization; the one year period will be effective 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:** Comments on this supplement should be submitted to 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](mailto:1987Manual@usace.army.mil).

**DOCUMENTS:** 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](http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm).

**BOUNDARY NOTE:** Region and subregion boundaries are depicted in the Supplements 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 the 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 in the Kansas City District, contact Mr. Luke Cory, Kansas City District Corps of Engineers, Kanopolis Satellite Office, 107 Riverside Drive, Marquette, KS 67464, Email: [luke.m.cory@usace.army.mil](mailto:luke.m.cory@usace.army.mil), Telephone: 785-546-2130, FAX: 785-546-2050

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** 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.

**QUESTIONNAIRE:** While we are confident the Supplement will improve the accuracy of wetland delineation in Great Plains, 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.

Attachment

## WETLAND DELINEATION FIELD EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

This questionnaire should be completed for each boundary delineation performed. The assumption is that two communities were evaluated, one wetland (= "lower community") and one upland (= "upper community") so that a boundary between them could be identified. Fill in the blanks or check spaces as appropriate. Attach copies of the completed field data forms.

**Site Name or Location** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluator(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### General Site Characteristics

Is the site \_\_\_ typical or \_\_\_ problematic? *If problematic, explain:* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Wetland (lower community)

Ecological System: \_\_\_ Saline Tidal \_\_\_ Fresh Tidal \_\_\_ Fresh Nontidal \_\_\_ Saline Nontidal

Wetland Type: \_\_\_ Forested \_\_\_ Shrub \_\_\_ Emergent \_\_\_ Moss/Lichen \_\_\_ Farmed (hay or crop)

\_\_\_ Other (specify \_\_\_\_\_)

HGM Class: \_\_\_ Depression \_\_\_ Riverine \_\_\_ Fringe \_\_\_ Slope \_\_\_ Flat

Vegetative Cover: \_\_\_ Dense \_\_\_ Evenly Mixed w/Nonvegetated \_\_\_ Sparse

### Nonwetland (upper community)

Habitat Type: \_\_\_ Forest \_\_\_ Shrub \_\_\_ Meadow/Prairie \_\_\_ Moss/Lichen \_\_\_ Farmed

\_\_\_ Other (specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

1. Was there a marked difference in the two plant communities? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No
2. Was there a gradual change in vegetation between the two communities creating a significant "transition zone" between? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No. If so, how wide was this transition zone? \_\_\_\_\_ feet
3. Was there an abrupt topographic change between the two communities? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

### Boundary Determination

Compare results from the two methods: (1) current practice using the 1987 Manual and guidance memos with current local interpretation, and (2) 1987 Manual with the draft Regional Supplement.

1. The wetland boundary was: \_\_\_ the same or \_\_\_ different.
2. If different, which method produced the boundary higher on the landscape?  
\_\_\_ Manual with current guidance or \_\_\_ Manual with Regional Supplement
3. What was the linear distance between the two boundaries? \_\_\_\_\_ feet
4. What type of indicator(s) were responsible for the difference in the boundaries?  
\_\_\_ Hydrophytic vegetation \_\_\_ Hydric soil \_\_\_ Wetland hydrology (*check all that apply*)

**Assessment of the Indicators**

Hydrophytic Vegetation

1. Did the lower community pass the current basic test for hydrophytic vegetation (i.e., >50% of the dominants had an indicator status of FAC or wetter, *excluding FAC-*)? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

2. Would the lower community have passed the dominance test if “+” and “-” modifiers on indicator status ratings were not considered (i.e., if FAC- were considered to be FAC)? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

3. What other indicators of hydrophytic vegetation were observed in the lower community?

a) List those from the Manual with current guidance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) List those from the Regional Supplement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Was the vegetation in the lower community a problematic wetland community type?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If so, briefly describe and explain how the problem was handled* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Did the upper community pass the current basic test for hydrophytic vegetation (i.e., >50% of the dominants had an indicator status of FAC or wetter, *excluding FAC-*)? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

6. Would the upper community have passed the dominance test if “+” and “-” modifiers on indicator status ratings were not considered (i.e., if FAC- were considered to be FAC)? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

7. What other indicators of hydrophytic vegetation were observed in the upper community?

a) List those from the Manual with current guidance: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) List those from the Regional Supplement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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8. Did both methods reach the same conclusion regarding the presence of hydrophytic vegetation for the upper community? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If not, briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Were the hydrophytic vegetation indicators in the Regional Supplement clearly described and easy to apply? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If not, briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

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Hydric Soil

1. Did both methods find indicators of hydric soil in the lower community? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

a) List those from the Manual with current guidance: \_\_\_\_\_

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b) List those from the Regional Supplement: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Did the lower community contain a problematic hydric soil (i.e., one that lacked indicators)? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If so, briefly describe the problem and explain how it was handled:* \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Did both methods reach the same conclusion regarding the presence of hydric soil in the upper community? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If not, briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

a) List indicators from the Manual with current guidance: \_\_\_\_\_

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b) List indicators from the Regional Supplement: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Were the hydric soil indicators in the Regional Supplement clearly described and easy to apply? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If not, briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

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Wetland Hydrology

1. Did both methods determine that wetland hydrology was present in the lower community? (Requires 1 primary indicator or 2 secondary indicators.) \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No

a) List indicators from the Manual with current guidance:

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

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b) List indicators from the Regional Supplement:

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Did the lower community contain a problematic wetland hydrology situation (i.e., one that lacked indicators)?

\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If so, briefly describe the problem and explain how it was handled:* \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Did both methods reach the same conclusion regarding wetland hydrology for the upper community? \_\_\_Yes \_\_\_No. *If not, briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

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a) List indicators from the Manual with current guidance:

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

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b) List indicators from the Regional Supplement:

Primary: \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Were the wetland hydrology indicators in the Regional Supplement clearly described and easy to apply?  Yes  No. *If not, briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

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**General Comments on the Regional Supplement**

1. Were the indicators and procedures in the Supplement clear and easy to apply?  Yes  No. *If not, how could they be improved?* \_\_\_\_\_

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2. In your opinion, did the Regional Supplement make this wetland determination more defensible?  Yes  No. *Briefly explain* \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Based on your testing, do you want to recommend other indicators that should be considered for further evaluation?  Yes  No. *List by indicator type:* \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Was the Regional Supplement's field data form complete, understandable, and easy to fill out?  Yes  No. *If not, how could it be improved?* \_\_\_\_\_

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5. Any additional comments or suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_  
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