



July 2, 2015

IOWA INSTRUCTION 180-394 – WETLAND FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT MODELS

IA394.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction provides the appropriate wetland functional assessment models to use in the evaluations for mitigation and minimal effect exemptions in Iowa. The functional assessment models will be used in conjunction with the minimal effect exemption worksheet when evaluating conversion activities for minimal effect.

IA394.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by NRCS employees and partner employees when conducting evaluations for wetland mitigation and minimal effect.

IA394.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed at <http://www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/> under the Iowa NRCS eDirectives System section.

IA394.3 EXHIBITS

See attachment.

/s/Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist

Attachment

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(IA Instruction 180 - 394 First Edition – July 2015)

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1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides the appropriate wetland functional assessment models to use in the evaluations for mitigation and minimal effect exemptions in Iowa. The functional assessment models will be used in conjunction with the minimal effect exemption worksheet when evaluating conversion activities for minimal effect.

2. REFERENCES:

Exhibits will be located in the Field Office Tech Guide, Section I, folder Resource Evaluation Tools, subfolder Wetlands:

- Exhibit A – Official Prairie Pothole Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Model
- Exhibit B – Northern Prairie (NP) Pothole Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) for Dugouts
- Exhibit C – Pothole Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Notes Reference Standards
- Exhibit D – Pothole Field Form
- Exhibit E – Variable Score Field Form
- Exhibit F – Prairie Pothole Wetland Variable Data Worksheet
- Exhibit G – Interim Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Functional Assessment Model for Groundwater Discharge
- Exhibit H – Kansas Wooded Riverine Wetlands
- Exhibit I – South Dakota Riverine Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Model
- Exhibit J – Kansas Wooded Riverine Wetland Model
- Exhibit K – Interim Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Functional Assessment Model
- Exhibit L – South Dakota Slope HGM Model
- Exhibit M – Minimal Effects (MW) Determination Procedures

3. BACKGROUND:

NRCS policy requires the use of an approved functional assessment when evaluating wetland conversions or potential wetland conversions in order to determine the functions and values that have been or will be lost due to the proposed activity. The functional assessment creates a base line evaluation that can be used in planning mitigation. The base line evaluation will also be used to establish a basis for a minimal effect decision.

4. POLICY:

The guidance is to be followed by NRCS and partner employees when planning for mitigation and/or making a minimal effect exemption evaluation. All NRCS and partner employees completing functional assessments or minimal effect exemptions must be trained and have the appropriate Job Approval Authority in the use of the functional assessment models and/or minimal effect exemption worksheet. The functional assessment models and minimal effect exemption

worksheets appropriate for use in the various Iowa landforms are located in the FOTG, Section I, Resource Evaluation Tools, and Wetlands. All prior bulletins and/or instructions indicating the use of functional assessment models and/or minimal effect worksheets other than those attached to this document are rescinded.

Approved By: /s/

Date: July 2, 2015

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