United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
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NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL
180-V NFSAM
Idaho Notice No. 15

Subject: National Food Security Act Manual– Certified Wetland Determinations and Delineations

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

Effective Date: Upon receipt of this notice

Background: Spring developments are a common practice throughout Idaho. 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. A Farm Bill designation, as defined in the Food Security Act 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 US Department of Agriculture (USDA) participants when a spring development is proposed.

Questions concerning wetland determinations should be directed to Division wetland delineators or Frank Fink, State Biologist, at (208) 685-6986.

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

RICHARD SIMS
State Conservationist

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 can complete NRCS-CPA-38 (optional).
2. For US Department of Agriculture (USDA) participants, Form 1026 will be completed appropriately for spring developments. Landowner will answer, as a minimum, question 10(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. They will 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 the appropriate forms. Refer to the Food Security Act Manual (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 the Corps of Engineers (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. In situations where evidence of hydrology and hydrophytic vegetation is in question, a trained wetland delineator will be contacted for guidance and a possible 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. The Field Office will maintain records of permits required by the regulatory agencies.

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