



## Region 7

Iowa  
Kansas  
Missouri  
Nebraska

## Fact Sheet

July 2005

# Do You Need a Dredge or Fill Permit in Nebraska?

**Planning to put dirt or other materials in a wetland, creek, or swampy area?**

**STOP!** You may need a permit.



### What Permit?

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that anyone placing dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, must first obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

### What are Waters of the U.S.?

Waters of the U.S. are all waters that are or can be used in interstate commerce and may include lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.



### Why Protect Streams and Rivers?

Our waterways provide water for:

- drinking, bathing, cooking, and cleaning
- crops and livestock
- recreational/tourist activities like fishing, canoeing, and birdwatching
- fish and wildlife

### What is a Wetland?

Wetlands are areas that are flooded or ponded for varying periods of time. Wetlands are defined by amount of water and time water is present, geographical location, and soil and vegetation types.

A large percentage of wetlands in Nebraska have been drained, filled and converted for agricultural production and urban development.

Some areas of Nebraska have lost as much as 90 percent of their wetlands. It is sometimes impossible to replace a wetland.

### Why Protect Wetlands?

Wetlands act:

- like sponges to soak up floodwater, thereby reducing flood damage and bank erosion
- like kidneys that filter out sediment and pollutants to improve water quality
- as food for grazing livestock and animals
- as natural playgrounds for hiking, fishing, bird watching, hunting, and photography
- as homes for fish, amphibians, and other wildlife, especially many threatened and endangered species

**The 404 program** is jointly administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In partnership with other federal and state agencies, EPA and the Corps work together to protect our waters and wetlands in Nebraska.

- Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ)
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC)
- U.S. Dept of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

### If You Plan To:

- Put fill into a stream or wetland
- Dam a stream
- Move a stream or wetland
- Remove material from a stream or wetland
- Construct fills or levees in floodplains
- Level or put fill into a wet spot in a field



**Please contact the Corps of Engineers before you start any work.**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District:

**Omaha Office:** (402) 896-0896  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 1  
Omaha, NE 68138

**Kearney Office:** (308) 234-1403  
1430 Central Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68847

The Corps will assist you with the application process to determine if you need a permit as well as other issues:  
<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rne/NEhome.html>

Your project may be reviewed by USFWS, NGPC, NDEQ, or other agencies.



There are programs available to conserve and restore wetlands. To learn more about these programs, please contact:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: [www.ngpc.state.ne.us](http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us)



NGPC



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