



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

Regulatory Branch (1145)  
Post Office Box 6898  
Anchorage, Alaska 99506-0898

# Public Notice

Date:  
26 October 2007

Identification Number:  
SPN-2006-445-FINAL  
In reply refer to above identification number

---

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE 06-445-FINAL

FINAL VERSION OF THE  
ALASKA REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE 1987 WETLAND DELINEATION MANUAL

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, announces the availability of the Final Alaska Regional Supplement to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. This supplement was developed by regional expert delineators with input from state and Federal agencies, academia and other local experts. It was peer reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and 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 Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes. The final version of the supplement may be found at: [http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/reg\\_supp.htm](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm). The following changes were made to the interim supplement and are incorporated in the final version:

1. Minor wording changes have been made throughout the document in an attempt to improve its clarity, organization, and consistency with other regional supplements.
2. The map of Alaska subregions has been moved from the appendix to Chapter 1, because the subregions are mentioned in user notes throughout the supplement and the appendix it was in has been deleted (see below).
3. The 50/20 rule and dominance test for hydrophytic vegetation have been moved from the appendix (where it was optional) to Chapter 2 (where it is presented as one of three indicators of hydrophytic vegetation). This returns the dominance test to the same role it had in the 1987 Manual and previous practice.
4. The "wetland cryptogams" hydrophytic vegetation indicator has been re-named "wetland non-vascular plants" and moved to Chapter 5 for use in problematic situations (i.e., areas normally dominated by black spruce where the vascular vegetation has been disturbed by fire or other causes). Experience indicated that it was not needed as a standard hydrophytic vegetation indicator because the intact black spruce communities for which it was developed are usually hydrophytic by other indicators.
5. We clarified that hydric soil indicators were developed mainly to identify the boundary between hydric and non-hydric soils at the wetland edge. Therefore, soils in the wettest interior portions of some wetlands may lack any of the current indicators. Soils in the interiors of these wetlands should be assumed to be hydric if indicators are present at the wetland edge.
6. Wording of hydric soil indicators in Chapter 3 has been updated to conform to Version 6.0 of the NRCS Field Indicators of Hydric Soils in the United States.
7. To determine the onset of the growing season in a particular area, we clarified that information on vegetation green-up, growth, and maintenance, either through on-site observation or remote sensing, is preferred over estimates based on air temperatures recorded at National Weather Service stations.

8. The procedure to determine the growing season based on observation of plant growth is reworded based on the recommendations of the National Advisory Team. The method is worded similarly in all regional supplements.
9. Chapter 4 now includes a map and table of growing season dates based on Markon (2001), similar to one distributed previously in a public notice by Alaska District.
10. New wording in Chapter 4 clarifies that the "surface" for application of certain wetland hydrology indicators includes any and all organic soil layers and, thus, may differ from the surface for hydric soil determinations.
11. To be consistent with other regional supplements, the previous wetland hydrology indicator "Mat or Crust of Algae or Marl" (primary) has been divided into two indicators: "Algal Mat or Crust" (B4) and "Marl Deposits" (B15). Both are primary.
12. Hydrology indicator A3 (Saturation) was reworded to include situations in which saturated soils are perched on a shallow restrictive layer such that there is no water table below.
13. There are additional photos for several hydrology indicators and an example of the FAC-neutral test (D5).
14. In Chapter 5, we clarified that more than one wetland factor (vegetation, soil, hydrology) may be disturbed or problematic on a given site.
15. Due to changes in plant nomenclature and distributions since the development of the 1988 wetland plant lists, some unlisted plant species in Alaska are not necessarily upland (UPL) species. We clarified that the procedures in Chapter 5 may be used to determine whether hydrophytic vegetation is present in areas dominated by FACU, NI, NO, or unlisted species.
16. In the Glossary, the National Advisory Team has provided a revised definition of "saturation" used in all regional supplements. In addition, some additional terms have been added to the Glossary (e.g., absolute cover, episaturation, reduced matrix).
17. The old Appendix A (lists of common plant species with their indicator statuses) has been deleted. Apparently this appendix, rather than being helpful, simply caused confusion among users.
18. The Data Form has been revised to accommodate the dominance test for hydrophytic vegetation and the two hydrology indicators created from the former combined algae/marl indicator.

The Corps will continue to accept comments/suggestions and new data on this supplement. Comments may be submitted to Ms. Katherine Trott (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or by e-mail to 87Manual@usace.army.mil.

District Engineer  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers