

Reviewing Wetland Reports

Planning Association of Washington
2019 Land Use Boot Camp

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Outline

- 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