



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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September 17, 2007

NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT MANUAL
180-V NFSAM
Idaho Notice No. 17

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

Purpose: To provide guidance when making wetland determinations

Effective Date: Upon receipt of this notice

Background: Form AD-1026 (dated 04-20-06) is used by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants to self certify that they are meeting the HEL/WC provisions of the Farm Bill. Question 10(A) asks the participant if they plan on or have they completed any drainage, leveling, filling, etc. that has not been evaluated by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The evaluation referenced in this question relates to wetlands. NRCS is responsible to evaluate these actions to assist the landowner in order to stay eligible for programs.

For the Food Security Act (FSA), NRCS should be completing certified wetland determinations only when the proposed activity involves draining, dredging, filling, leveling or otherwise manipulating the land for purpose of, or to have the effect of, making possible the production of an agricultural commodity. Keep in mind wetland determinations may also be needed for other regulations like the Clean Water Act (CWA) or to evaluate alternatives with the landowner related to the NRCS Wetland Policy (GM190 - 410.26).

When the Field Office planner reviews a potential project, he/she should check available soil surveys and identify any soils that are on the county hydric soil list. Remember, typical soil surveys may not identify small inclusions of hydric soil. The planner should determine on-site if a potential wetland exists in the project area, and contact the appropriate wetland delineator when working in wet areas.

Activities that typically do not need certified wetland determinations include fencing, wells or established cropland sites where no evidence of a potential wetland exists.

For spring developments please refer to NFSAM Id. Notice 15, page 514-8(a).

Guidance on this issue can be found in the following locations:
NB.180.7.3, CPA-Wetland Conservation Compliance
NFSAM 514.11

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Sims". To the right of the signature, the word "ACTING" is written in a smaller, less distinct hand.

RICHARD SIMS
State Conservationist