



MN Wetland Professional Certification Program Regional Training-Redwood Falls



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Remaining MWPCP 2024 Courses

- Regional Training -Redwood Falls– August 27-28
- Introduction to Wetland Delineation & Regulations- Brainerd - September 9-13
- Introduction to Wetland Delineation & Regulations- Arden Hills- September 30- October 4
- Antecedent Precipitation Tool- St Cloud MNDOT Training Center- October 22 (2 sessions)



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MWPCP Regional Training Agenda

August 27

- 2024 WCA Statute Changes
 - Wetland classification system
 - Definitions
 - Agricultural Exemption
 - Drainage exemption
 - De minimis & utility exemptions
- WCA Enforcement Short Course
 - Assessing WCA impacts
 - Reviewing ATF applications
- Delineation Field Review Exercise

August 28

- Wetland Bank Monitoring Reports
 - Wetland Bank plans
 - Monitoring reports
 - Monitoring methods
- Intro to the Enviro Atlas Methods for the new Wetland Functional Assessment Method
- Common Wetland Indicators of Hydrogeomorphic Method
- Delineation review field exercise (Whittet bank site)

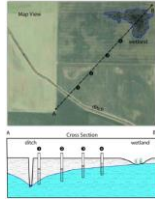
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Overview of Wetland Bank Monitoring

- Monitoring process
 - Construction Certification
 - Duration of monitoring
 - Deposit of Credits
- Maintenance responsibilities
 - Monitoring reports
 - Timeline
 - Reports
- Corrective Actions



- Hydrology Monitoring
 - Performance standards
- Vegetation Monitoring
 - Performance standards

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General Monitoring roles once wetland bank is approved

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>LGU/Corps roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • certify construction • certify credits for deposit • review monitoring reports • may require corrective actions as needed | <p>Sponsor/landowner roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsor responsible for maintenance • Submitting as-built documentation • Submitting wetland credit deposit transaction form(s) • Submitting monitoring reports • Paying administrative fees |
|--|--|

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Monitoring Schedule

- Monitoring must begin no later than first full growing season after construction certification
- Must continue for at least 5 full growing seasons
- If unsuccessful, the LGU may extend the monitoring period (<5 additional years)
- Actual monitoring schedule may vary for different bank types (restoration vs preservation)

Item	WCA Credit Action and Volume of Credits	Volume	Type of Natural Credit	Credit Release Schedule					Total Credits Available to Applicant		
				Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5			
1	Restoration (100)	100	1. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
2	Restoration (100)	100	2. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
3	Restoration (100)	100	3. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
4	Restoration (100)	100	4. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
5	Restoration (100)	100	5. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
6	Bank-WCA	100	6. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
7	Bank-WCA	100	7. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
8	Bank-WCA	100	8. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
9	Bank-WCA	100	9. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
10	Bank-WCA	100	10. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
11	Bank-WCA	100	11. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
12	Bank-WCA	100	12. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
13	Bank-WCA	100	13. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
14	Bank-WCA	100	14. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
15	Bank-WCA	100	15. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
16	Bank-WCA	100	16. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
17	Bank-WCA	100	17. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
18	Bank-WCA	100	18. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
19	Bank-WCA	100	19. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000
20	Bank-WCA	100	20. Bank-WCA	100%	20,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	100,000

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Performance Standards

- Performance standard: observable or measurable physical (including hydrological), chemical and/or biological attributes that are used to determine if a compensatory mitigation project meets its objectives.

Category	Performance Standard
Approval of Mitigation, Construction (as required), Approval of the Bank Plan, and Other and Compliance to comply.	Approval of Mitigation, Construction (as required), Approval of the Bank Plan, and Other and Compliance to comply.
Site for 1/3 growing season to qualify for credit release.	Site for 1/3 growing season to qualify for credit release.
Site for 2/3 growing season to qualify for credit release.	Site for 2/3 growing season to qualify for credit release.
Site for 1/3 growing season to qualify for credit release.	Site for 1/3 growing season to qualify for credit release.

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Monitoring Report

- Submitted following the first full growing season no later than 12/31
- Then submitted as per approved bank plan
- May include Transaction Form to Deposit Credits



- Contents of the report:
- Project location map
 - Description of performance standards
 - Activities completed and planned
 - Hydrology measurements
 - Plant communities map
 - Color photographs
 - Other information specified from approved plan

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Monitoring Reports

Hydrologic Monitoring of Wetlands
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
 Supplemental Guidance

April 2017

Vegetation Monitoring for Compensatory Wetland Mitigation Sites
 10/29/2021
 Version 1

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Reviewing Monitoring Reports

A. Success Criteria Summary
 Summary of Success Criteria Standards and Current Metrics for 2017

Metric	Success Criteria	Measured Criteria	Success Criteria Met?	Comments
Restoration - Success <small>Success as of 2017</small>				
Stability	Bank movement is 2 inches above and 2 inches below and not less than 40000 cubic feet.	Measured hydrology is between 6 inches above and one foot below ground surface.	Yes	Final hydrology monitoring not required in 2017. Success based on office site observations.
Duration	Months of the growing season	Hydrology was within the desired range for the majority of the growing season.	Yes	Success based on office site observations.
Diversity	Minimum of five native species.	79 native species have been observed.	Yes	Species diversity increased from 2014 to 2017.
Composition	Maximum tall grasses and two others.	Eight sedges and eight grasses have been identified.	Yes	Species composition stable.
Invasive species coverage	No more than 10% cover.	Total cover of invasive species is less than 10% and has been effectively controlled.	Yes	Recent invasive grass is less than 1% coverage.
Bankline species greater than one percent	No more than 10% cover.	Invasive species coverage control with no single area greater than one-quarter acre in size.	Yes	Single instance of storm damage at storm site, but signed again in May 2017, no control.

- Know performance standards
- Interpret data to determine whether the site meets those standards
- If not, document with data what is not meeting standard
- Consult with TEP & Corps
- Then corrective actions should be recommended

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Corrective Actions

- If, during the monitoring period, the LGU/Corps or TEP determine that a bank site does not meet the approved plan's specifications, the LGU must require corrective actions
- BWSR can freeze accounts by restricting deposits, withdrawals, transfers until the LGU determines the site is in compliance
- Noncompliance of bank sites is subject to enforcement procedures



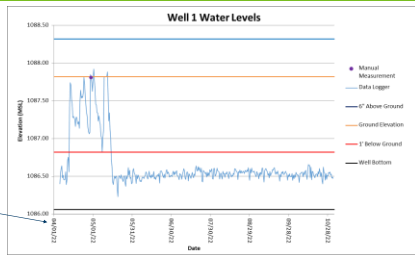
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Common Issues in Monitoring Reports

- Insufficient figures/graphs
 - Data logger problems
- Performance standards not matching bank plan
 - Incorrect monitoring techniques
 - Data interpretation concerns

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Hydrograph Issues

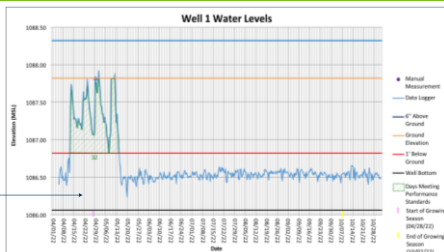


How do we verify that 28 consecutive days are met?

When does the growing season start?

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Hydrograph Issues

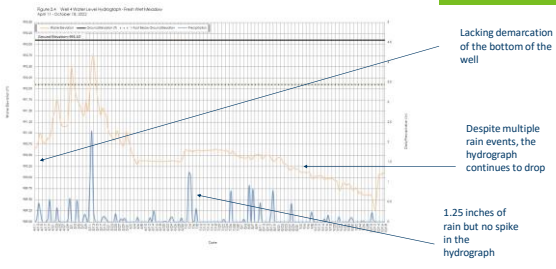


Lines depicting daily intervals

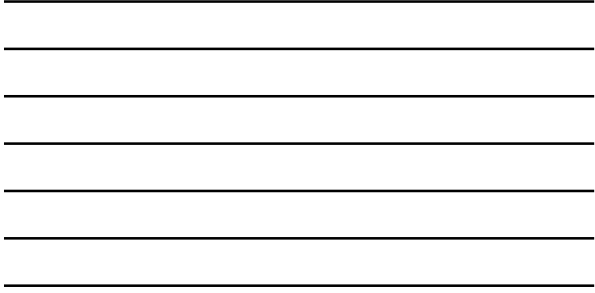
Now includes Start/End of the growing season

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Data Logger Issues



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Wetland Bank Vegetation Monitoring 2022						
VEGETATIVE ASSESSMENT DEEP MARSH						
Species	Indicator	Native	Invasive	Straw	SRA Interval	Site ID
Tall narrow grass (Cortina Acaulis)	GR	Yes	No	H	25	1
Short narrow grass (Cortina angustifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	5	0
Stem Sedge (Carex lasiocarpa)	GR	Yes	No	H	5	0
Common water plantain (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	15	1
Spotted leaf Arrowweed (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	1	1
Brown Bulrush (Scirpus americanus)	GR	Yes	No	H	5	10
Soft-stem Bulrush (Scirpus americanus)	GR	Yes	No	H	2	1
Spotted leaf Arrowweed (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	1	0
Common water plantain (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	1	0
Spotted leaf Arrowweed (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	0	0
Spotted leaf Arrowweed (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	1	0
Common water plantain (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	No	Yes	H	3	1
Common water plantain (Sagittaria arifolia)	GR	Yes	No	H	20	10
Total					100	100
		% total cover (Invasive)	27			
		% total cover (native)	73			
		% total cover (Hydrophytes)	73			
		% native herbaceous species	50			

Veg Standards Exercise

Deep Marsh:

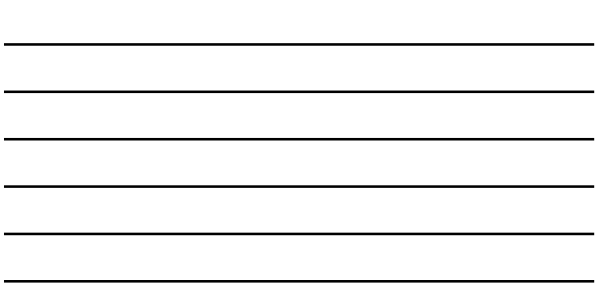
1. Relative areal cover by Native Non Invasive (NNI) species shall be >60%;
2. Relative areal cover by inv. species, including narrow-leaf and hybrid cattails (Typha angustifolia and T. x glauca), shall be <40%;
3. Species richness shall consist of > 3 NNI species with at least 2% relative cover;
4. Cover by hydrophytes shall be greater than 50%;

→ Transect 2 meets performance standards

→ Should be >60%

→ Should be >50%

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US Army Corps Monitoring Report Template

Mitigation Monitoring Report Template
USACE St. Paul District
April 2023 Version 1

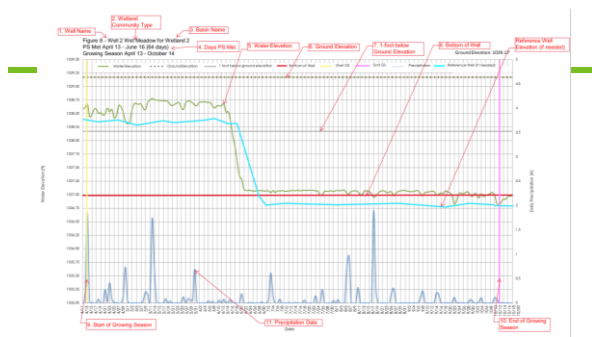
Specimens for complementary mitigation banks and in lieu for sites are required to document on their monitoring reports whether sites are meeting performance standards as a necessary to monitoring performance standards. Specimens must collect accurate and complete data and report that data in their monitoring reports to support their assessment of site conditions relative to the required performance standards.

While specimens do not have to follow this outline precisely, or present data as tables exactly as illustrated here, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has developed these guidelines as a necessary to monitoring performance standards. Specimens must collect accurate and complete data and report that data in their monitoring reports to support their assessment of site conditions relative to the required performance standards.

The Corps Project Manager (PM) will conduct site inspections, typically during the growing season, to field verify the monitoring and performance documentation before making a decision on credit release. If specimens report to request a credit release following monitoring during the growing season, they should consider submitting as much data as possible before the growing season ends and they should request the Corps complete a site inspection before and of the growing season. Also, they must submit complete monitoring reports by the due date (usually December 31st or January 31st).

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Hydrology

Considerations in planning hydrologic monitoring project:

- What is the question?
- What is the performance criteria?
 - Precision?
- Site characteristics
 - Landscape position, hydrology setting, soil, vegetation, drainage features
- Pre-existing data
- Timeline and available resources

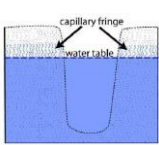
• [BWSR Hydrology Guidance documents](#)



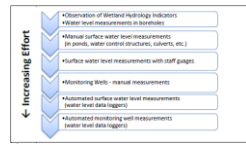
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Methods to monitor hydrology

- Observation of indicators
- Staff gauges
- Open boreholes



- Monitoring wells
 - Manual measurements
 - Automated measurements



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Vegetation

- Methods to monitor vegetation:
 - Floristic Quality Assessment
 - Mapping plant communities
 - Estimating invasive species



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Vegetation

- Interpreting vegetation data
 - Indicator status (% FAC or wetter)
 - Composition (% native species richness)
 - Invasive cover (%)
 - Floristic Quality Assessment (index rating)

Table 1: Summary of Wetland Success Criteria for Phase I

Success Criteria	Phase I		
	Wet Meadow	Herbwood Swamp	Shallow Marsh
Duration			
Growing Seasons	5	4	5
Hydrology			
Hydrology (depth to water table)	Surface to -12"	Surface to -12"	+6" to -12"
Hydroperiod (duration within zone)	Meets duration	Meets duration	Meets duration
Vegetation			
Wetland Indicator (% FAC or wetter)	41/52 = 79%	30/51 = 70%	20/22 = 91%
Species Composition (Native Richness)	39/52 = 75%	30/51 = 70%	19/22 = 86%
Invasive Cover (% non-native)	2%	9%	2%
FQA/WFQA	20.27/26.7	20.07/21.4	16.5/19.7
Tree Coverage (trees per acre)	N/A	26.48	N/A

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Floristic Quality Assessment

- Vegetation condition assessment to measure the quality of a native plant community
- Developed by the MN Pollution Control Agency
 - 2007, Statewide C-values
 - Efforts to regionalize C-values underway
- Intended to compliment functional assessments such as MNRAM



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FQA Key Concepts

- Key concepts:
 - Species conservatism- tolerance to degradation
 - Coefficients of Conservatism (C-value)
 - Floristic Quality Index
 - Species richness and mean C-values
- Sampling methods
 - Rapid FQA
 - Full Method



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FQA Key Concepts

- Coefficients of Conservatism
 - Numeric rating of an individual species fidelity in relationship to disturbance
 - C-values range from 0-10
 - 0= most tolerant, found in wide variety of plant communities
 - 10= least tolerant, found in narrow range of plant communities
 - Non-native species = 0
 - Reed Canary Grass (introduced) C=0
 - Ostrich Fern (FAC, NCNE) C=5
 - Pink lady slipper C=9



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Sampling Methods Overview

- FQA Sampling Protocol:
 - Map Assessment Area
 - Determine Plant community types
 - Conduct timed meander (rapid) or plot-based sampling
 - Conduct shoreland sampling (if necessary)
 - Make Areal cover estimations
 - Calculations

- Full FQA -Plot-based sampling
- Rapid FQA- Timed meander rules
 - Areal cover in cover classes for each species



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Sampling Methods

- Determining the Assessment Area
- Define plant communities
 - Eggers & Reed
 - MN DNR Native Plant Communities Classification Guide
 - Laurentian Mixed Forest, Eastern Broadleaf Forest, Prairie Parkland and Tallgrass Aspen Parklands



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Metrics

Variables:

- Number of species = Species Richness
- Mean C-value
- Mean C-value (weighted) (wC)
 - $wC = \sum pC$

Rapid FQI Data Form											
Site Information			Plant Community			Vegetation			Soils		
Project Number	Date	Observer	State	County	Township	Section	R4C	R4E	R4S	R4W	R4N

Floristic Quality Index

- Integral measurement of FQA
- $$FQI = \bar{C}\sqrt{S}$$
 - mean C value
 - S= number of species (i.e. species richness)
- Both stand alone indices
- Greater the FQI, the closer the condition is to a natural state

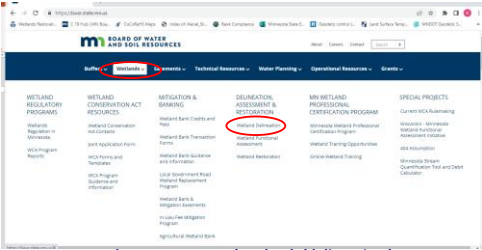
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Wetland Hydrology Monitoring - Methods



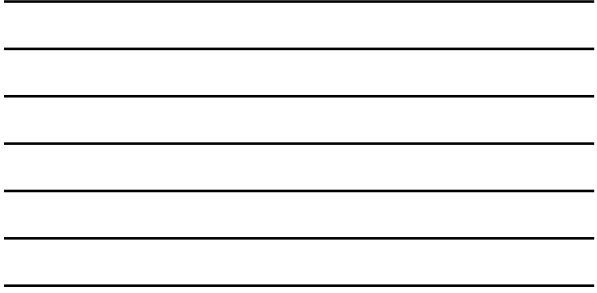
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Hydrology

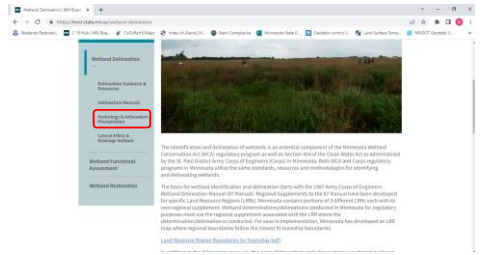


www.bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands/delineation/

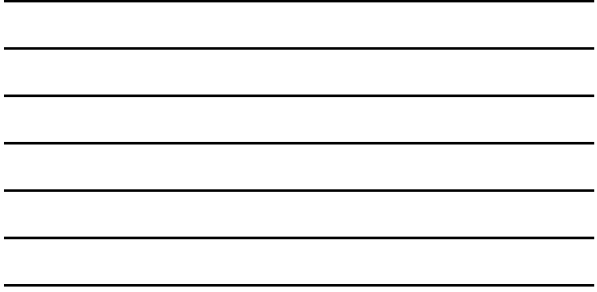
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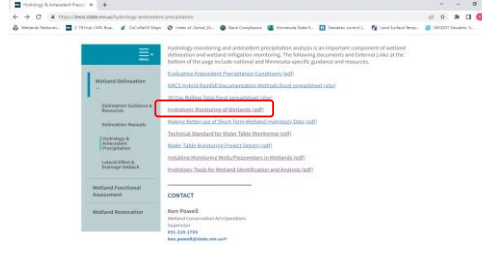
Hydrology



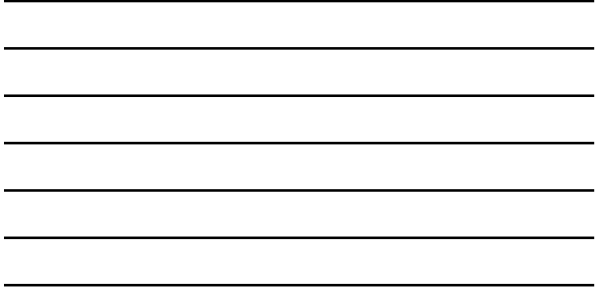
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Hydrology


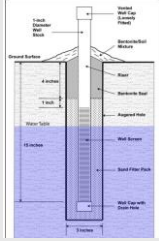


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Hydrology



Hydrologic Monitoring of Wetlands
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources
Supplemental Guidance

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Monitoring Wetland Hydrology

- Why? Why are we monitoring hydrology?
- How? How are we monitoring hydrology?

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Evaluation over a period of time


Wetland Hydrology Indicators



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Wetland Hydrology Indicators

Table B. Wetland hydrology indicators for the Midwest Region		Category	
Indicator	Presence	Primary	Secondary
Group A - Observation of Surface Water or Saturated Soil			
A1 - Surface water	X		
A2 - High water table	X		
Group B - Evidence of Recent Saturation			
B1 - Water marks	X		
B2 - Sediment deposits	X		
B3 - Soil Algalia	X		
B4 - High root or soil	X		
B5 - Soil algalia	X		
B6 - Oxidation-reduction potential or sulfide nodules	X		
B7 - Saturated, vegetated concave surface	X		
B8 - Saturated soil nodules	X		
B9 - Aquatic fauna	X		
B10 - Soil water marks	X		
B11 - Surface soil cracks	X		
B12 - Overage patterns	X		
Group C - Evidence of Current or Recent Soil Saturation			
C1 - Orange-sulfur odor	X		
C2 - Chlorophyll fluorescence during flood	X		
C3 - Presence of reduced iron	X		
C4 - Presence of nodules in soil pits	X		
C5 - Soil water marks in soil pits	X		
C6 - Soil water marks	X		
C7 - Soil water marks	X		
C8 - Soil water marks	X		
C9 - Soil water marks or animal tracks	X		
Group D - Evidence from Other Site Characteristics or Data			
D1 - Storage of soil water	X		
D2 - Storage of dissolved plants	X		
D3 - Geomorphic position	X		
D4 - Microclimate	X		



- Chapter 4 of the regional supplements
- (25 to 29 indicators depending on region)

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Wetland Hydrology Standard

- On highly disturbed or problematic sites, direct hydrologic monitoring may be needed to determine whether wetland hydrology is present. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (2005) provides a technical standard for monitoring hydrology on such sites. This standard requires **14 or more consecutive days of flooding or ponding, or a water table 12 in. (30 cm) or less below the soil surface, during the growing season at a minimum frequency of 5 years in 10 (50 percent or higher probability)** (National Research Council 1995) unless an alternative standard has been established for a particular region or wetland type.

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Why Monitor?


- Is it a wetland? Does the depth and timing of saturation at a location meet the technical criterion for wetland hydrology?



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Why Monitor?

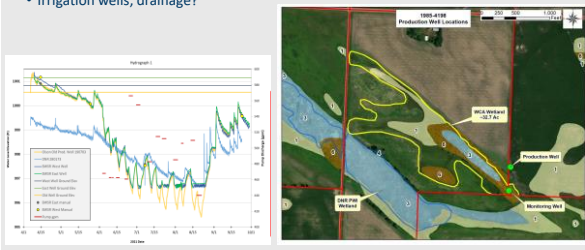
- Drained wetland, violation?



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Why Monitor?

- Irrigation wells, drainage?



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Why Monitor?

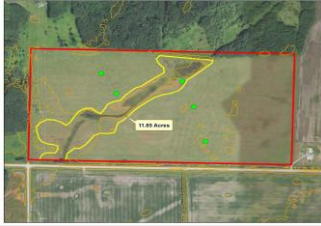
- Better define wetland area



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Why Monitor?

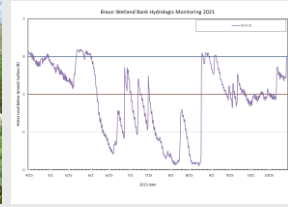
- Better define wetland area



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Why Monitor?

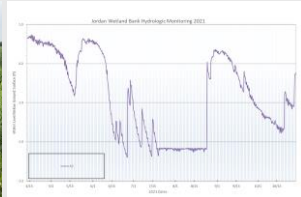
- Monitor wetland restorations and performance standards
- Wet Meadow - Water tables within 12-inches of the surface for 28-consecutive days or two periods of 14-days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions



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Why Monitor?

- Monitor wetland restorations and performance standards
- Shallow Marsh - Water table is at the surface or inundation up to 12-inches in depth for at least 28 consecutive days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions



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Why Monitor?

- Monitor wetland restorations and performance standards
- Deep Marsh - Hydrology shall consist of inundation 6 to 48 inches in depth throughout the growing season with the exception of drought conditions



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Why Monitor?

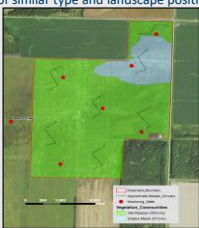
- Monitor wetland restorations and performance standards
- Upland Buffer??? No, no hydrology performance standards in the buffer



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Why Monitor?

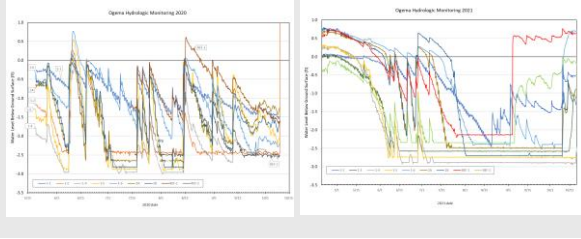
- Reference wetland – monitor wetland of similar type and landscape position
- Pre-Project Monitoring...next slide



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Why Monitor?

• Functional Lift



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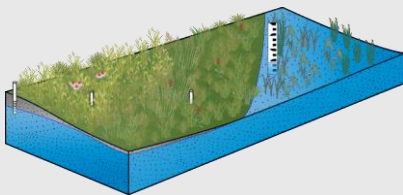
Why Monitor?

Reasons to Monitor	Questions to Answer
Wetland identification and determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the wetland hydrology technical standard met at this point? What is the hydrologic regime and its associated wetland type?
Wetland boundary determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where does wetland hydrology begin and end on the landscape?
Assessing wetland functions dependent upon hydrologic regime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the depth, duration, frequency, and seasonality of saturation? How does this wetland interact with ground water (recharge or discharge)? How does water flow into or out of the wetland? What are the hydrologic inputs and outputs?
Assess potential for wetland restoration or creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the lateral effect of a drain or ditch? What depth is the current water table? What are the hydrologic inputs and outputs?
Evaluate hydrologic alteration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the lateral effect of a drain or ditch? Has a wetland been effectively drained? Or partially drained? How well is ditch or drain tile functioning?
Determine success of wetland restoration or replacement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How much has the water table depth changed since a drain was removed? Has wetland hydrology been restored? Is the wetland hydrology technical standard met at this point? Is the restored hydrology adequate to support the planned plant communities?
Calcareous fen determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there localized groundwater discharge to the wetland? If so, is the discharging ground water cold & alkaline? What is the direction of ground water flow? Are there calcareous fen indicator plants there?



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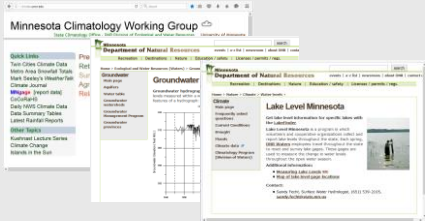
Evaluation over a period of time



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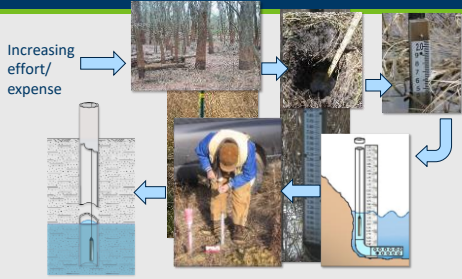
Sources of Hydrologic Monitoring Data

Existing Data



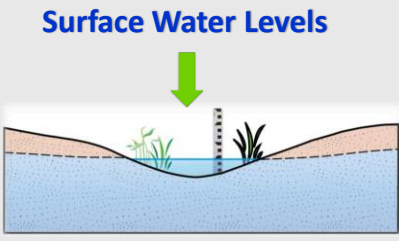
55

The How of Hydrologic Monitoring



56

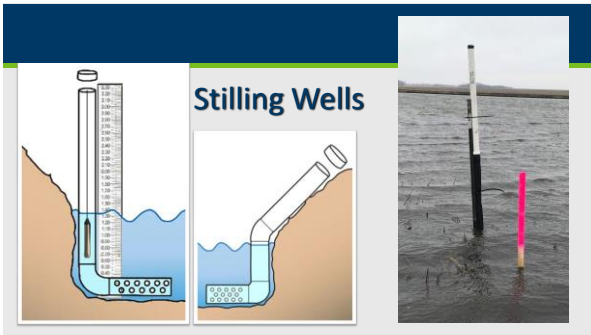
Surface Water Levels



57



58



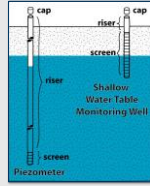
59



60

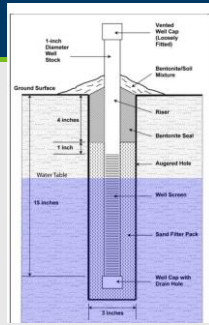
Measuring Ground Water Levels

- Water Table Monitoring Wells
- Piezometers

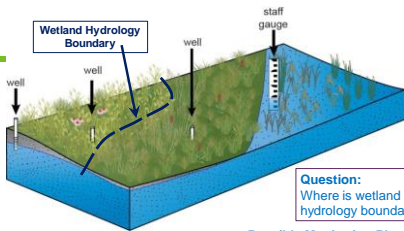


61

Shallow water table monitoring well



62



Setting:

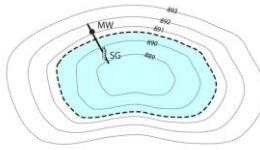
- depressional wetland
- slope from upland to shallow marsh

Possible Monitoring Plan:

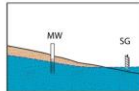
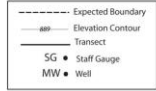
- Staff gauge
- Wetland Well
- Upland Well
- Boundary Well

Question:
Where is wetland hydrology boundary?

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Using professional judgement and knowledge of topography...



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Normal Pool Elevations



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Monitoring Plan



66

Well installation

How to install a monitoring well...

- Basic components of a casing:
 - 1.5" PVC riser and well screen
 - Bottom cap (drain hole)
 - Vented top cap
 - Filter/wrap for screen
 - Sand
 - Bentonite
 - Datalogger

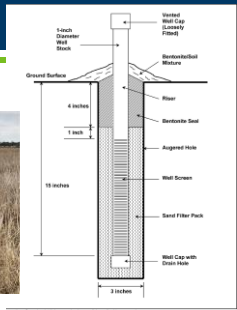


FIG 2. Standard 1.5 in. monitoring well installed by augering

67

Well installation

1. Auger hole
2. Scrape sides of borehole (clay or loamy soils)
3. Pour 1-2" of sand in the bottom of the borehole
4. Place casing in borehole
5. Backfill remaining void in borehole with sand (to within about 4" of the surface)
6. Fill remaining 4" with bentonite
7. Mound soil/bentonite around base of casing to seal the well
8. Install datalogger
9. Loose cap



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Data loggers

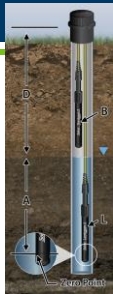
- Solinst/HOBO data loggers
- Levellogger (reads water levels and atmospheric pressure)
- Barologger (reads atmospheric pressure)
- Only one Barologger needed per site, good for a 20-mile radius (two per site is not a bad idea in case one malfunctions)



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Logger installation

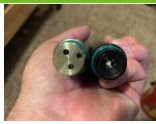
- All **Leveloggers** measure total (absolute) pressure. When submerged, the Levelogger is recording the combination of barometric pressure and water pressure. The actual pressure of just water (**A**) above the sensor is obtained by subtracting barometric pressure (**B**) from the total pressure (**L**)



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Logger programming

- Program the logger
- USB Connection to computer (Solinst software)
- Bluetooth mobile connection (Solinst app and smartphone)



8/26/2024

August 2021 Wetland Section | bwsr.state.mn.us

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Logger programming

- Typically, leveloggers are set to take reading every 6 hours
- Barologgers are set to take readings every hour
- Check what your approved monitoring plan says!

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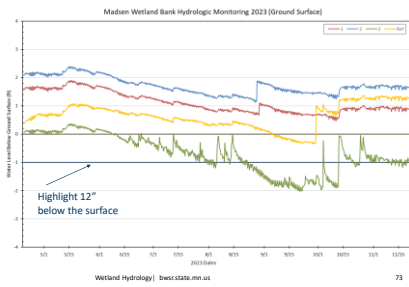
August 2021 Wetland Section | bwsr.state.mn.us

72

72

Logger readings

- What to include on the graph



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Wetland Hydrology | dws.state.mn.us

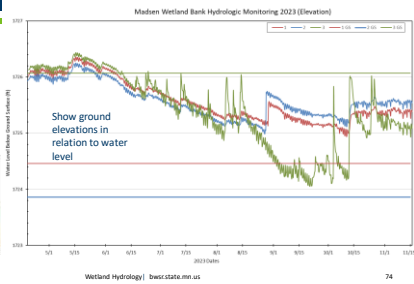
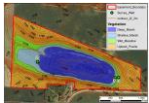
73

73



Logger readings

- What to include on the graph



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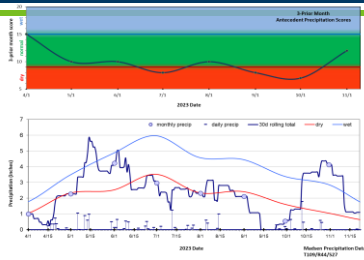
Wetland Hydrology | dws.state.mn.us

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Precipitation



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Wetland Hydrology | dws.state.mn.us

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The performance standard for the wet meadow community required: Water Tables within 12 inches of the surface for 28 consecutive days or two periods of 14 days during the growing season under normal to wetter than normal conditions or, duration of water Table \leq 12 inches below the soil surface to plus or minus 20 percent of that of the reference wetland.

- **2022 Growing Season:**
 - ✓ Well 1 (WMI) showed water within 12 inches of the surface from April 22 (date of installation) to June 13 (53 consecutive days).
 - ✓ Well 3 (WMI) showed water within 12 inches of the surface from April 22 (date of installation) to June 2 (62 consecutive days).
 - ✓ Well 5 (WMI) showed water within 12 inches of the surface from April 22 (date of installation) to June 16 (56 consecutive days).
- **2023 Growing Season:**
 - ✓ Well 1 (WMI) showed water within 12 inches of the surface from April 19 (date of installation) to June 15 (58 consecutive days).
 - ✓ Well 3 (WMI) showed water within 12 inches of the surface from April 19 (date of installation) to June 14 (57 consecutive days).
 - ✓ Well 5 (WMI) showed water within 12 inches of the surface from April 19 (date of installation) to June 14 (59 consecutive days).

All three wet meadow wells (1, 3, 5) met the wet meadow performance standards for two consecutive growing seasons.

8/26/2024 [Optional Tagline Goes Here](#) | [mni.gov/webbitour](#)

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Vegetation Monitoring on Mitigation Sites

[Link to Vegetation Monitoring on Mitigation Sites](#)

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Developing Vegetation Monitoring Plan

Areal cover estimates

- Absolute and Relative cover

Species Richness

Non-natives

Figure 5. Mapped areas of invasive species on a compensatory mitigation.

Figure 3. Formula and example for calculating percent relative cover from absolute cover estimates.

$$\frac{\% \text{ Absolute Cover Species A}}{\text{Total Absolute \% Cover All Species}} (100) = \% \text{ Relative Cover Species A}$$

Example:

Species	Absolute % Cover
A	30
B	40
C	80
Total	150

30/150 (100) = 20% Relative Cover Species A
 40/150 (100) = 27% Relative Cover Species B
 80/150 (100) = 53% Relative Cover Species C

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Vegetation Monitoring Sampling Methods

- Sampling Methods
 - Plots
 - Belt transects
 - Point-intercept
 - Meander



Figure 6. The "belt" of a belt transect depicted by the yellow tape. Shaded circles identify points for vegetation monitoring. Circles with the "X" are the center of the sampling plot used to estimate density per unit area.

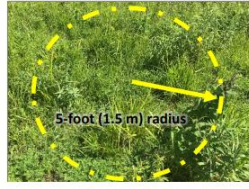
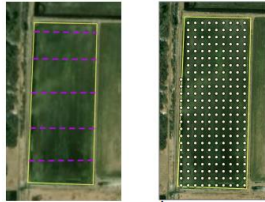


Figure 7. Example of a circular plot for the herbaceous layer.

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Examples of Transect Layouts

Figure 12. Examples of transect layouts for compensatory wetland mitigation sites.

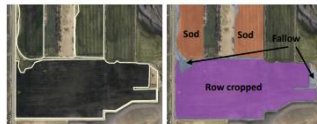


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Establishing Monitoring Units

Considerations:

- Land Use
- Hydrology
- Soil Types
- Planting & seeding areas
- Management techniques
- Stressors



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Reporting Monitoring Results

Table 6. Examples of monitoring relative cover estimates by plant community and plant group.

Community	Plant Group	A	B	C	D	E	F	Avg.
Meadow Prairie	Native	72%	10%	100%	10%	100%	40%	81%
	Non-native	28%	90%	0%	90%	0%	60%	19%
Wet Meadow	Native	85%	10%	80%	75%	100%	80%	88%
	Non-native	15%	90%	20%	25%	0%	20%	42%
Shrubland	Native	100%	85%	95%	90%	100%	95%	95%
	Non-native	0%	15%	5%	10%	0%	5%	7%

Table 7. Example of comparing data on vegetation metrics to previous years and performance standards.

Community	Metric & Performance Standard	2018	2019
Meadow Prairie	Native non-crochet vegetation (N2) relative cover	81%	85%
	10 native non-crochet species	48%	52%
	Non-native and/or invasive species (N2) relative cover	19%	15%
Wet Meadow	Native non-crochet forbs (N2) relative cover	88%	85%
	10 native non-crochet species (N2) relative cover	3%	3%
	Non-native and/or invasive species (N2) relative cover	12%	15%
Shrubland	Native non-crochet species	95%	95%
	10 native non-crochet species	75%	78%
	Non-native and/or invasive species (N2) relative cover	5%	5%

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How many plots do I need to do?

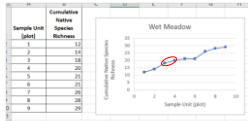
Appendix 1. Assessing Sample Adequacy

Methods for determining sample size for monitoring programs include: randomization, stratification, and systematic sampling. For monitoring programs, the goal is to collect enough samples to accurately estimate the mean and variability of the metric being monitored. This is done by using a statistical method called "sample adequacy" or "sample size determination".

Plotting Species Accumulation and Performance Curves

Species accumulation curves (SACs) plot the number of species (Y-axis) against the number of samples (X-axis). The curve should level off as more samples are added, indicating that most species have been identified. Performance curves (PCs) plot the percentage of performance standard (Y-axis) against the number of samples (X-axis). The curve should reach the 100% mark as more samples are added, indicating that the monitoring program is meeting its goals.

Figure 8. Example of table and resulting native species accumulation curve. The curve has not flattened out, yet the performance standard of 10 native species has been met.



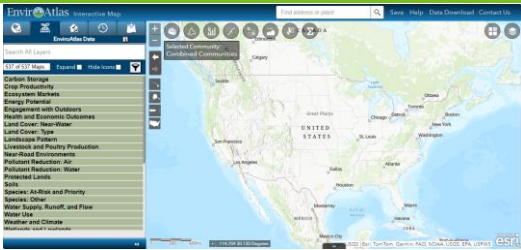
83

EnviroAtlas

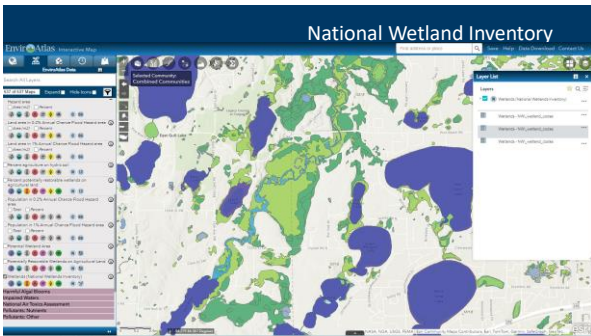
[EnviroAtlas \(epa.gov\)](https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/)

84

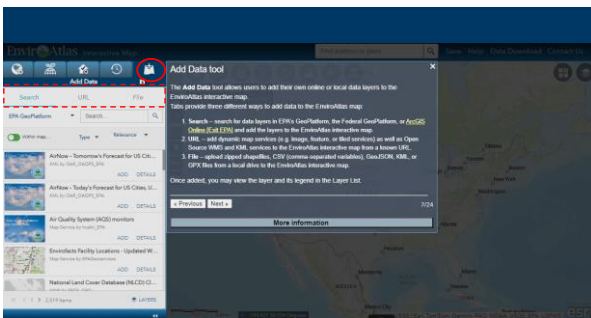
What you can do with



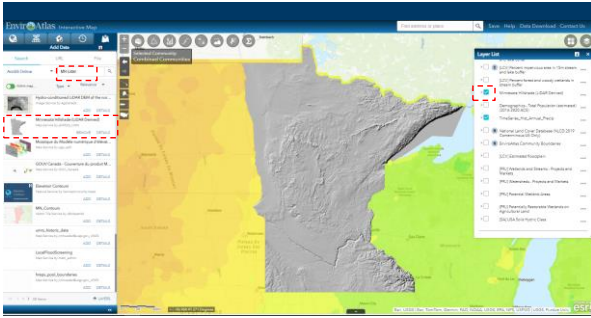
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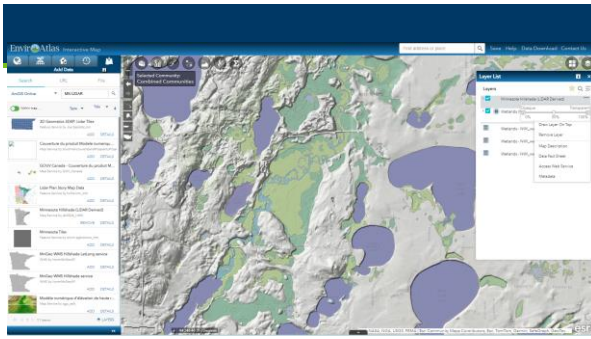
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87



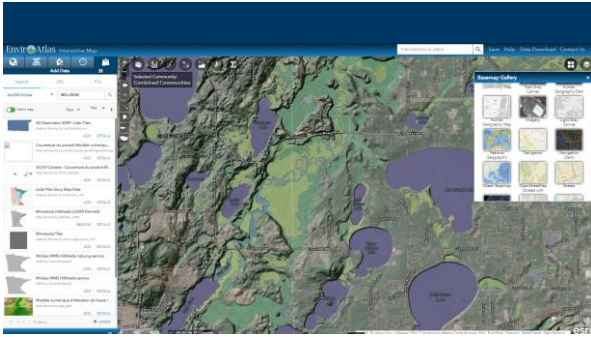
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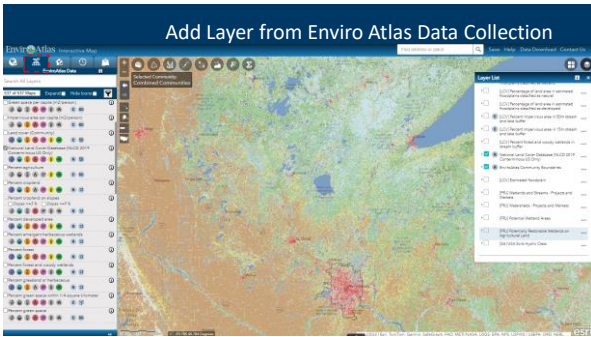
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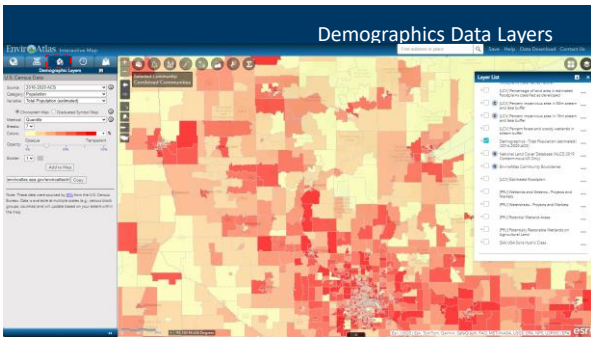
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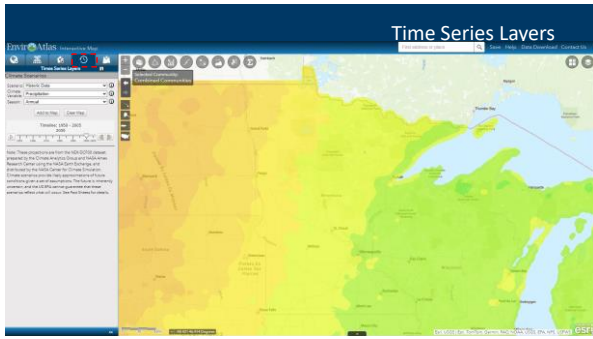
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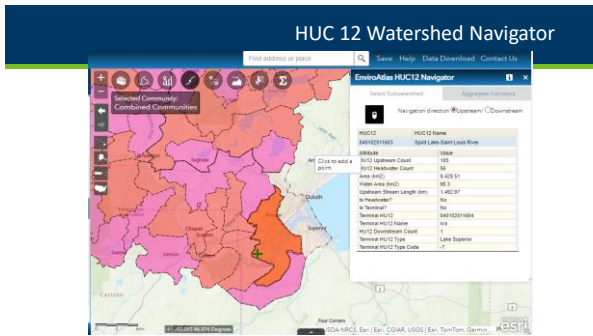
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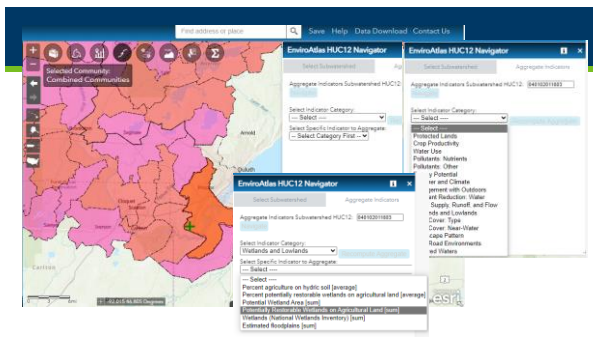
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WIMN Rapid Functional Assessment Method

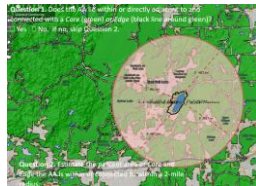
- WI/MN Wetland Rapid Assessment Method
 - Rapid method for assessing wetland functions based on functional capacity and value.
- Link to public notice, tool and user guide: [Wisconsin wetlands: assessment methods and tools | Wisconsin DNR](#)
- Comments due 8/30



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Functions relevant to functional assessment tool

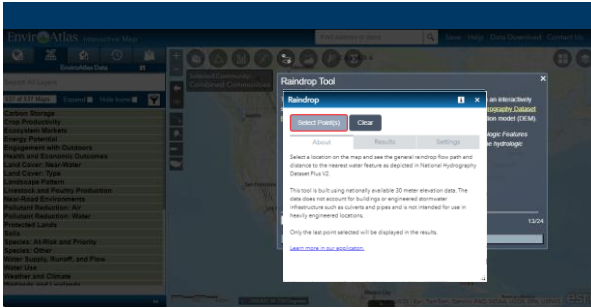
- You can use EnviroAtlas to determine:
- Catchment Area
 - Catchment Slope
 - Land Cover Types in Catchment Area
 - Regional Landscape Habitat Connectivity
 - Stream and Surface Water Connectivity



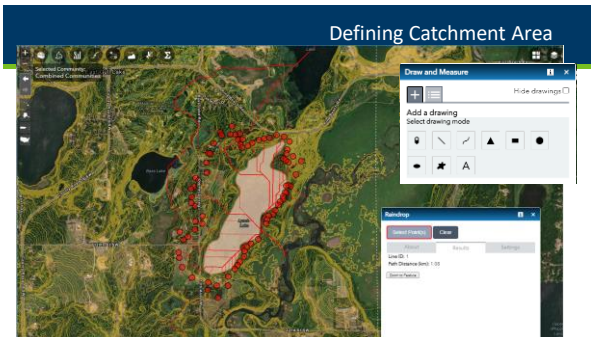
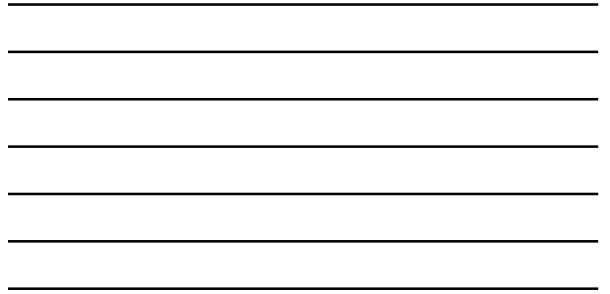
98

Watershed Catchment Area & Slope

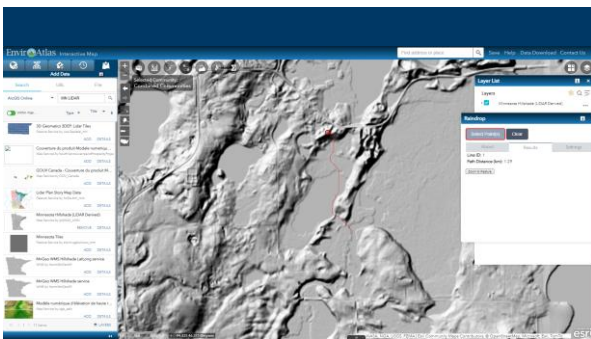
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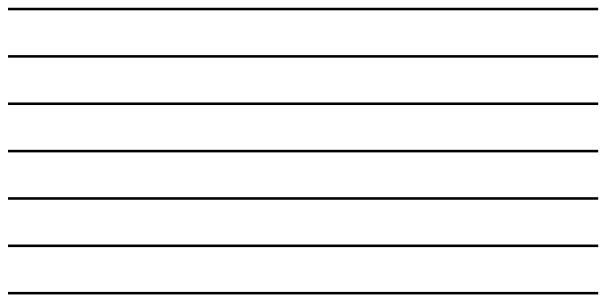
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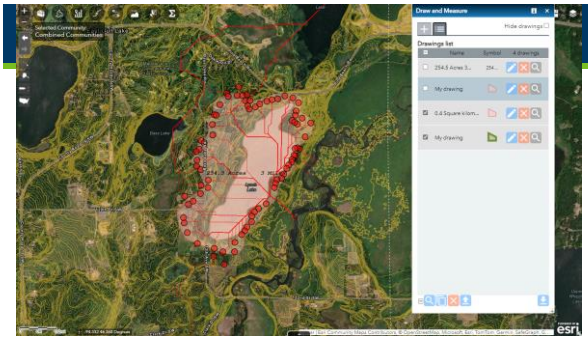


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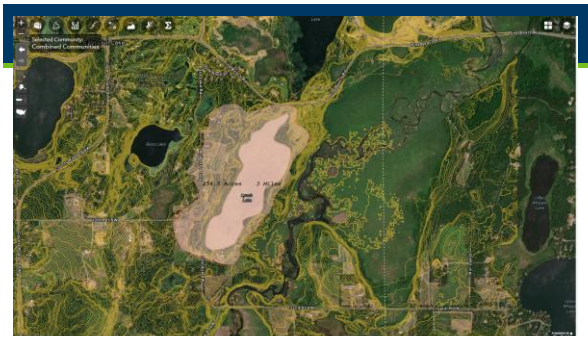


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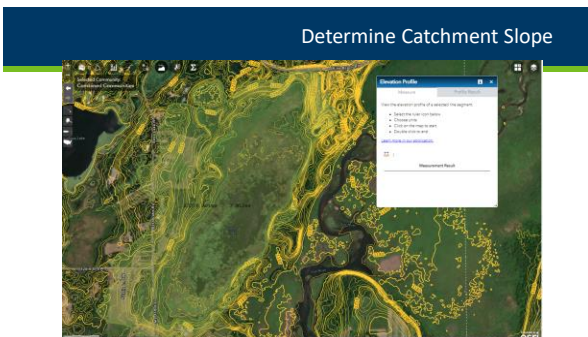




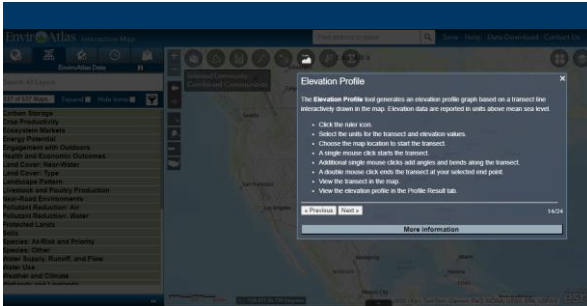
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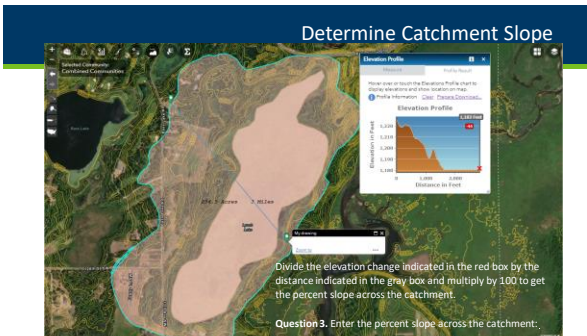
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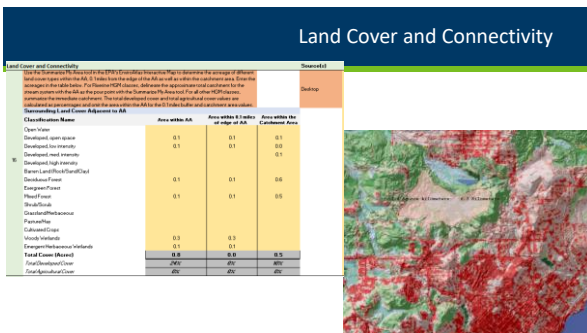
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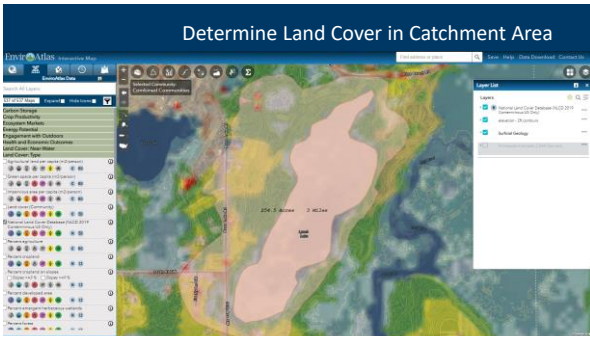
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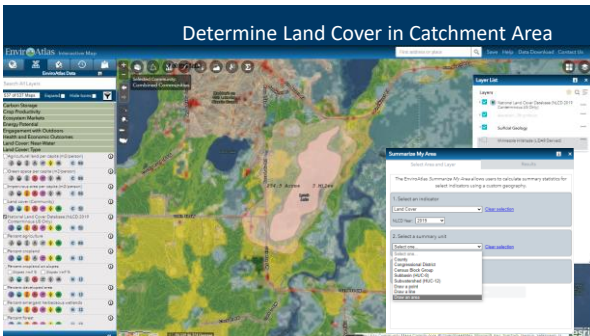
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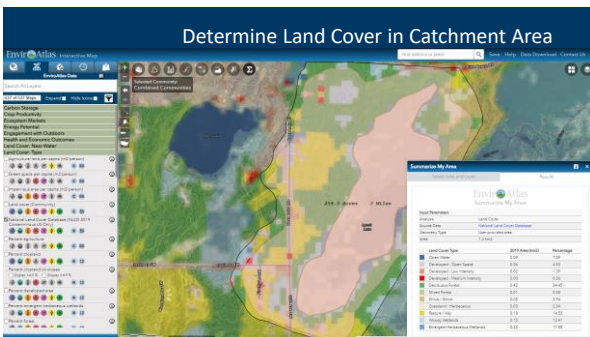
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111

Landscape Habitat Connectivity

To assess landscape scale habitat and connectivity of the AA, use the **MPD's connectivity tool** under the **Assessment** panel. **20** miles (circle) will be the size of the AA. **20** miles (circle) will be the size of the AA. **20** miles (circle) will be the size of the AA.

17	Do the AA's Core Area (green) and Edge Area (black line) touch or overlap with any other AA's Core Area (green) or Edge Area (black line) within the Landscape?	Yes	0.00
18	Estimate the percent area of the Core and Edge Areas (green and black line) within the AA's Core Area (green) or Edge Area (black line) that is connected to other AA's Core Area (green) or Edge Area (black line) within the Landscape?	25-50%	0.00

112

Landscape Connectivity

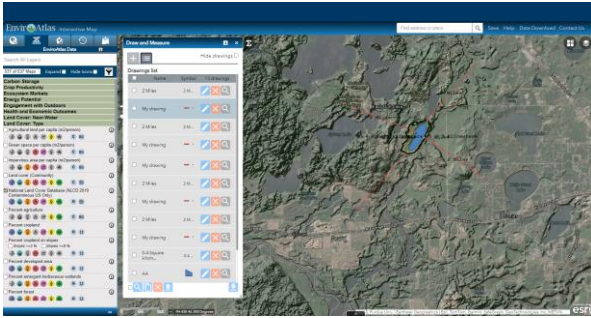
Question 1: Does the AA lie within or directly adjacent to land connected with a Core (green) or Edge (black line around green)?
Yes No. If no, skip Question 2.

Question 2: Estimate the percent area of Core and Edge the AA is within or connected to within a 2-mile radius.

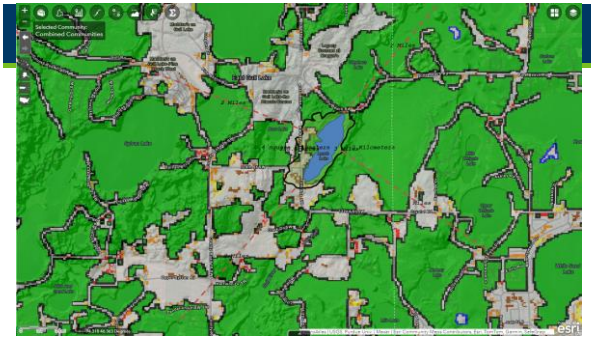
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Evaluate Regional Landscape Habitat Connectivity

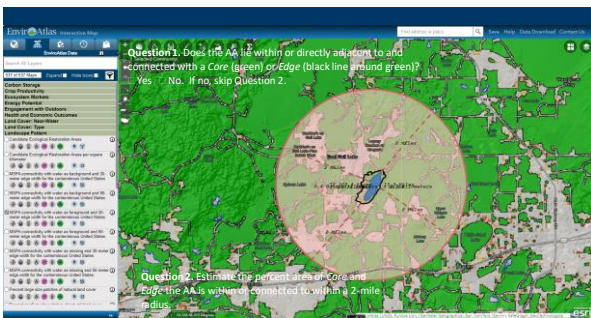
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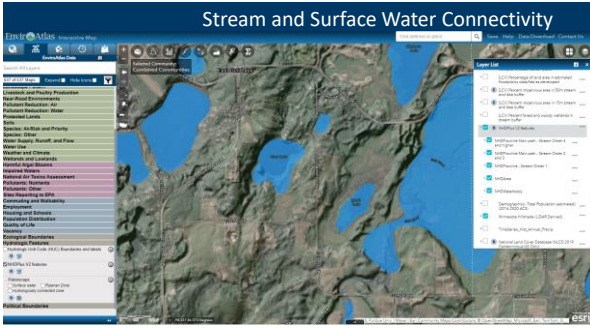
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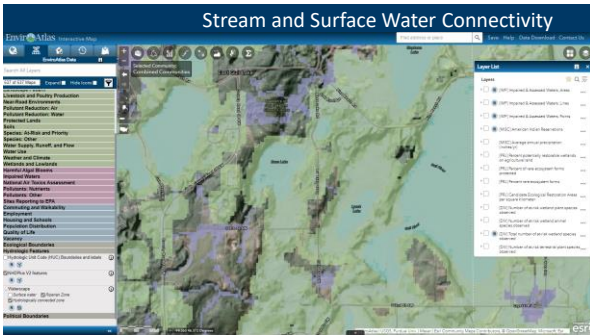
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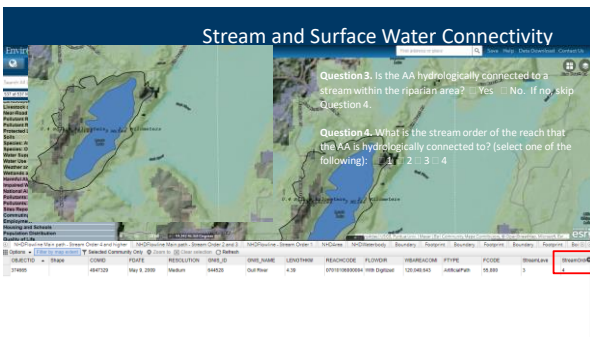
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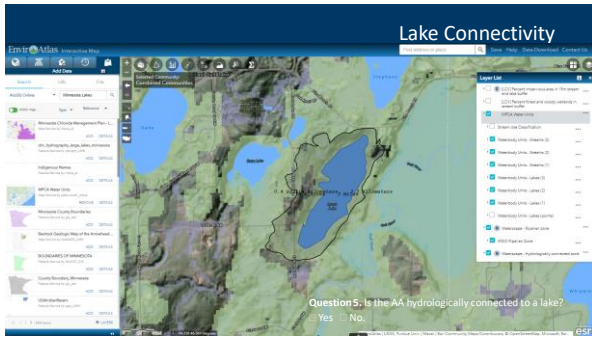
118



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Common Wetland Indicators of HGM Classes in Minnesota

122

Hydrogeomorphic Method

- Assesses functional conditions of a specific wetland referenced to data collected from wetlands across a range of physical conditions
- Established Classes based on geomorphic, hydrology and hydraulic functions of palustrine wetlands:
- RIVERINE, DEPRESSIONAL, SLOPE, MINERAL SOIL FLATS, ORGANIC SOIL FLATS, ESTUARINE FRINGE, LACUSTRINE FRINGE

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HGM Classes



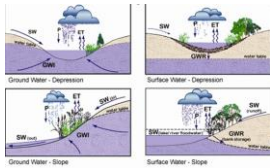
- RIVERINE
- DEPRESSION
- SLOPE
- MINERAL SOIL FLATS
- ORGANIC SOIL FLATS
- ESTUARINE FRINGE
- LACUSTRINE FRINGE



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HGM Subclasses

- Determined by:
 - Hydrology Input:
 - Groundwater
 - Surface water
 - Hydrology Output
 - Surface
 - Ground



125

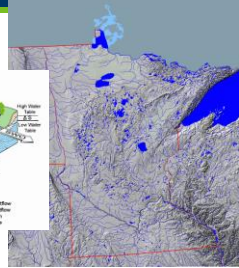
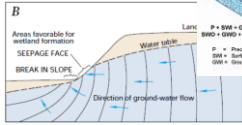
HGM Determination Key from WIMN RAM

<p>Key to the Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) Classes</p> <p>1. Wetland is associated with a perennially flowing stream, floodplain, OR fringing a lake or reservoir 2</p> <p>2. Wetland is associated with a perennially flowing stream or floodplain 3</p> <p>3. Stream is designated 1st or 2nd order in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD). 4</p> <p>4. Regular overbank flooding occurs (e.g., there is an apparent change in water regime or vegetation close to the channel compared to broader contiguous wetland) RIVERINE - Slope/ Perennial</p> <p>4. Regular overbank flooding typically does not occur (e.g., no apparent change in water regime or vegetation in broader contiguous wetland) 7</p> <p>3. Stream is designated 3rd order or higher on NHD and regular overbank flooding occurs 5</p> <p>5. Wetland lacks a closed topographic contour to retain water following overbank flooding conditions (i.e., the wetland is the floodplain) RIVERINE - Lower Perennial</p> <p>5. Wetland has a closed topographic contour such that floodwater is retained relative to the adjacent floodplain wetland following overbank flooding conditions (i.e., a depression when a broader floodplain) DEPRESSIONAL - Floodplain</p> <p>2. Wetland is fringing a lake or reservoir (e.g., natural lake in Public Water Inventory has Lentic Wet Adaptation Program in the continuous basin) 8</p> <p>6. Lake water elevation maintains wetland hydrology - surface water flows bi-directionally between the wetland and lake (contingent with A, C, or F water regimes) AND/OR the wetland consists of a floating mat (with a C or D water regime) LACUSTRINE FRINGE</p> <p>6. Wetland elevation above typical high water lake elevation and not consisting of a floating mat (typically wetlands with a D water regime that are not floating) 7</p>	<p>2. Wetland is not associated with a perennially flowing stream channel, floodplain, or fringing a lake/reservoir lake 7</p> <p>7. Wetland is within a closed elevation contour that allows for water accumulation (i.e., a depressional basin, includes beaver and manmade impoundments and excavations) 8</p> <p>8. Wetland has a predominantly D water regime, is not floating AND vertical accretion of soil has produced a flat surface ORGANIC SOIL FLAT</p> <p>8. Wetland has any other predominant water regime or has a D water regime, consists of a floating mat, and does not have significant vertical accretion of soil DEPRESSIONAL</p> <p>7. Wetland is not within a closed elevation contour 9</p> <p>9. Wetland is on a topographic slope (e.g., > 1% percent slope) 10</p> <p>10. Groundwater is the primary water source (e.g., helic eggonid/hydroid, groundwater indicator species) SLOPE - Groundwater</p> <p>10. Precipitation is the primary water source (e.g., groundwater indicator species not present) SLOPE - Surface Water</p> <p>9. Wetland is topographically flat (e.g., < 1% slope) 11</p> <p>11. Wetland has predominantly mineral soil (if organic surface layer present, < 20 cm in depth) MINERAL SOIL FLAT</p> <p>11. Wetland has predominantly organic soil (an organic surface layer > 20 cm present) 12</p> <p>12. Precipitation is the primary water source ORGANIC SOIL FLAT</p> <p>12. Groundwater is the primary water source (e.g., groundwater indicator species present) SLOPE - Groundwater</p>
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Parameters of HGM

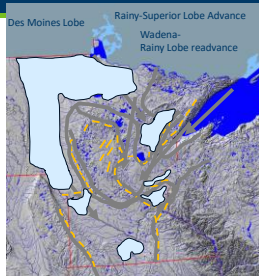
- **Geomorphology**- landscape position, surface shape
- **Hydrology**- water source and output
- **Hydraulics**- hydrodynamics



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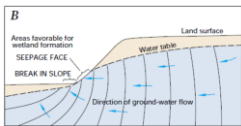
In MN, geomorphology is result of glacial geology

Recent Glacial Geology of MN



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Hydraulics- how water moves



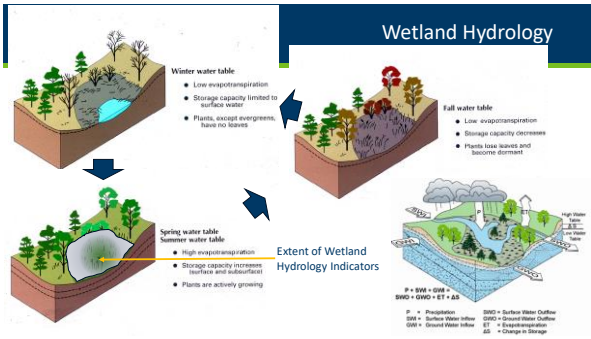
- Uni-directional
- Bi-directional
 - Estuarine and lacustrine fringe



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Hydrology of HGM Classes			
HGM Class (subclass)	Hydrology Inputs	Hydrology Outputs	Hydraulics
LEVINE	surface flow precipitation groundwater	surface flow evapotranspiration	unidirectional
DEPRESSIONAL- surface	surface flow precipitation	groundwater recharge evapotranspiration	unidirectional
DEPRESSIONAL- ground	groundwater precipitation	intermittent surface flow evapotranspiration groundwater recharge	unidirectional
SLOPED- surface	surface flow precipitation	surface flow evapotranspiration groundwater recharge	unidirectional
SLOPED- ground	groundwater surface water precipitation	surface flow evapotranspiration	unidirectional
MINERAL SOIL FLATS	precipitation intermittent surface flow	evapotranspiration intermittent surface flow	unidirectional
ORGANIC SOIL FLATS	groundwater precipitation	intermittent surface flow Evapotranspiration	unidirectional
ESTUARINE FRINGE	surface flow tidal exchange precipitation	tidal exchange surface flow Evapotranspiration	bidirectional
LACUSTRINE FRINGE	surface flow groundwater precipitation	return flow to lake surface flow evapotranspiration	bidirectional

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Different water levels leave different evidence



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Hydrology Indicator Groups



Group A – direct observation of water



Group B – evidence of flooding/ponding



Group C – evidence of current or recent saturation.



Group D – Landscape and veg. characteristics that indicate contemporary wetland conditions.

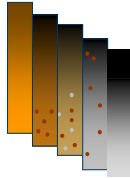
133

Hydric Soil Development

Hydric soils indicators develop in **anaerobic** conditions by the process of :

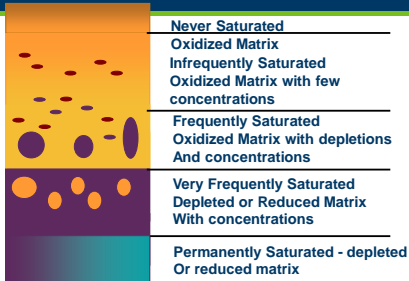
1. **Reduction** and Re-oxidation of Iron
2. **Organic Matter** Accumulation

Foundation of the Field Indicator Manual.



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Hydric Soil Development and Duration under Aquic Conditions



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Hydric Soil Developed in Inundated Conditions



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Hydric Soil Developed in Saturated Conditions



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Common Indicators for Depression Wetlands

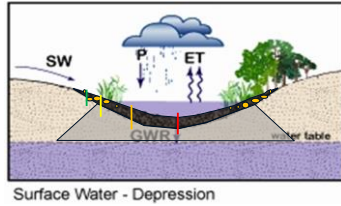
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Depression	Seasonally Flooded	A1- Surface Water, B1- Water Marks, B3- A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, Drift Deposits, B8- Sparsely Vegetated C1- Concave Surface, B6- Surface Soil Cracks, C2- Dry Season Water Table, D2- Geomorphic Position	A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface, F3- Loamy Mucky Mineral, F3- Depleted Matrix, F6- Redox Dark Surface, F8- Redox Depression, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S3- Sandy Redox
Depression	Saturated	A2- High Water Table, A3- Saturation, B2- Sediment Deposits, C3- Obsolete Rhizosphere along living roots, C7- Thin Muck Surface, C9- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery, D2- Geomorphic Position, D3- Field-measured Test	A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface, F3- Loamy Mucky Mineral, F3- Depleted Matrix, F6- Redox Dark Surface, F8- Redox Depression, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S3- Sandy Redox
Depression	Semi-permanently flooded (up to 5')	A1- Surface Water, A3- High Water Table, B1- Water Marks, B7- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery, B14- Tidal Aquatic Plant, D9- Gauge or Well Data	A1- Histosol, A3- Histric Epipedon, A2- Black Histc, A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface



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Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Depression Wetlands

- Histosol
- Thick dark surface
- Depleted below dark surface
- Redox dark surface



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Common Indicators for Sloped Wetlands

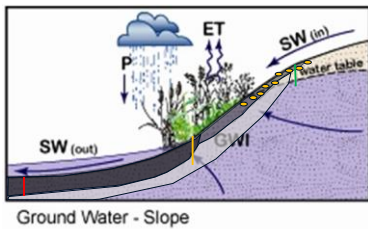
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Sloped	Saturated	A2- High Water Table, A3- Saturation, B15- Marl Deposits, C3- Oxidized Rhizospheres along living roots, C7- Thin Muck Surface, C9- Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery, D2- Geomorphic Position, D5- FAC-neutral Test	A1- Histosol, A2- Histic Epipedon, A3- Black Histic, A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface, F1- Loamy Mucky Mineral, F3- Depleted Matrix, F6- Redox Dark Surface, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S3-2" Mucky Peat, S5- Sandy Redox

Ground Water - Slope

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Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Sloped Wetlands


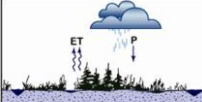

- Histosol
- Depleted below dark surface
- Redox Dark Surface



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Common Indicators for Mineral Flat Wetlands

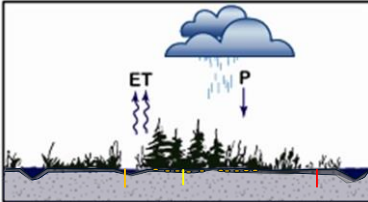
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Mineral Flat	All regimes except permanently flooded (Saturated most of growing season)	A2- High Water Table, A3- Saturation, B5- Iron Deposits, B9- Water-Stained Leaves, B10- Drainage Patterns, C2- Dry-Season Water Table, D2- Geomorphic Position, D3- Shallow Aquitard, D4- Microtopographic Relief, D5- FAC-neutral test	A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface, F1- Loamy Mucky Mineral, F3- Depleted Matrix, F6- Redox Dark Surface, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S3- 2" Mucky Peat, S5- Sandy Redox

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Cross Section of Hydric Soil in Mineral Flat Wetlands

- Depleted Below dark Surface
- Loamy mucky mineral
- Redox Dark Surface



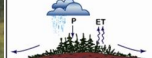


Surface Water - Extensive Flat

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Common Indicators for Organic Flat Wetlands

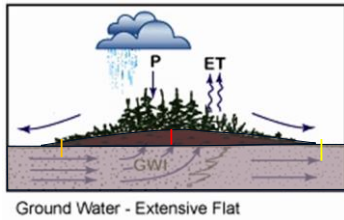
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Organic Flat	All regimes except permanently flooded (Saturated most of growing season)	A2- High Water Table, A3- Saturation, B5- Iron Deposits, B9- Water-Stained Leaves, B10- Drainage Patterns, C2- Dry-Season Water Table, D2- Geomorphic Position, D3- Shallow Aquitard, D4- Microtopographic Relief, D5- FAC-neutral test	A1- Histosol, A2- Histic Epipedon, A3- Black Histic, F1- Loamy Mucky Mineral, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S3- 2" Mucky Peat
Organic Flat Saturated		A2- High Water Table, A3- Saturation, C2- Dry-Season Water Table, D1- Stunted or Stressed Plants, D5- FAC-neutral test	A1- Histosol, A2- Histic Epipedon, A3- Black Histic

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Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Organic Flat Wetland

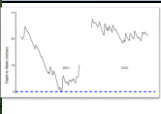
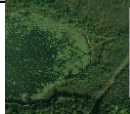
- **Histosol**
- **Histic Epipedon**
- **Loamy mucky mineral**



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Common Indicators for Lacustrine Fringe Wetlands

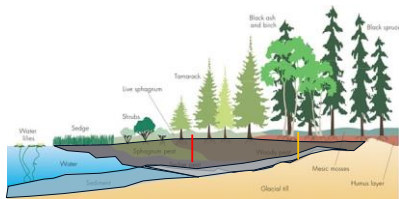
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Lacustrine Fringe	Semi permanently to permanently flooded (up to 8.2')	A1- Surface Water, A2- High Water Table, B1- Water Marks, B7- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery, B14- True Aquatic Plants, D9- Gauge or Well Data	A1- Histosol, A2- Histic Epipedon, A3- Black Histic, A11- Depleted Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface



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Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Lacustrine Fringe

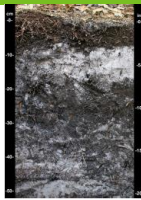
- **Histosol**
- **Thick Dark Surface**



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Common Indicators for Riverine Wetlands

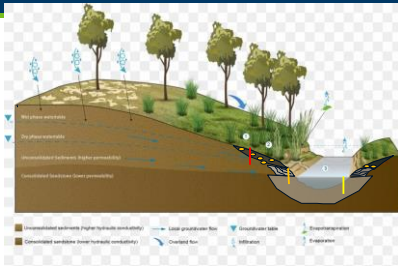
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Riverine	Temporary Flooded	B1- Water Marks, B2- Sediment Deposits, D3- Drift Deposits, B8- Sparcely Vegetated Concave Surface, B10- Drainage Patterns, C20 Dry Season Water Table, D2- Geomorphic Position	A5- Stratified Layers, F1- Loamy Mucky Mineral, F3- Depleted Matrix, F6- Redox Dark Surface, F8- Redox Depression, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S5- Sandy Redox



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Cross Section of Hydric Soils in Riverine Wetland

- Redox dark surface
- Stratified Layers
- Depleted or Gleyed Matrix



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What HGM Class?

- Water regime(s)?
- Hydrology Indicators?
- Soil Indicators?
- Plant Community?

HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
Riverine	Temporary Flooded	B1- Water Marks, B2- Sediment Deposits, D3- Drift Deposits, B8- Sparcely Vegetated Concave Surface, B10- Drainage Patterns, C20 Dry Season Water Table, D2- Geomorphic Position	A5- Stratified Layers, F1- Loamy Mucky Mineral, F3- Depleted Matrix, F6- Redox Dark Surface, F8- Redox Depression, S1- Sandy Mucky Mineral, S5- Sandy Redox



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What HGM Class?

- Water regime(s)?
- Hydrology Indicators?
- Soil Indicators?
- Plant Community?

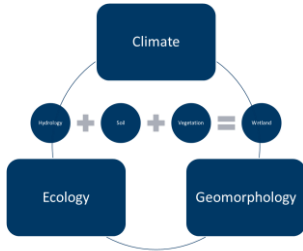
HGM Class	Typical Water Regimes	Hydrology Indicators Common to Water Regime	Soil Indicators Common to Water Regime
W	Semi-permanently flooded (up to 6")	A1- Surface Water, A2- High Water Table, B1- Water Marks, B2- Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery, B3- True Aquatic Plants, D1- Gauge or Well Data	A1- Histosol, A2- Hist. Epipedon, A3- Black Histc, A11- Depressed Below Dark Surface, A12- Thick Dark Surface



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Main points to consider

- HGM Class and subclasses are based on geomorphology, hydrology and hydraulics
- Hydrology indicators provide evidence of water regimes
- But...hydrology is the shortest-term evidence of wetland indicators
- Soil indicators correlate with hydrology indicators and provide further evidence of water regimes
- Water regimes correlate with plant communities...



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