

# Field Testing Protocol

## Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Regional Supplement

### **Organization of field testing teams:**

District Offices of the Corps of Engineers in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region (see the list of District coordinators at the end of this document) will coordinate and oversee the field testing of the draft Regional Supplement. Field testing will be done in cooperation with regional NRCS, EPA, FWS, and other interested federal and state agencies and universities.

Field teams will consist of available interagency experts, with the constraint that each team must include an experienced botanist and a soil scientist to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the basic data.

If needed, the District coordinator will provide team members with an introduction to the Regional Supplement and will explain any new or unfamiliar indicators as necessary to avoid confusion over interpretation of the indicators.

### **Site Selection:**

Testing teams should focus on areas where permitting activity is high. There is no need to sample remote areas unless convenient opportunities arise.

Sample a number of typical wetland sites in each District or subregion, plus a selection of available “problem” situations. Problem situations should include, if possible, areas with unusual plant communities or soil types that may lack indicators, requiring use of Chapter 5 (Difficult Wetland Situations in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region) to make the wetland determination.

### **Approach:**

The basic testing approach is to document at least 2 sampling points at each field site, one point in the wetland and one point in the adjacent upland, and determine the location of the wetland boundary between them. The team should collaborate to make the determination and documentation as accurate as possible. Follow these general steps:

1. Document each sampling point based on existing practice (i.e., 1987 Manual with existing guidance memos and existing local interpretation). For each point, completely fill out the old (1992) wetland determination data form. Locate the wetland boundary based on current practice.

2. Document each point using the new (Regional Supplement) data form. Locate the wetland boundary based on indicators and guidance given in the Regional Supplement.
3. If the two wetland boundaries are different, measure the distance between them.
4. Fill out the attached questionnaire (one copy per field site) to help explain any differences seen in the two methods.
5. For each field site sampled, submit the following items to the appropriate District coordinator:
  - a. Completed 1992 and Regional Supplement data forms for each sampling point
  - b. Sketch map of the site with sampling points, wetland boundaries, and any other important features indicated
  - c. One copy of the Field Evaluation Questionnaire
  - d. Optional brief report as necessary to explain test results

**List of Corps District Coordinators in the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region:**

Charles Allred, U.S. Army Engineer District, Vicksburg, MS, 601-631-5546  
James Clark, U.S. Army Engineer District, Memphis, TN, 901-544-0735  
Andrew Commer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Tulsa, OK, 918-669-7616  
John Davidson, U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston, TX, 409-766-3933  
Thomas Fischer, U.S. Army Engineer District, Savannah, GA, 229-430-8566  
Randy Fowler, U.S. Army Engineer District, Charleston, SC, 843-329-8134  
Michael Hayduk, U.S. Army Engineer District, Philadelphia, PA, 215-656-5822  
Robert Heffner, U.S. Army Engineer District, New Orleans, LA, 504-862-2274  
David Knepper, U.S. Army Engineer District, Norfolk, VA, 757-201-7488  
David Lekson, U.S. Army Engineer District, Wilmington, NC, 252-975-1616 x22  
David Madden, U.S. Army Engineer District, Fort Worth, TX, 817-886-1741  
Frank Plewa, U.S. Army Engineer District, Baltimore, MD, 717-249-2522  
Stuart Santos, U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville, FL, 904-232-2018  
Tim Scott, U.S. Army Engineer District, Little Rock, AR, 501-324-5295  
Michael Vissichelli, U.S. Army Engineer District, New York, NY, 917-790-8520  
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