



United  
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Department of  
Agriculture

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Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL (NFSAM)  
Third Edition, Amendment 2  
180-V-NFSAM, Amendment WI20

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**Purpose:** To provide a state supplement to the NFSAM to all Wisconsin NRCS offices.

**Effective Date.** Upon receipt.

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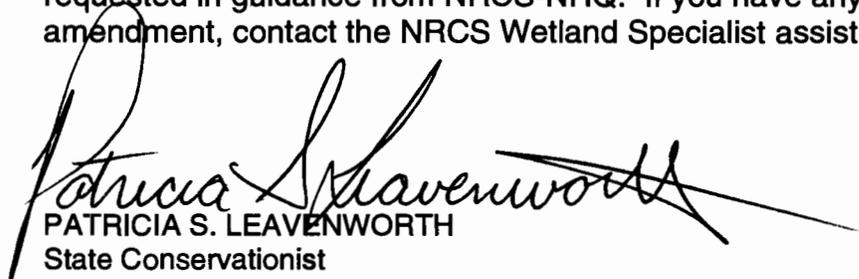
**Subject:** To distribute the following:

- 1) Off-site wetland identification tools
- 2) NRCS role in identification of Other Waters
- 3) Areas of concentrated flow with manipulation

**Background:** NFSAM Circular No. 1, became effective Sept. 4, 1997. It requires the revision of NRCS wetland mapping tools used prior to the on-site verification of wetland determinations. Attached is an operational draft of wetland mapping conventions which is to be used when received. The final draft will be distributed when all the signatory agencies have signed it. Circular No. 1 also requires local coordination with the US Army Corps of Engineers for delineations of "Other Waters" of the US and areas of concentrated flows.

**Filing Instructions:** File the attached paragraphs WI513.30(c); WI514.20(c); and WI514.26(b) following the same paragraphs in the NFSAM.

These items address information needs as outlined in the NFSAM and as requested in guidance from NRCS-NHQ. If you have any questions about this amendment, contact the NRCS Wetland Specialist assisting your office.

  
PATRICIA S. LEAVENWORTH  
State Conservationist

Attachment

DIST: NFSAM

Part 513.30(c) Verifying Information

WI513.30(c) Off-site wetland identification tools

While NRCS will conduct/verify all certified wetland determinations **on-site** (see NFSAM, 3rd Ed., Amend. 2, Circular No. 1) use of the off-site phase in NRCS mapping conventions is often a valuable tool prior to the on-site visit. The use of off-site wetland identification tools will include the following:

- 1) Flood frequency maps for the 7 and 15 day flood elevations will be used where available. Procedures in the "Hydrology Tools - NEH-650-19" will be used to set these elevations.
- 2) Wetlands delineated on WDNR Wisconsin Wetland Inventory maps.
- 3) Use of FSA crop compliance slides will consider:
  - \*all available compliance slides (minimum of 5 years).
  - \*Slides are used to set 1985 conditions for USDA-NFSAM prior converted cropland (PC) determinations. Slides between 1980-1985 will provide the background for that determination.
  - \*Slides selected should have an equal number of "wet" and "dry" years (as identified in the Wetness Evaluation Tables) with as many "normal" years as is possible.

The following can be considered as hydrology indicators in FSA color slide interpretation:

- \*WDNR Wisconsin Wetland Inventory map.
  - \*surface water - ponds, oxbows, meander scars, etc.
  - \*flooded or drowned out crops, wet/bare soil (due to wetness) within cropped fields.
  - \*stressed crops due to wetness (yellowish tint).
  - \*hydrophytic vegetation (different greenish tint)
  - \*difference in vegetation within a field due to different planting dates.
  - \*patches of greener vegetation during "dry" slide years.
- 4) Indicators need to be present >50% of the years reviewed.
  - 5) Outlining of the preliminary site from photography is not based on a "wet" or "dry" years, but is an interpretation of overall conditions.
  - 6) All potential sites identified in this off-site phase will be field verified. When in the field:
    - \*for identified potential sites in frequently cropped areas (potential FW), verify that the site is wetland by documenting the presence of hydric soils, and any hydrophytic plants or hydrology indicators observed. Document the

presence of ditches or tile. (Non-potholes require ponding for 15 days to be FW.) Adjust wetland boundaries based upon observations during the field visit.

\*for identified potential sites in non-frequently cropped areas, document as per COE 1987 manual requirements and set boundaries accordingly.

\*Any delineations omitted during the off-site phase, but identified during the on-site phase must be added; any sites incorrectly identified during the off-site phase should be omitted.

7) Sites identified as some type of NFSAM wetland should have slides reviewed as necessary to confirm the determination represents December 23, 1985 conditions.

**NOTE:** Further guidance on the use of off-site procedures are given in Part 514.12 and Appendix 527.4

WI514.26(b) NRCS role in identification of "OTHER WATERS" (OW)

Rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, etc. that are **permanently** inundated at mean annual water depths >6.6 feet, or permanently inundated areas <6.6 feet in depth that do not support rooted-emergent or woody species, are deep water aquatic habitats are called "Other Waters (OW) of the U.S."

\*NRCS staff will not make such determinations, but must recognize that the presence of OW is a possibility.

\*When NRCS is the lead agency for a wetland determination and the proposed manipulation may involve OW - NRCS will contact COE who will make the OW delineation within 30 days.

\*If the proposed manipulation is recognized to have potential impacts on OW during the off-site review, COE will be requested to be present during the field visit. When requesting the COE assistance, include:

- \*the location map with the site clearly identified;
- \*the planned manipulation.

\*NRCS will then provide the client with the wetland and OW determinations for the whole tract via the CPA-026E process.

\*If NRCS is the lead agency for the determination and the proposed manipulation will not impact OW, or COE does NOT provide NRCS a delineation, such areas will be included in the NI (Not-Inventoried) area when providing a determination for the entire tract via the CPA-026E process. The remarks section of the CPA-026E will note that wetlands have not been determined in the NI areas and that wetlands AND "Other Waters" of the U.S. may exist. The Wisconsin standard reply letters to CPA-38 requests will still routinely advise customers to seek COE wetland interpretations as needed.

Subpart B Identifying Wetlands Where the 1985 Act Restrictions Apply

Part 514.20 Overview

WI514.20(c) Manipulation - Areas of concentrated flow with manipulation

Areas of concentrated flow, where hydrologic manipulation has taken place (grassed waterways, designed channels, drainage ditches) and occurring upstream of perennial or intermittent watercourses as shown on the USGS 7.5 minute topographic quad maps, will be designated as the same type of wetland determination as the adjoining land which is used for agricultural commodity or forage production.

Maintenance of agricultural drainage ditches and grassed waterways are usually allowed under Section 404 - Clean Water Act (CWA). Clients will still be advised to contact the COE for CWA program interpretations as per the Wisconsin standard reply letter to CPA-38 requests.

If the site is other than a maintained grass waterway, designed channel or agricultural drainage ditch, it may be considered "Other Waters" (OW) and procedures in WI514.26(b) must be followed.