



Natural Resources Conservation Service
9173 W. Barnes Dr., Suite C
Boise, ID 83709-1574

January 27, 2003

**NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL, Third Edition, 1996
180-V NFSAM
Idaho Notice No. 7**

SUBJECT: CPA – Guidance for Wetland Conservation Provisions.

Purpose: To provide guidance when making wetland determinations on springs.

Effective Date: Upon receipt of the notice.

Background: Spring developments are a common practice throughout the state. Current guidance requires a certified wetland determination and if needed a Farm Bill designation. Current guidance translates into a significant workload for trained wetland delineators.

Most spring developments are not considered manipulations for the purpose of making production of an agricultural commodity possible. Farm Bill designation as defined in the FSA Manual (514.38) for these manipulations are typically considered “Wetlands That Have Been Manipulated But Production Not Made Possible” (WX).

The attached procedures can be used to certify wetland determinations for USDA participants when a spring development is proposed.

Questions concerning wetland determinations should be directed to Division wetland delineators or Frank Fink at 378-5723. Contact Frank Fink to request his attendance at Division meetings for additional guidance on this subject.

Filing Instructions: File this notice in the NFSAM Part 514.12 after page 514-8.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard W. Sims".

RICHARD W. SIMS
State Conservationist

Attachment

All springs will be considered a wetland and will be identified on the conservation-planning map.

The determination will not require a trained delineator to complete a site visit and will be considered a certified wetland determination when the guidance is followed:

1. Landowners will complete NRCS-CPA-38.
2. For USDA participants Form 1026 will be completed appropriately for spring developments. Landowner will answer as a minimum question 9(a) yes.
3. Form 026E will be filled out appropriately identifying the wetland area and signed by the District conservationist.
4. "WX" will be the Farm Bill designation for a spring site when a water development is planned and installed and the action was not for the purpose of, and did not make production of an agricultural commodity possible.
5. When field office personnel are completing resource inventories for potential spring developments they will make observations for hydrology (i.e., water ponded on surface, water surface flows, saturated to surface), duration of hydrology (i.e., year round), and dominant plant species (i.e., willow sp., sedge sp., rush sp.) and document in the technical assistance notes and narrative for spring development in the conservation plan. Also make an estimate of the size of the wetland (i.e., 20 ft. diameter, 20ft.x 30ft.). The field office personnel are field verifying that wetland criteria listed above are present.
6. A trained wetland delineator will review field personnel notes and complete wetland documentation for the case file using appropriate forms. Refer to FSAM (527.4) to determine appropriate manual and data forms to document wetland determination. On agricultural land with disturbed vegetation use FSAM and FSAM data sheets, on agricultural and non-agricultural land where native vegetation is present and can be used to determine hydrophytic vegetation criteria use COE 87 Manual and COE data sheets. Delineators will consider soil criteria met when the field office personnel observe evidence of ponding, surface flows and/or saturation at surface for long durations.
7. When a wetland delineator is conducting the on-site evaluation, all criteria (hydrology, soils, and vegetation) and documentation will be completed for a certified wetland determination.
8. In situations where evidence of hydrology and hydrophytic vegetation is suspect, a trained wetland delineator will be contacted for guidance and a field visit.

Permits required by local, state and/or federal agencies are the responsibility of the landowner and will be obtained prior to implementation of this practice.

NRCS Standards and Specifications for planning and installation for Spring Development (574) will be followed.