## Reviewing Wetland Reports

Planning Association of Washington 2019 Land Use Boot Camp

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## <u>Outline</u>

- Three Wetland Criteria: Vegetation, Hydrology, and Soils
- Types of Wetland Reporting
- Checklist for Review of Wetland Reports
- Example of Wetland Report

### Wetland Identification Criteria

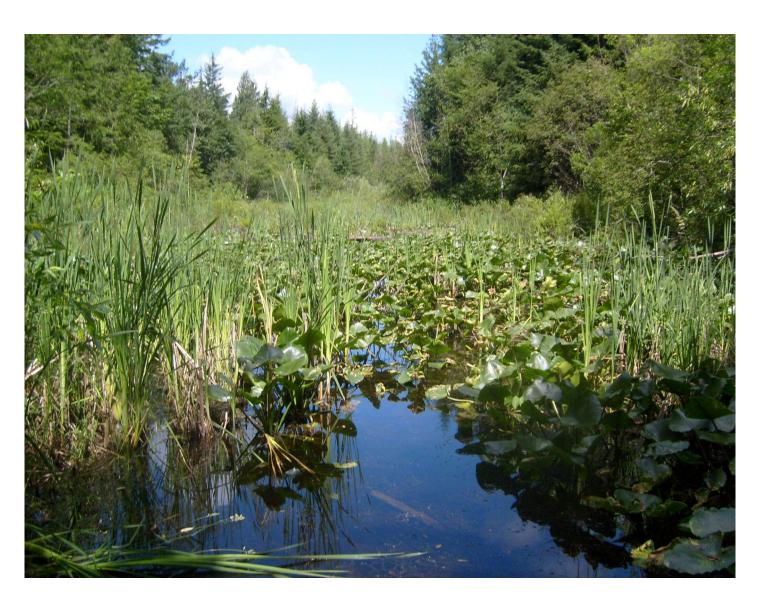
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual
- Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Western Mountains, Valleys, and Coast Region
- Triple parameter approach
  - Hydrophytic Vegetation
  - Hydrology
  - Hydric Soils

## Hydrophytic Vegetation Groups

(Wetland Indicator Status)

- Obligate wetland plants (OBL):
  - almost always (99%) occur in wetlands
- Facultative wetland plants (FACW):
  - usually (66% 99%) occur in wetlands
- Facultative plants (FAC):
  - equally likely (34% 66%) to occur in wetlands or non-wetlands
- Facultative upland plants (FACU):
  - usually (66% 99%) do not occur in wetlands

## Wetland Indicator Status?



#### WETLAND HYDROLOGY

- Driving force that creates wetlands.
- Permanent or seasonal inundation.
- Soil saturation for a significant period (two weeks or more) during the growing season (March 1 – October 30).

# Standing Water in Depression



#### HYDRIC SOILS

- Gleying: neutral gray, greenish, or bluish gray (Iron and Manganese leached out [reduced] from prolonged anoxia).
- Redoximorphic features (mottling): concentrations of orange to yellow (oxidized iron) or black (manganese) splotches within the soil matrix from alternating aeration and inundation.
- Oxidized rhizospheres: orange to yellow root poor linings in the soil matrix (plants transport oxygen through roots and oxidize iron).
- Hydrogen sulfide smell from anoxic conditions.



## Types of Wetland Reporting

- Office Review of Existing Literature Sources
- Wetland Reconnaissance and Letter
- Wetland Delineation and Report
- Critical Area Report and Impact Assessment
- Conceptual Wetland Mitigation Plan
- Final Wetland Mitigation Plan

## Review Checklist for Wetland Reports