

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is developing regional supplements to the Corps 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual, used in the Clean Water Act Section 404 program. Currently, a supplement is being drafted for the Western Mountains and Valleys region. This regional supplement covers all or parts of New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon, California and Montana. The National Advisory Team that oversees development of the supplements, consisting of representatives from the Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, is seeking qualified individuals to form a peer-review committee. The committee would be responsible for evaluating the reliability and scientific validity of the draft supplement for the Western Mountains and Valleys.

The National Advisory Team, in accordance with Office of Management and Budget information quality guidelines, will choose a committee chairperson and make recommendations regarding committee member selections. Selections will be made by the committee chairperson and will be based on expertise, independence, and the absence of conflicts of interest. No Corps of Engineers employees or individuals involved in developing or reviewing earlier drafts of the documents can serve on the peer-review committee. The peer-review committee will draft a single report with original committee member comments without interpretation. The peer-review committee will have 60 days from receipt of the draft document to submit their report to Corps headquarters (Washington, DC) following receipt of the draft supplement.

This peer-review process must be transparent. The final peer-review report and regional work group response will be made available to the public and will become part of the administrative record for any related actions by the Corps.

Resumes should be submitted to Ms. Katherine Trott at Corps headquarters at Katherine.l.trott@usace.army.mil no later than Friday, February 17, 2006 and should include information on areas of wetland expertise, and geographic and length of experience in wetland delineation. There is no funding available to committee members for this effort. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Trott at (202) 761-5542.