

Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase 1: Basic Concepts

Overview

This course is designed to introduce NRCS staff to the statutory and regulatory basis, and the procedures and technical foundations, for identifying wetlands for Food Security Act purposes (Wetland Conservation Provisions). Self-paced office and field exercises are both included as part of this course. Successful completion of this course is required prior to enrollment in NEDC course Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures: Application (Phase 2).

Target Audience

This is an introductory course designed for staffs who have limited experience in the identification of wetlands, those needing a refresher course in basic wetland identification methodology, or those desiring to increase knowledge of one or more wetland diagnostic factors. This course is also pertinent for individuals interested in learning wetland identification skills for wetland restoration and enhancement.

Objectives

Upon completion of the modules, students should gain an awareness and/or knowledge of the foundations to the wetland ID process, including the three wetland diagnostic factors (wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils). This methodology has been referred to in the past as the “three parameter approach” to wetland delineation.

Course Outline

The office portion includes a series of independent modules:

1. History of Wetland Identification in the U.S.
2. Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures: from the appendix to the NFSAM
3. Making a Decision if the Site, under Normal Circumstances, Supports a Prevalence of FSA Hydrophytic Vegetation.
4. Making a Decision if the Site, under Normal Circumstances, Supports a Predominance of Hydric FSA Soils
5. Making a Decision if the Site, under Normal Circumstances, Supports FSA Wetland Hydrology.
6. Making a “FSA Wetland” Decision – Step 1 in the FSA Wetland Determination Process.

This training requires that the principles presented are applied in the field. The field exercise can be self taught or taught through the assistance of a local experienced staff person. Certification of the successful completion for this phase must be provided by the state training coordinator.

Prerequisites

None

Expected Duration

Approximately 24 hours are required to complete the office-based portion of this course. Approximately 8-12 hours are required for the field based portion of this course.

Technical Coordinator

Lee Davis, Biologist

NEDC Contact

Andreino A. Alix, Instructional Systems Specialist