



US Army Corps of
Engineers



Oregon Department
of State Lands

Joint Public Notice

Notice of Implementation of the Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual

For the State of Oregon

Issue Date: June 4, 2008

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, and the Oregon Department of State Lands jointly announce the publication and one-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 90-day public comment period. The supplement was field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal scientists to assess its clarity and ease of use, and to determine whether its use would result in any spatial changes in wetland delineation for Clean Water Act purposes. 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.

Comments on this supplement should be submitted to

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441 G Street, NW
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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.

An interagency team is convening orientation sessions to help interested parties become more familiar with the supplement. The sessions will focus on changes in delineation techniques required by the supplement, and are not intended as comprehensive training in wetland delineation. The following sessions have been scheduled:

June 24, 2008, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
3406 Cherry Avenue NE, Salem, Oregon
(Note: no charge, but participants must bring their own copy of the supplement)

September 19, 2008
Assoc. of State Wetland Managers/Society of Wetland Scientists "Wetlands 2008" Symposium
Doubletree Hotel Meeting Center, Portland, Oregon
(Note: conference registration required; <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/index.htm>)

Effective 30 days from the date of this public notice, the supplement, including data forms, must be used for any wetland delineation data collection in the applicable region. Field data collected for wetland delineations using the 1987 Manual prior to the effective date of this notice, but not yet submitted for review and formal approval, will be grandfathered. Further, to avoid use of multiple delineation protocols on a single project, projects for which data collection is "substantially in progress" using the 1987 Manual may also be grandfathered, at the discretion of the Corps and the Department. To qualify for grandfathering, documentation must be submitted which clearly shows the field data was collected prior to 30 days from the date of this notice or that substantial field data collection had occurred prior to the implementation date. Once this documentation and the field data have been reviewed and approved, a written jurisdictional determination will be issued by the Corps.

The following guidance is superseded by this Supplement, and is hereby rescinded by this public notice:

- "Implementation of the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual," dated 27 August 1991.
- "Questions & Answers on the 1987 Manual," dated 7 October 1991.
- "Clarification and Interpretation of the 1987 Manual," dated 6 March 1992.
- "Revisions to National Plant Lists," dated 17 January 1996.
- "NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils," dated 21 March 1997.

While we are confident the supplement will improve the accuracy of wetland delineation in the Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast region, 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 or Department of State Lands 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 Corps and to the Department. The Corps and the Department 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.

For additional guidance, contact the Corps or the Department:
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Janet Morlan, Department of State Lands, 503-986-5236, Janet.Morlan@state.or.us