

**Interim Regional  
Supplement to the Corps  
Wetland Delineation  
Manual**

# ARID WEST REGION

- Presentation highlights some concepts, procedures, changes, q's and a's
- Not intended as Wetland Delineation Training or advanced instruction for identification of hydric soil, hydrophytic vegetation or wetland hydrology
- During year long Interim Period request wetland determinations are evaluated by both:
  - Corps 87 Manual with current guidance
  - Corps 87 Manual with Regional Supplement
- Differences in wetland determinations delineations should be identified and evaluated

# WHY REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT

- National Academy of Sciences (1995) made recommendations to increase the regional sensitivity of wetland delineation methods
- 20-year-old Manual no longer reflects the state-of-the-science
- Regional Supplements to the Corps Wetland Delineation Manual are intended to improve the accuracy and efficiency of wetland delineation procedures

# REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT GOALS

- Bring the Corps Manual up to date with current knowledge and practice
- Not change wetland boundaries but increase clarity and certainty in wetland determination and boundary delineation
- Used to identify areas meeting the Corps/EPA definition of wetlands
- Not used for identification for Waters of US or to establish regulatory jurisdiction

# REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT CONTAINS

- Description of the region
- Regionalized indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, and wetland hydrology
- Guidance for dealing with disturbed or problem wetland situations in the region

# REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT - NATIONAL MANUAL

- Regional Supplement is designed for use with current National 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual
- Where differences between the two documents occur, the Regional Supplement takes precedence over the National Manual
- Corps Districts retain final authority over use and interpretation of National Manual and Regional Supplements

# REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT – NATIONAL MANUAL

**Table 1**  
**Sections of the Corps Manual replaced by this Regional Supplement for applications in the Arid West.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Replaced Portions of the Corps Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987)</b>	<b>Replacement Guidance (this Supplement)</b>
Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators	Paragraph 35, all subparts, and all references to specific indicators in Part IV.	Chapter 2
Hydric Soil Indicators	Paragraphs 44 and 45, all subparts, and all references to specific indicators in Part IV.	Chapter 3
Wetland Hydrology Indicators	Paragraph 49(b), all subparts, and all references to specific indicators in Part IV.	Chapter 4
Growing Season Definition	Glossary	Chapter 4, Growing Season; Glossary
Hydrology Standard for Highly Disturbed or Problematic Wetland Situations	Paragraph 48, including Table 5 and the accompanying User Note in the online version of the Manual	Chapter 5, Wetlands that Periodically Lack Indicators of Wetland Hydrology, Procedure item 3(g)

# FUTURE SUPPLEMENT/MANUAL CHANGES

- Amendments may be issued periodically in response to new scientific information
- Corps HQ's may provide updates and supplemental information between published versions
- Delineators should use most current version of supplement and manual
- An interagency National Advisory Team for Wetland Delineation has been established to review new data and make recommendations to Corps HQ's for changes
- Problems with use or results of the Regional Supplement should be brought to the attention of the local District

# ARID WEST REGION

- Arid west encompasses wide variety of landforms and ecosystems
- Common characteristic is predominantly dry climate with a long summer dry season
- Annual evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation across most of the region
- Arid West Region generally conforms to NRCS LRR's B, C and D

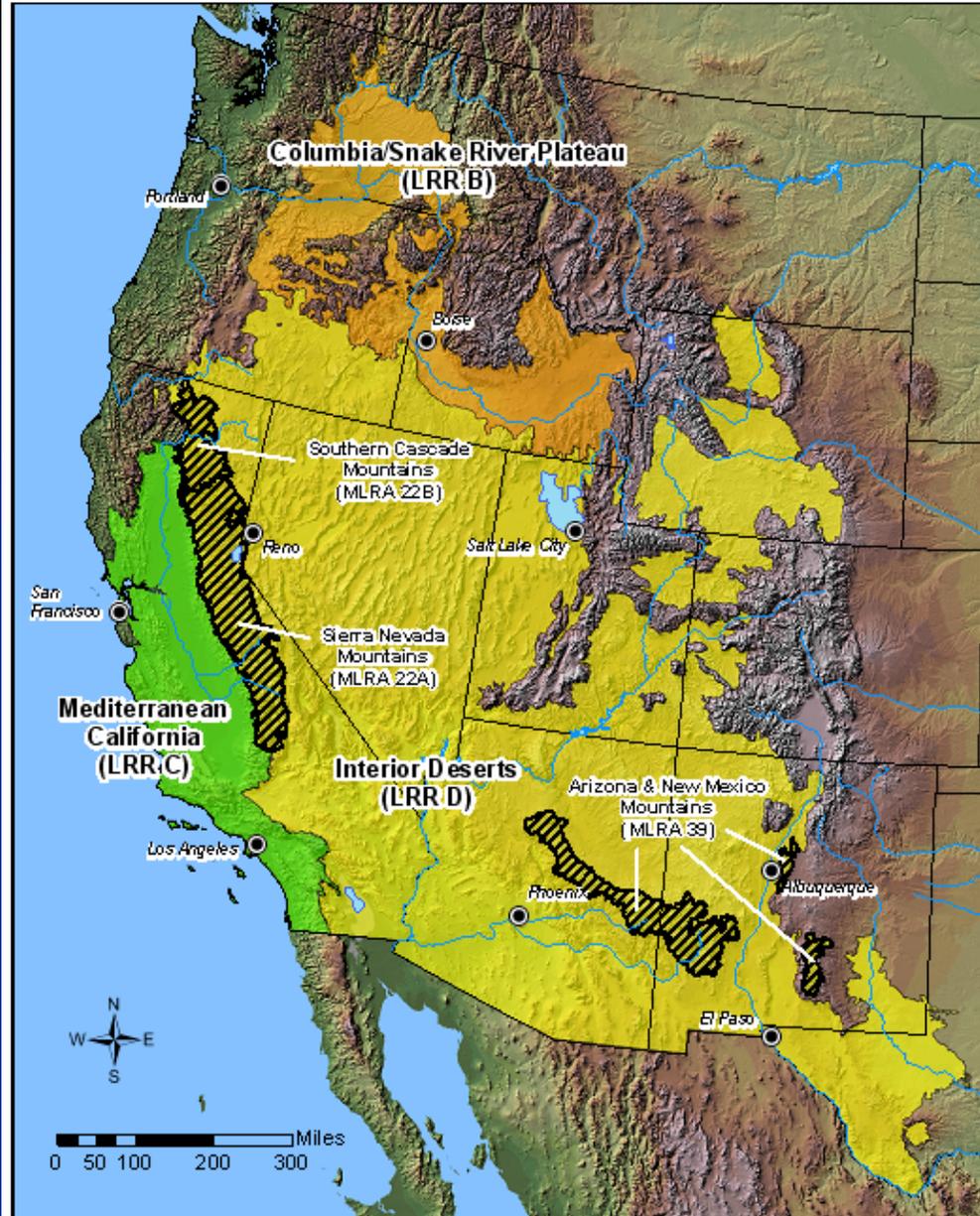
# ARID WEST REGION - SUBREGIONS

- Within the Arid Western Region there are three recognized sub-regions that are sufficiently different in climate, landforms, biogeography, and/or wetland characteristics to warrant separate consideration of wetland indicators and delineation guidance.
- Sub-regions include the Interior Deserts (LRR D), Columbia/Snake River Plateau (LRR B) and Mediterranean California (LRR C).
- Most indicators in the Regional Supplement are applicable across all sub-regions in the Arid West.

# ARID WEST REGION / SUBREGIONS



**Figure 1.** Approximate boundaries of the Arid West Region and subregions (LRR B, C, and D). This regional supplement is applicable throughout the highlighted area, including coastal areas, with the following exceptions: (1) the cross-hatched portions of LRR D comprising the Sierra Nevada Mountains (MLRA 22A), the Southern Cascade Mountains (MLRA 22B), and the Arizona and New Mexico Mountains (MLRA 26) and (2) other embayled mountain ranges not indicated on the map that support predominantly coniferous forests with interspersed meadows, shrublands, and riparian woodlands above and including the ponderosa pine zone. See text and Table 2 for details.



**Figure 1.** Approximate boundaries of the Arid West Region and subregions (LRR B, C, and D). This regional supplement is applicable throughout the highlighted areas, including coastal areas, with the following exceptions: (1) the cross-hatched portions of LRR D comprising the Sierra Nevada Mountains (MLRA 22A), the Southern Cascade Mountains (MLRA 22B), and the Arizona and New Mexico Mountains (MLRA 39) and (2) other embedded mountain ranges not indicated on the map that support predominantly coniferous forests with interspersed meadows, shrublands, and riparian woodlands above and including the ponderosa pine zone. See text and Table 2 for details.

# ARID WEST–WESTERN MOUNTAINS BOUNDARY

- Arid West is surrounded by and interspersed with portions of Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast
- Areas within LRR B, C and D that are excluded from Arid West include:
  - + Sierra Nevada Mountains – MLRA 22A
  - + Southern Cascade Mountains – MLRA 22B
  - + Arizona and New Mexico Mountains – MLRA 39
  - + other mountain ranges scattered throughout the west that support mainly coniferous forests on the lower slopes, alpine tundra at the highest elevations, and open coniferous woodlands, shrublands, meadows and hardwood riparian woodlands in the valleys, down to the lower elevation limit of the Ponderosa Pine Zone or its local equivalent

# USE PROPER REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT

- Decision on which regional supplement to use at a particular site should be based on landscape and site conditions rather than solely on map location
- Map is generalized and does not include small areas of Western Mountains or areas with Arid West conditions outside LRR's B, C and D
- If in doubt contact local District to resolve uncertainty before doing the work

# COMPARISON OF ARID WEST-WESTERN MOUNTAIN GENERAL CONDITIONS

**Table 2**  
Comparison of site characteristics for application of the Arid West Regional Supplement or the Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Regional Supplement

Site Characteristics	Arid West Regional Supplement	Western Mountains, Valleys and Coast Regional Supplement
Climate	Generally hot and dry with a long summer dry season. Average annual precipitation mostly <15 in. (380 mm) except along the coast. Most precipitation falls as rain.	Cooler and more humid, with a shorter dry season. Average annual precipitation mostly >20 in. (500 mm). Much of the annual precipitation falls as snow, particularly at higher elevations.
Vegetation	Little or no forest cover at the same elevation as the site and, if present, usually dominated by pinyon pine ( <i>P. monophylla</i> or <i>P. edulis</i> ), junipers ( <i>Juniperus</i> ), cottonwoods ( <i>Populus</i> ), willows ( <i>Salix</i> ), or hardwoods (e.g., <i>Quercus</i> , <i>Platanus</i> ). Landscape mostly dominated by grasses and shrubs (e.g., sagebrush ( <i>Artemisia</i> ), rabbitbrush ( <i>Chrysothamnus</i> ), bitterbrush ( <i>Purshia</i> ), and creosote bush ( <i>Larrea</i> )). Halophytes (e.g., <i>Allenrolfea</i> , <i>Salicornia</i> , <i>Distichlis</i> ) present in saline areas.	Forests at comparable elevations in the local area dominated by conifers (e.g., spruce ( <i>Picea</i> ), fir ( <i>Abies</i> ), hemlock ( <i>Tsuga</i> ), Douglas-fir ( <i>Pseudotsuga</i> ), coast redwood ( <i>Sequoia</i> ), or pine ( <i>Pinus</i> ) except pinyon) or aspen ( <i>Populus tremuloides</i> ). West of the Cascades, Oregon ash ( <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> ) and bigleaf maple ( <i>Acer macrophyllum</i> ) often dominate. Open areas generally dominated by grasses, sedges, shrubs (e.g., willows or alders ( <i>Alnus</i> )), or alpine tundra.
Soils	Mostly dry, poorly developed, low in organic matter content, and high in carbonates. Soils sometimes highly alkaline. Surface salt crusts and efflorescences common in low areas.	Generally better developed, higher in organic matter content, and low in carbonates. Surface salt features are less common except in geothermal areas.
Hydrology	Drainage basins often lacking outlets. Temporary ponds (often saline), salt lakes, and ephemeral streams predominate. Water tables often perched. Major streams and rivers flow through but have headwaters outside the Arid West.	Streams and rivers often perennial. Open drainages with many natural, freshwater lakes. Water tables often continuous with deeper groundwater. Region serves as the headwaters of the major streams and rivers of the western United States.

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# HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION

# ARID WEST REGIONAL SUPPLEMENT VEGETATION – DEFINITION

- Hydrophytic vegetation is defined as the community of macrophytes that occurs in areas where inundation or soil saturation is either permanent or of sufficient frequency and duration to exert a controlling influence on the plant species present

# VEGETATION- ARID WEST COMMON PROBLEMS

- Disturbance or altered conditions may change the hydrophytic composition and/or status of a vegetation community
- Halophytes and Phreatophytes
- Shifts in presence and species composition of vegetation especially annuals caused by seasonal weather patterns or climatic extremes
- See Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation when indicators of hydrophytic vegetation may be misleading due to disturbance, alteration, problems or abnormal conditions

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# VEGETATION- ARID WEST SPECIES INDICATORS

- Species wetland indicator status found in Reed (1988)
- Only five basic levels of wetland indicator status (Olb, FacW, Fac, FacU and Upl) are used in determinations. No plus (+) or minus (-) modifiers are used

# VEGETATION- ARID WEST PLANT LISTS



Figure 2-1. Plant list regional boundaries (red lines) currently used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory, in the Arid West.



**Figure 2-1.** Plant list regional boundaries (red lines) currently used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory, in the Arid West.

# VEGETATION- ARID WEST SAMPLING

- All sampling techniques must be usable in format of DT or PI
- Percent cover is the preferred measure of abundance
- Arid west strata include tree, sapling/shrub, herbaceous and woody vine
- Change from Corps Manual: 1) Short woody shrubs placed in sapling/shrub 2) Herb stratum includes only non-woody species; 3) A stratum is not counted unless there is at least 5% total plant cover; and 4) If less than 5% total plant cover for a stratum include in next lower stratum

# VEGETATION - ARID WEST INDICATORS

## 1

- Dominance Test – is the basic hydrophytic vegetation indicator and should be applied in all wetland determinations. A hydrophytic plant community exists when >50% of dominant species from across all strata are Fac or wetter.
- Prevalence Index – used when plant community fails dominance test but has hydric soil and wetland hydrology. PI includes all species within community not just dominants. A PI number of 3 or less is a hydrophytic plant community.

# VEGETATION – ARID WEST INDICATORS

## 2

- Morphologic Indicators – used when plant community has failed the Dominance Test and PI but has hydric soil and wetland hydrology. The indicator status of a plant with morphologic adaptations to wetland conditions is reconsidered and the Dominance Test and PI are recalculated.
- If no indicator is present than the hydrophytic vegetation is absent UNLESS hydric soils and wetland hydrology are present and the site meets the requirements for a problematic wetland situation

# VEGETATION- ARID WEST

## DOMINANCE TEST

- $> 50\%$  of the dominant plant species across all strata are rated as Obl, FacW and Fac
- Use 50/20 rule to identify dominant species from each stratum
- Dominant species in all strata are treated equally regardless of absolute cover value
- Species that are dominant in two strata are counted twice

# VEGETATION- ARID WEST

## PREVALENCE INDEX

- Prevalence Index value of 3.0 or less is a hydrophytic plant community
- PI is a weighted average of indicator status for all species in a sample plot where indicator status is converted to a numeric code (Obl = 1, FacW = 2, Fac = 3, FacU = 4, and Upl = 5)
- Cover estimates for species are summed across strata
- Use of PI requires species identification of at least 80% of the total vegetative cover and requires that identified species have an assigned indicator status (Reed 1988)
- Used on sites where indicators of hydric soils and wetland hydrology are present but the vegetation initially fails the Dominance Test

# VEGETATION – ARID WEST

## MORPHOLOGICAL ADAPTATIONS

- Dominance Test or Prevalence Index can be recalculated if the indicator status of a species is reconsidered because of plant morphologic adaptation for life in wetlands
- Common morphologic adaptations in the arid west include but are not limited to adventitious roots and shallow root systems
- Wetland morphologic adaptations occurring on FacU species indicate those individuals are functioning as hydrophytes in that setting
- Consider morphologic adaptations on sites with hydric soils and wetland hydrology but no hydrophytic plant community

# VEGETATION-MANUAL/ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT

## HYDROPHYTIC PLANT COMMUNITY

87 MANUAL	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
> 50 % of the dominant species across all strata are OBL, FACW, or FAC (excluding FAC- )	Dominance Test (50/20 Rule): > 50% of dominant species across all strata are OBL, FACW or FAC (including FAC-)
Not used	Prevalence Index: PI equals 3 or less. Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present
Visual observation of plant species growing in areas of prolonged inundation and/or soil saturation	Not an indicator. See Difficult Situations
Morphological Adaptations	Morphological Adaptations with presence of hydric soil and wetland hydrology
Technical Literature	Not an Indicator. See Difficult Situations
Physiological Adaptations	Not Used
Reproductive Adaptations	Not Used

# VEGETATION SECTION – DATA SHEET

## 87 MANUAL

### VEGETATION

<u>Dominant Plant Species</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Dominant Plant Species</u>	<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Indicator</u>
1. _____	_____	_____	9. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	10. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	11. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	12. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	13. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	14. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	15. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____	16. _____	_____	_____
Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW or FAC (excluding FAC-). _____					
Remarks:					



# VEGETATION

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Use scientific names.)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b>																
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: _____ (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A/B)																
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
Total Cover: _____				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b>  <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Total % Cover of:</td> <td style="width: 50%; border-bottom: 1px solid black;">Multiply by:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OBL species _____</td> <td>x 1 = _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACW species _____</td> <td>x 2 = _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FAC species _____</td> <td>x 3 = _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FACU species _____</td> <td>x 4 = _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UPL species _____</td> <td>x 5 = _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Column Totals: _____ (A)</td> <td>_____ (B)</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Prevalence Index = B/A = _____</td> </tr> </table>	Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	OBL species _____	x 1 = _____	FACW species _____	x 2 = _____	FAC species _____	x 3 = _____	FACU species _____	x 4 = _____	UPL species _____	x 5 = _____	Column Totals: _____ (A)	_____ (B)	Prevalence Index = B/A = _____	
Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:																			
OBL species _____	x 1 = _____																			
FACW species _____	x 2 = _____																			
FAC species _____	x 3 = _____																			
FACU species _____	x 4 = _____																			
UPL species _____	x 5 = _____																			
Column Totals: _____ (A)	_____ (B)																			
Prevalence Index = B/A = _____																				
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u>																				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
Total Cover: _____																				
<u>Herb Stratum</u>																				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
Total Cover: _____																				
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u>																				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____																	
Total Cover: _____																				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____		% Cover of Biotic Crust _____																		
Remarks:				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Dominance Test is >50% <input type="checkbox"/> Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) <input type="checkbox"/> Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)																
				<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.  <b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes _____ No _____																

# HYDRIC SOIL

# HYDRIC SOIL - INTRODUCTION 1

- Hydric soils are defined as soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part
- Hydric soils generally exhibit characteristic morphologies resulting from biogeochemical processes such as organic matter accumulation and the reduction, translocation, and accumulation of iron and other elements

# HYDRIC SOIL - INTRODUCTION 2

- Arid West is adopting regional indicators found in NTCHS Field Indicators for Hydric Soils
- Indicators are not intended to replace or relieve requirements contained in the definition of hydric soil
- The absence of a listed indicator does not preclude the soil from being considered hydric

# HYDRIC SOIL- DOCUMENT SITE CONDITIONS

- Before hydric soil determination can be made site conditions should be understood
- Arid west data form requests information on site conditions including:
  - hydrology – observed and antecedent conditions
  - slope- surface drainage
  - slope shape- concave, convex, flat, convergent
  - landform- terrace, floodplain
  - soil material- presence of aquatard, texture
  - vegetation- condition, site comparative species composition and abundance

# HYDRIC SOIL – FIELD INDICATORS 1

- All Soils – indicators in A series refer to soils with any USDA soil texture
- Sandy Soils – indicators in S series refer to soils layers with USDA soil texture of fine sandy loam and coarser
- Loamy and Clayey Soils – indicators in F series refer to soils layers with USDA texture of loamy very fine sand and finer
- Problem and Test Indicators – for use on Problem Soil situations when hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are present but soil lacks an indicator

# HYDRIC SOIL – FIELD INDICATORS 2

- For all indicators unless otherwise indicated, all mineral layers above any of the indicators must have a dominant chroma of 2 or less, or the layer(s) with dominant chroma of more than 2 must be less than 6 inches thick to meet the hydric soil indicator. Nodules and concretions are not considered to be redox concentrations unless otherwise noted
- Both sandy layers and loamy or clayey layers may be present in the same soil profile

# ARID WEST REGIONAL HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS

A1 Histosol	S1 Sandy Mucky Mineral	F1- Loamy Mucky Mineral	+ * A9 1 cm Muck
A2 Histic Epipedon	S4 Sandy Gleyed Matrix	F2 Loamy Gleyed Matrix	+ *** A10 2 cm Muck
A3 Black Histic	S5 Sandy Redox	F3 Depleted Matrix	+ F18 Reduced Vertic
A4 Hydrogen Sulfide		F6 Redox Dark Surface	+ TF2 Red Parent Material
* A5 Stratified Layer		F7 Depleted Dark Surface	
** A9 1 cm Muck		F8 Redox Depressions	
A11 Depleted Below Dark Surface		F9 Vernal Pools	
A12 Thick Dark Surface			
* applicable to LRR C	** applicable to LRR D	*** applicable to LRR B	+ Problem Soil Indicator

# HYDRIC SOIL - MANUAL / ARID WEST CHANGES NON-SANDY SOIL 1

87 MANUAL	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
Organic Soil (Histosol)	A1 Histosol A3 Black Histic
Histic Epipedon	A2 Histic Epipedon A3 Black Histic
Sulfidic Material	A4 Hydrogen Sulfide
Aquic or Peraquic Moisture Regime	None

# HYDRIC SOIL – MANUAL / ARID WEST CHANGES NON-SANDY SOIL 2

87 MANUAL	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
Reducing Soil Conditions	General Procedure Used with Problem Hydric Soil F-18 Reduced Vertic
Soil Color (1) gleyed soils (2) soil with bright mottles and /or matrix with low chroma	(1) F2 Loamy Gleyed Matrix (2) F3 Depleted Matrix (2) F9 Vernal Pools
Soil appearing on Hydric Soil List	None
Iron and Manganese Concentrations	None

# HYDRIC SOIL – MANUAL / ARID WEST CHANGES SANDY SOIL 1

87 Manual	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
Organic Soil (Histosol)	A1 Histosol A3 Black Histic
Histic Epipedon	A2 Histic Epipedon A3 Black Histic
Sulfidic Material	A4 Hydrogen Sulfide
Aquic or Peraquic Moisture Regime	None
Reducing Soil Conditions	Used with Problem Hydric Soil

# HYDRIC SOIL – MANUAL / ARID WEST CHANGES SANDY SOIL 2

87 Manual	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
Iron and Manganese Concentrations	None
High Organic Matter Content in the Surface Horizon	A9 1cm Muck A10 2 cm Muck S1 Sandy Mucky Mineral
Streaking of Subsurface Horizons by Organic Matter	S6 Stripped Matrix
Organic Pans	None
Soils Appearing on Hydric Soil List	None

# HYDRIC SOIL – 87MANUAL / ARID WEST CHANGES PROBLEM SOIL

87 Manual	Arid West Supplement
Sandy Soil	A5 Stratified Layers S4 Sandy Gleyed Matrix
Soils with Thick A Horizons	A11 Depleted Below Dark Surface A12 Thick Dark Surface F6 Redox Dark Surface F7 Depleted Dark Surface F18 Reduced Vertic
Soil with Red Parent Material	F8 Redox Depressions F9 Vernal Pools TF2 Red Parent Material
Soil with Low-Chroma Parent Material	S4 Sandy Gleyed Matrix

# SOIL SECTION – DATA SHEET 87

## SOILS

Map Unit Name  
(Series and Phase): \_\_\_\_\_

Drainage Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Field Observations

Taxonomy (Subgroup): \_\_\_\_\_

Confirm Mapped Type? Yes No

### Profile Description:

Depth (inches)	Horizon	Matrix Color (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Colors (Munsell Moist)	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

### Hydric Soil Indicators:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histosol                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Concretions  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon             | <input type="checkbox"/> High Organic Content in Surface Layer in Sandy Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic Odor               | <input type="checkbox"/> Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aquic Moisture Regime       | <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on Local Hydric Soils List                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reducing Conditions         | <input type="checkbox"/> Listed on National Hydric Soils List                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low-Chroma Colors | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)                           |

Remarks:



# HYDRIC SOIL – A1-HISTOSOL

- histosol except folists
- all arid west sub-regions
- 16 inches or more of the upper 32 inches as organic soil material, 12% to 18% or more carbon by weight depending on clay content

# A1 – Histosol



Figure 3-1. Indicator A1 (Histosols). In this example, muck (sapric soil material) is greater than 3 ft (0.9 m) thick.

# HYDRIC SOIL – A2-HISTIC EPIPEDON

- a histic epipedon (generally, an organic surface layer underlain by mineral soil material with C 2 or less
- all arid west sub-regions
- generally, a surface horizon that is 8 inch or more thick and composed of organic soil material. Aquic conditions or artificial drainage are required but aquic conditions can be assumed if indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are present.

## A2 HISTIC EPIPEDON



Figure 3-2. Organic surface layer less than 16 in. (40.6 cm) thick.

# HYDRIC SOIL – A3-BLACK HISTIC

- a layer of peat, mucky peat, or muck 8 inches or more thick starting within 6 inches of the soil surface; has a hue of 10YR or yellower, value 3 or less, and chroma 1 or less; and is underlain by mineral soil material with C 2 or less
- all arid west sub-regions
- does not require proof of aquic conditions or artificial drainage

## A3 – BLACK HISTIC



Figure 3-3. Black organic surface layer greater than 11 in. (28 cm) thick.

# HYDRIC SOIL – A4-HYDROGEN SULFIDE

- hydrogen sulfide (rotten egg) odor with 12 inches of the soil surface
- all arid west sub-regions
- hydrogen sulfide odors occur in soils that have reduced sulfur. This indicator is typically found in permanently inundated or saturated soils

# HYDRIC SOIL – A5-STRATIFIED LAYERS

- several stratified layers starting within 6 inches of the soil surface. One or more of these layers has V 3 or less with C 1 or less and/or it is muck, mucky peat, peat or mucky modified mineral texture. The remaining layers have C 2 or less.
- applicable to LLR C
- Individual strata are typically less than 1 inch thick. Alluvial soils may have stratified layers buried below the required depths or not meet the V and/or C requirements and are not considered hydric. Stratified layers may occur in any texture of soil material.

# A5 – STRATIFIED LAYER



Figure 3-4. Stratified layers in loamy material.



Figure 3-5. Stratified layers in sandy material. Scale in inches.

# HYDRIC SOIL – A9-1 cm Muck

- a layer of muck 0.5 inches or more thick with V 3 or less and C 1 or less starting within 6 inches of the soil surface
- applicable in LRR D; test indicator in LRR C
- typically muck layer is at the surface but it can be within 6 inches. Muck is sapric soil material with at least 12% to 18% carbon. Sapric soil material has undergone sufficient decomposition to limit recognition of plant parts (< 15% after rubbing).

# HYDRIC SOIL – A11-DEPLETED BELOW DARK SURFACE

- a layer with a depleted or gleyed matrix that has 60 % or more C 2 or less starting within 12 inches of the soil surface that has a minimum thickness of either 6 inches or 2in if the two inches consists of fragmental soil material.
- Loamy/clayey layers above the depleted or gleyed matrix must have a V 3 or less and C 2 or less. Sandy layers above the depleted or gleyed matrix must have V 3 or less, C 1 or less, and at least 70 % of the visible soil particles must be covered, coated, or similarly masked with organic material.
- all arid west sub-regions
- frequently occurs in Mollisols, umbric and dark ochric epipedons. Depleted matrix requires 2% redox concentrations for matrix with V4 C1, V4 C2 and V5 C2.

# A11 – DEPLETED BELOW DARK SURFACE



Figure 3-6. Depleted matrix starts immediately below the black surface layer (approximately 10 in. (25 cm)).

# HYDRIC SOIL – A12-THICK DARK SURFACE

- a layer at least 6 inches thick with a depleted or gleyed matrix that has 60% or more C 2 or less starting below 12 inches of the surface. The layers above the depleted or gleyed matrix must have a V 2.5 or less and C 1 or less to a depth of at least 12 inches and V 3 or less and C 1 or less in any remaining layers above the depleted or gleyed matrix. Any sandy material above the depleted or gleyed matrix must have at least 70% of the visible soil particles covered, coated, or similarly masked with organic material.
- all arid west sub-regions
- the soil has a depleted or gleyed matrix below a black or very dark gray surface layer 12 inches or more thick. Typically found in overthickened soils in concave landscape positions. Depleted matrix requires 2% redox concentrations for matrix with V4 C1, V4 C2 and V5 C2.

## A12 – THICK DARK SURFACE



Figure 3-7. Deep observations may be necessary to identify the depleted or gleyed matrix below the dark surface layer.

# HYDRIC SOIL – S1-Sandy Mucky Mineral

- a mucky modified sandy mineral layer 2 inches or more thick starting with 6 inches of the soil surface.
- all arid west sub-regions
- for sandy soil, mucky modifier requires at least 5% but not more than 12 % carbon when there is 0% clay.

# S1 – SANDY MUCKY MINERAL



**Figure 3-8.** The mucky modified sandy layer is approximately 3 in. (7.5 cm) thick. Scale in inches on the right side of ruler.

# HYDRIC SOIL – S4-SANDY GLEYED MATRIX

- a gleyed matrix that occupies 60% or more of a layer starting within 6 inches of the soil surface
- all arid west sub-regions
- no minimum thickness of gleying is required.
- Gleyed matrix has one of the following combinations of hue, value and chroma and the soil is not glauconitic:
  - 10Y, 5GY, 10GY, 10G, 5BG, 10BG, 5B, 10B, or 5PB with V4 or more and C1 ; or
  - 5G with V4 or more and C1 or C2; or
  - N with V4 or more

## S4 – SANDY GLEYED MATRIX



Figure 3-9. In this example, the gleyed matrix begins at the soil surface.

# HYDRIC SOIL – S5-Sandy Redox

- a layer starting within 6 inches of the soil surface that is at least 4 inches thick and has a matrix with 60% or more C2 or less with 2% or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations as soft masses or pore linings.
- all arid west sub-regions
- A key describing Contrast is in the Glossary (Appendix A) of Arid West Supplement

## S5 – SANDY REDOX



Figure 3-10. Redox features in this soil begin at about 2 in.

# HYDRIC SOIL – S6-STRIPPED MATRIX

- a layer starting within 6 inches of the soil surface in which iron/manganese oxides and/or organic matter have been stripped from the matrix exposing the primary base colors of the soil material. The stripped areas and translocated oxides and/or organic matter form a faint, diffuse splotchy pattern of two or more colors. The stripped zones are 10% or more of the volume; they are rounded and approximately 0.5 to 1 inch in diameter.
- all arid west sub-regions
- No specific color requirements for this indicator. The mobilization and translocation of the oxides and/or organic matter is the important process and should result in splotchy coated and uncoated areas.

## S6 – STRIPPED MATRIX



Figure 3-11. The layer stripped of organic matter begins beneath the dark surface layer (approximately 2 in. (5 cm)).

# HYDRIC SOIL – F1-LOAMY MUCKY MINERAL

- a layer of mucky modified loamy or clayey soil material 4 inches or more thick starting within 6 inches of the soil surface
- all arid west sub-regions
- requires between 8% and 18% carbon depending on clay content. May be difficult to distinguish in the field

# HYDRIC SOIL – F2-LOAMY GLEYED MATRIX

- a gleyed matrix that occupies 60% or more of a layer starting within 12 inches of the soil surface
- all arid west sub-regions
- gleyed matrix only needs to be present within 12 inches of the surface. Soils with gleyed matrices are saturated for significant periods; therefore no minimum thickness of gleyed layer is required

# F2 – LOAMY GLEYED MATRIX



Figure 3-12. This gleyed matrix begins at the soil surface.

# HYDRIC SOIL – F3-DEPLETED MATRIX

- a layer that has a depleted matrix with 60% or more C 2 or less and that has a minimum thickness of either 2 inches entirely within the upper 6 inches of the soil or 6 inches and starts within 10 inches of the soil surface
- all arid west sub-regions
- this is a common indicator. Redox concentrations including iron/manganese sort masses or pore linings, or both, are required in soils with matrix V/C of 4/1, 4/2 and 5/2. Redox concentrations are not required for soils with matrix V5 C1 or V6 C1 or 2. Low chroma matrix must be caused by wetness and not a relict or parent material feature.

# F3 – DEPLETED MATRIX



Figure 3-13. Indicator F3, Depleted Matrix. Redox concentrations are present within a low-chroma matrix



Figure 3-14. Redox concentrations at 2 in. (5 cm).

# HYDRIC SOIL – F6-REDOX DARK SURFACE

- entirely within the upper 12 inches of the soil surface, a layer at least 4 inches thick that has: 1) a matrix V 3 or less and C 1 or less and 2% or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations as soft masses or pore linings; or 2) matrix V 3 or less and C 2 or less and 5% or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations as soft masses or pore linings
- all arid west sub-regions
- this is a common indicator. Redox concentrations in high organic content soils with dark surfaces are often difficult to observe.

## F6 – REDOX DARK SURFACE



Figure 3-15. Redox features can be small and difficult to see within a dark soil layer.

# HYDRIC SOIL – F7-DEPLETED DARK SURFACE

- entirely within the upper 12 inches of the mineral soil, redox depletions with V 5 or more and C 2 or less in a layer that is at least 4 inches thick and has: 1) a matrix V 3 or less and C 1 or less and 10% or more redox depletions; or 2) matrix V 3 or less and C 2 or less and 20% redox depletions
- all arid west sub-regions
- redox depletions are usually associated with redox concentrations as soft masses or pore linings within or surrounding the depletions. E and calcic horizons are not depletions but may be mixed into the surface layers.

## F7 – DEPLETED DARK SURFACE



Figure 3-16. Redox depletions (lighter colored areas) scattered within the darker matrix.

# HYDRIC SOIL – F8-REDOX DEPRESSIONS

- in closed depressions subject to ponding, 5<sup>0</sup>% or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations occurring as soft masses or pore linings in a layer that is 2 inches or more thick and is entirely within the upper 6 inches
- all arid west sub-regions
- indicator occurs on depressional landforms ( e.g. vernal pools, playa lakes) but not microdepressions on convex landscapes. Closed depressions often occur within flats or floodplain landscapes. There are no color requirements for the soil matrix.

## F8 – REDOX DEPRESSIONS



Figure 3-17. In this example, the layer of redox concentrations begins at the soil surface and is slightly more than 2 in. (5 cm) thick.

# HYDRIC SOIL – F9-VERNAL POOLS

- in closed depressions that are subject to ponding, presence of a depleted matrix with 60% or more C 2 or less in a layer 2 inches or more thick entirely within the upper 6 inches in the soil
- all arid west sub-regions
- typically this indicator occurs at the soil surface and is found in landscape positions that collect water and have restrictive layers that do not allow water to move downward through the soil. Redox concentrations are required for V 4 C 1 and 2 or V 5 C 2.

## F9 – VERNAL POOLS



Figure 3-18. Inundation in a vernal pool.

# HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS FOR PROBLEM SOILS

## A9-1cm MUCK

- a layer of muck 0.5 inches or more thick with a V 3 or less and C 1 or less starting within 6 inches of the soil surface
- for use with problem soils in LRR C
- sapric material is usually a black surface layer that feels greasy and has no grit when rubbed. 12% to 18% carbon with sufficient decomposition to limit recognition of plant remains

# HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS FOR PROBLEM SOILS A10-2cm MUCK

- a layer of muck 0.75 inches or more thick with V 3 or less and C 1 or less starting within 6 inches of the soil surface
- for use with problem soils in LRR B
- sapric material is usually a black surface layer that feels greasy and has not grit when rubbed. 12% to 18% carbon with sufficient decomposition to limit recognition of plant remains

# HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS FOR PROBLEM SOILS

## F18-REDUCED VERTIC

- in vertisols and vertic intergrades, a positive reaction to alpha, alpha-dipyridyl that:
  - a) the dominant (60% or more) condition of a layer at least 4 inches thick within the upper 12 inches or at least 2 inches thick within the upper 6 inches of the mineral or muck soil surface;
  - b) occurs for at least 7 consecutive days and 28 cumulative days, and
  - c) occurs during a normal or drier season and month
- for use with problem soils in all arid west sub-regions
- These soils usually have a thick dark surface horizon but indicators A11, A12 and F6 are often lacking

# HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS FOR PROBLEM SOILS

## TF2-RED PARENT MATERIAL

- in parent material with a hue of 7.5YR or redder. A layer at least 4 inches thick with a matrix V and C of 4 or less and 2% or more redox depletions and/or redox concentrations occurring as soft masses or pore linings. The layer is entirely within 12 inches of the soil surface. The minimum thickness requirement is 2 inches if the layer is the mineral surface layer.
- for use in problem soils in all arid west sub-regions
- redox features that are most noticeable in red material include redox depletions and soft manganese masses that are black or dark reddish black

# HYDRIC SOIL - USE OF EXISTING SOIL DATA

- Soil Surveys – in arid west vary in mapping scale and ground truthing. Inclusions in mapped units are common. Soil Survey data is not site specific and does not preclude the need for on-site evaluation
- Hydric Soil List – hydric soil list should be used to indicate that hydric soils will likely be found in an area but contain errors and inclusions of non-hydric inclusions. Local Hydric Soil Lists are preferred because they are more current and reflect local variation in soil properties.

# HYDRIC SOIL CONTRAST DETERMINATION

Table A1 Tabular key for contrast determinations using Munsell notation					
Hues are the same ( $\Delta h = 0$ )			Hues differ by 2 ( $\Delta h = 2$ )		
$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast	$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast
0	$\leq 1$	Faint	0	0	Faint
0	2	Distinct	0	1	Distinct
0	3	Distinct	0	$\geq 2$	Prominent
0	$\geq 4$	Prominent	1	$\leq 1$	Distinct
1	$\leq 1$	Faint	1	$\geq 2$	Prominent
1	2	Distinct	$\geq 2$	—	Prominent
1	3	Distinct			
1	$\geq 4$	Prominent			
$\leq 2$	$\leq 1$	Faint			
$\leq 2$	2	Distinct			
$\leq 2$	3	Distinct			
$\leq 2$	$\geq 4$	Prominent			
3	$\leq 1$	Distinct			
3	2	Distinct			
3	3	Distinct			
3	$\geq 4$	Prominent			
$\geq 4$	—	Prominent			
Hues differ by 1 ( $\Delta h = 1$ )			Hues differ by 3 or more ( $\Delta h \geq 3$ )		
$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast	$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast
0	$\leq 1$	Faint	Color contrast is prominent, except for low chroma and value.		Prominent
0	2	Distinct			
0	$\geq 3$	Prominent			
1	$\leq 1$	Faint			
1	2	Distinct			
1	$\geq 3$	Prominent			
2	$\leq 1$	Distinct			
2	2	Distinct			
2	$\geq 3$	Prominent			
$\geq 3$	—	Prominent			
<p>Note: If both colors have values of <math>\leq 3</math> and chromas of <math>\leq 2</math>, the color contrast is <i>Faint</i> (regardless of the difference in hue).</p> <p>Adapted from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (2002)</p>					

**Table A1**  
**Tabular key for contrast determinations using Munsell notation**

<i>Hues are the same (<math>\Delta h = 0</math>)</i>			<i>Hues differ by 2 (<math>\Delta h = 2</math>)</i>		
$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast	$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast
0	$\leq 1$	Faint	0	0	Faint
0	2	Distinct	0	1	Distinct
0	3	Distinct	0	$\geq 2$	Prominent
0	$\geq 4$	Prominent	1	$\leq 1$	Distinct
1	$\leq 1$	Faint	1	$\geq 2$	Prominent
1	2	Distinct	$\geq 2$	---	Prominent
1	3	Distinct			
1	$\geq 4$	Prominent			
$\leq 2$	$\leq 1$	Faint			
$\leq 2$	2	Distinct			
$\leq 2$	3	Distinct			
$\leq 2$	$\geq 4$	Prominent			
3	$\leq 1$	Distinct			
3	2	Distinct			
3	3	Distinct			
3	$\geq 4$	Prominent			
$\geq 4$	---	Prominent			
<i>Hues differ by 1 (<math>\Delta h = 1</math>)</i>			<i>Hues differ by 3 or more (<math>\Delta h \geq 3</math>)</i>		
$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast	$\Delta$ Value	$\Delta$ Chroma	Contrast
0	$\leq 1$	Faint	Color contrast is prominent, except for low chroma and value.		Prominent
0	2	Distinct			
0	$\geq 3$	Prominent			
1	$\leq 1$	Faint			
1	2	Distinct			
1	$\geq 3$	Prominent			
2	$\leq 1$	Distinct			
2	2	Distinct			
2	$\geq 3$	Prominent			
$\geq 3$	---	Prominent			

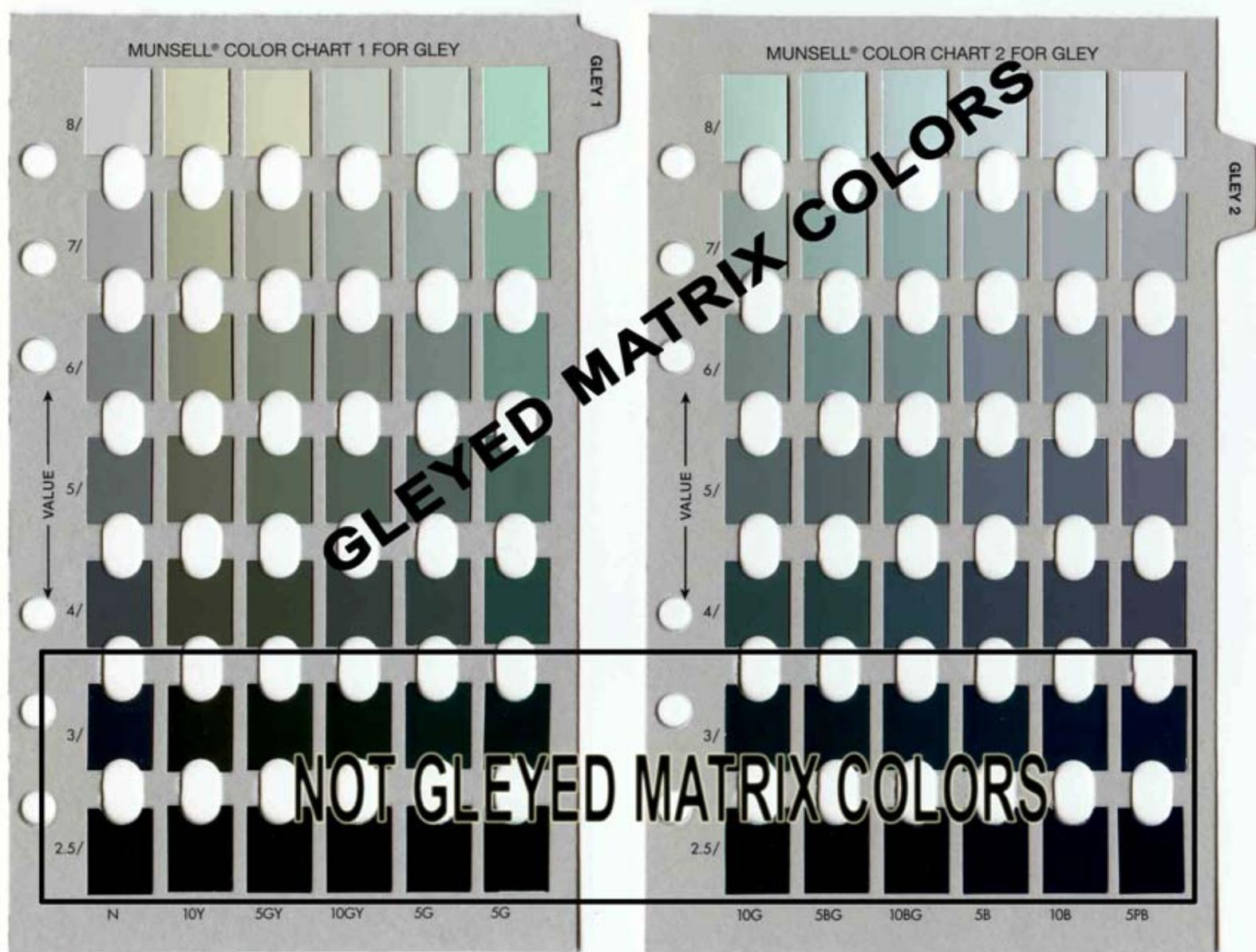
**Note: If both colors have values of  $\leq 3$  and chromas of  $\leq 2$ , the color contrast is *Faint* (regardless of the difference in hue).**

Adapted from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (2002)

# GLEYED MATRIX



**Figure A1.** For hydric soil determinations, a gleyed matrix has the hues and chroma identified in this illustration with a value of 4 or more. *Due to inaccurate color reproduction, do not use this page to determine soil colors in the field.* Background image from the Munsell Soil Color Charts reprinted courtesy of Munsell Color Services Lab, a part of X-Rite, Inc.



**Figure A2.** For hydric soil determinations, a gleyed matrix has the hues and chroma identified in this illustration with a value of 4 or more. *Due to inaccurate color reproduction, do not use this page to determine soil colors in the field.* Background image from the [Munsell Soil Color Charts](#) reprinted courtesy of [Munsell Color Services Lab](#), a part of X-Rite, Inc.

# DEPLETED MATRIX

- the volume of soil from a horizon or sub-horizon from which iron has been removed or transformed by processes of reduction and translocation to create colors of low chroma and high value

# DEPLETED MATRIX

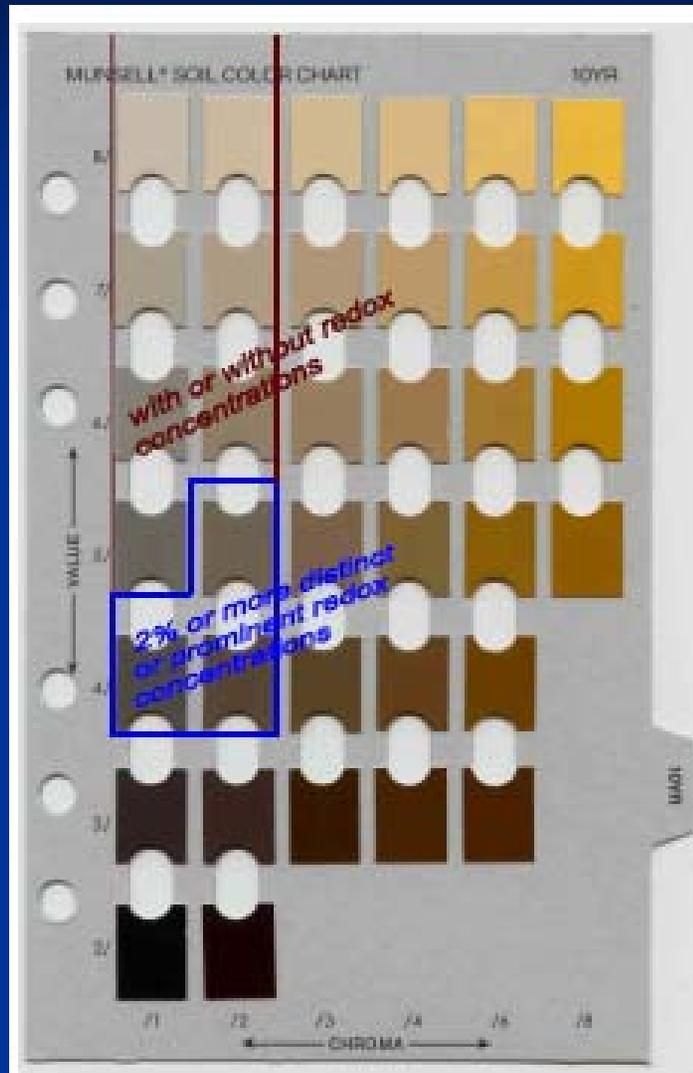


Figure A1. Illustration of values and chromas that require 2 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations and those that do not, for hue 10YR, to meet the definition of a depleted matrix. Due to inaccurate color reproduction, do not use this page to determine soil colors in the field. Background image from the Munsell Soil Color Charts reprinted courtesy of Munsell Color Services Lab, a part of X-Rite, Inc.



**Figure A1.** Illustration of values and chromas that require 2 percent or more distinct or prominent redox concentrations and those that do not, for hue 10YR, to meet the definition of a depleted matrix. *Due to inaccurate color reproduction, do not use this page to determine soil colors in the field.* Background image from the [Munsell Soil Color Charts](#) reprinted courtesy of [Munsell Color Services Lab](#), a part of X-Rite, Inc.

# WETLAND HYDROLOGY

# ARID WEST HYDROLOGY – INTRODUCTION

- Hydrology indicators imply a continuing wetland hydrologic regime for sites with hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soil
- Wetland hydrology indicators are meant to confirm recent episodes of inundation and/or saturation but not necessarily timing, duration or frequency
- A hydrology indicator is sufficient to confirm the presence of wetland hydrology, no measurement of duration is required
- Wetlands in the arid west may be dry for much of the year making hydrology indicators difficult to directly observe
- Lack of an indicator is not evidence for the absence of wetland hydrology
- Consider antecedent weather conditions to evaluate observed site conditions

# ARID WEST HYDROLOGY – DIFFICULT SITES

- When hydrology indicators are absent from an area with hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soil further information may be required to make a wetland determination
  - + schedule one or more site visits during the wet portion of the growing season
  - + review aerial photography, gage data, NRCS Hydrology Tools
- On highly disturbed or problematic sites, direct hydrologic monitoring may be needed to determine whether wetland hydrology is present (ERDC TN WRAP 05 02)

# ARID WEST HYDROLOGY – GROWING SEASON

- Corps recommends period when air temperature is above 28 degree day (WETS Table) as the standard procedure to determine the growing season dates at a particular site
- In the arid west, site specific alternative measures for determining growing season may be used
  - + above ground growth and development of vascular plants
  - + soil temperature

# ARID WEST HYDROLOGY – GROWING SEASON

- The growing season has begun on a site in a given year when two or more different non-evergreen vascular plant species growing in a wetland or surrounding areas exhibit one or more of the following indicators of biologic activity:
  - 1) emergence of herbaceous plants from the ground;
  - 2) appearance of new growth from vegetative crowns
  - 3) coleoptile/cotyledon emergence from seed;
  - 4) bud burst on woody plants;
  - 5) emergence or elongation of leaves of woody plants;
  - 6) emergence or opening of flowers
- The growing season has begun on a site when the soil temperature is 41 degrees F or higher at a depth of 12 inches in the soil

# ARID WEST HYDROLOGY – INDICATORS

- Wetland hydrology indicators are intended as one time observations of site conditions that are sufficient evidence of wetland hydrology in areas where hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation are present
- Wetland hydrology indicators have been placed into 4 groups
  - + Group A based on direct observation of surface or ground water
  - + Group B based on indirect evidence of recent ponding or flooding
  - + Group C based on indirect evidence of recently saturated soil
  - + Group D based on vegetation or soil features that indicate contemporary rather than historical wet conditions

# ARID WEST HYDROLOGY - INDICATORS

- Indicators are rated as primary and secondary based on their regional reliability
- One primary or two secondary indicators are sufficient to conclude wetland hydrology is present
- List of hydrology indicators is not exclusive. Site specific hydrology indicators need documentation

# LIST OF WETLAND HYDROLOGY INDICATORS FOR ARID WEST

<b>Table 8. List of wetland hydrology indicators for the Arid West</b>		
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Category</b>	
	<b>Primary</b>	<b>Secondary</b>
<b>Group A – Observation of Surface Water or Saturated Soils</b>		
A1 – Surface water	X	
A2 – High water table	X	
A3 – Saturation	X	
<b>Group B – Evidence of Recent Inundation</b>		
B6 – Surface soil cracks	X	
B7 – Inundation visible on aerial imagery	X	
B9 – Water-stained leaves	X	
B11 – Salt crust	X	
B12 – Biotic crust	X	
B13 – Aquatic invertebrates	X	
B1 – Water marks	X	X (riverine)
B2 – Sediment deposits	X	X (riverine)
B3 – Drift deposits	X	X (riverine)
B10 – Drainage patterns		X
<b>Group C – Evidence of Recent Soil Saturation</b>		
C1 – Hydrogen sulfide odor	X	
C3 – Oxidized rhizospheres along living roots	X	
C4 – Presence of reduced iron	X	
C6 – Recent iron reduction in plowed soils	X	
C2 – Dry-season water table		X
C7 – Thin muck surface		X
C8 – Crayfish burrows		X
C9 – Saturation visible on aerial imagery		X
<b>Group D – Evidence from Other Site Conditions or Data</b>		
D3 – Shallow aquitard		X
D5 – FAC-neutral test		X

**Table 8. List of wetland hydrology indicators for the Arid West**

Indicator	Category	
	Primary	Secondary
<b>Group A – Observation of Surface Water or Saturated Soils</b>		
A1 – Surface water	X	
A2 – High water table	X	
A3 – Saturation	X	
<b>Group B – Evidence of Recent Inundation</b>		
B6 – Surface soil cracks	X	
B7 – Inundation visible on aerial imagery	X	
B9 – Water-stained leaves	X	
B11 – Salt crust	X	
B12 – Biotic crust	X	
B13 – Aquatic invertebrates	X	
B1 – Water marks	X	X (riverine)
B2 – Sediment deposits	X	X (riverine)
B3 – Drift deposits	X	X (riverine)
B10 – Drainage patterns		X
<b>Group C – Evidence of Recent Soil Saturation</b>		
C1 – Hydrogen sulfide odor	X	
C3 – Oxidized rhizospheres along living roots	X	
C4 – Presence of reduced iron	X	
C6 – Recent iron reduction in plowed soils	X	
C2 – Dry-season water table		X
C7 – Thin muck surface		X
C8 – Crayfish burrows		X
C9 – Saturation visible on aerial imagery		X
<b>Group D – Evidence from Other Site Conditions or Data</b>		
D3 – Shallow aquitard		X
D5 – FAC-neutral test		X

**HYDROLOGY – 87 MANUAL /  
ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT**

# WETLAND HYDROLOGY INDICATORS

## 1

87 MANUAL	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
INUNDATED (P)	A1 SURFACE WATER (P)
SATURATED in the UPPER 12 INCHES (P)	A2 High WATER TABLE (P) A3 SATURATION (P)
WATER MARK (P)	B1 WATER MARK (P) (S-riverine)
DRIFT LINES (P)	B3 DRIFT DEPOSIT (P) (S-riverine)
SEDIMENT DEPOSITS (P)	B2 SEDIMENT DEPOSIT (P) (S-riverine)
DRAINAGE PATTERNS in WETLANDS (P)	B10 DRAINAGE PATTERN (S)

# WETLAND HYDROLOGY INDICATORS

## 2

87 MANUAL	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
OXIDIZED ROOT CHANNELS in the UPPER 12 INCHES (S)	C3 OXIDIZED RHIZOSPHERES ALONG LIVING ROOTS (P)
WATER-STAINED LEAVES (S)	B9 WATER-STAINED LEAVES (P)
LOCAL SOIL SURVEY DATA (S)	NOT USED
FAC-NEUTRAL TEST (S)	D5 FAC-NEUTRAL TEST (S)

# WETLAND HYDROLOGY INDICATORS

## 3

<b>87 MANUAL</b>	<b>ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>B6 SURFACE SOIL CRACKS (P)</b>
<b>RECORDED DATA</b>	<b>B7 INUNDATION VISIBLE ON AERIAL IMAGERY (P)</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>B11 SALT CRUSTS (P)</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>B12 BIOTIC CRUSTS (P)</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>B13 AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES (P)</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>C1 HYDROGEN SULFIDE ODOR (P)</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>C4 PRESENCE OF REDUCED IRON (P)</b>
<b>NONE</b>	<b>C6 RECENT IRON REDUCTION IN PLOWED SOIL (P)</b>

# WETLAND HYDROLOGY INDICATORS

## 4

87 MANUAL	ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT
NONE	C2 DRY-SEASON WATER TABLE (S)
NONE	C7 THIN MUCK SURFACE (S)
NONE	C8 CRAYFISH BURROWS (S)
RECORDED DATA	C9 SATURATION VISIBLE ON AERIAL IMAGE (S)
NONE	D3 SHALLOW AQUITARD (S)

# HYDROLOGY SECTION – DATA SHEET

## 87 MANUAL

### HYDROLOGY

- Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks):
- Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge
  - Aerial Photographs
  - Other
- No Recorded Data Available

Field Observations:

- Depth of Surface Water: \_\_\_\_\_ (in.)
- Depth to Free Water in Pit: \_\_\_\_\_ (in.)
- Depth to Saturated Soil: \_\_\_\_\_ (in.)

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators:

- Inundated
- Saturated in Upper 12 Inches
- Water Marks
- Drift Lines
- Sediment Deposits
- Drainage Patterns in Wetlands

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required):

- Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches
- Water-Stained Leaves
- Local Soil Survey Data
- FAC-Neutral Test
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Remarks:

# HYDROLOGY SECTION – ARID WEST SUPPLEMENT

## HYDROLOGY

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b>		<u>Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)</u>
<u>Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)</u>		<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) (Riverine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) (Riverine)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)		<input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
<b>Field Observations:</b>		<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Surface Water Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____		
Water Table Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____		
Saturation Present? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____ (includes capillary fringe)		
Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:		
Remarks:		

# HYDROLOGY – A1 SURFACE WATER

- direct, visual observation of surface water (flooding or ponding) during a site visit
- primary
- ponded or flooded sites must be evaluated for recent abnormal weather conditions and status of growing season. Surface water may be absent from seasonal wetlands during the dry season or from wetlands with sub-surface saturation

# A1 – SURFACE WATER



Figure 4-1. Wetland with surface water present.

# HYDROLOGY – A2 HIGH WATER TABLE

- direct visual observation of a water table within 12 inches of the soil surface. This indicator includes perched water tables and discharge water tables (e.g, seeps) where water may enter the hole from surface soil layers
- primary
- allow soil water time to stabilize in the hole. If outside of growing season determine if water table would persist for sufficient duration during the growing season. Consider recent and long-term precipitation amounts. Soil pit should not penetrate restrictive soil horizons.

## A2 – HIGH WATER TABLE



Figure 4-2. High water table observed in a soil pit.

# HYDROLOGY – A3 SATURATION

- visual observation of saturated soil conditions within 12 inches from the soil surface as indicated by water glistening on the surfaces and broken interior faces of soil samples removed from the soil pit. This indicator must be associated with an existing water table located immediately below the saturated zone.
- primary
- recent rainfall events and proximity of water table to the soil surface must be considered in applying this indicator. Water observed in soil cracks or on ped faces do not meet this indicator unless ped interiors are also saturated

## A3 – SATURATION



Figure 4-3. Water glistens on the surface of a saturated soil sample.

# HYDROLOGY – B6 SURFACE SOIL CRACKS

- Surface soil cracks consist of shallow cracks that form when fine grained mineral or organic sediments dry and shrink, creating a network of cracks or small polygons
- Primary
- Soil cracks are common in fine sediments in seasonally ponded depressions but can also occur in temporary ponds or puddles in non-wetlands. Does not include soil cracks in Vertisols or biotic crusts

## B6 – SURFACE SOIL CRACKS



Figure 4-4. Surface soil cracks in a seasonally ponded wetland.

# HYDROLOGY – B7 INUNDATION

## VISABLE ON AERIAL IMAGERY

- One or more recent aerial photographs or satellite images show the site to be inundated
- Primary
- Consider antecedent weather conditions to evaluate imagery. Consider status of growing season. Surface water may be absent during dry season, drought conditions early in the ppt season, in some wetland types or not every year. If 5 years of photos are available NRCS method for evaluating photos is recommended (1997, section 650.1903).

# HYDROLOGY – B9 WATER-STAINED LEAVES

- Water stained leaves are fallen leaves that have turned grayish or blackish in color due to inundation for long periods.
- Primary
- Not common in arid west but known to occur in depressional wetlands and along streams with woody vegetation. Water stained leaves should contrast in color with fallen leaves in nearby non-wetland areas.

# HYDROLOGY –B11 SALT CRUST

- Salt crusts are hard or brittle deposits of salts formed on the ground surface due to the evaporation of saline surface water.
- Primary
- Salt crusts typically form in ponded depressions, seeps and lake fringes. Salt crusts do not include fluffy salt deposits or efflorescences resulting from capillary rise and evaporation of saline groundwater that may be derived from a deep water table.

## B11 – SALT CRUST



Figure 4-5. A hard salt crust in a dry temporary pool (25-cent coin for scale).

# HYDROLOGY – B12 BIOTIC CRUSTS

- This indicator includes ponding-remnant biotic crusts, benthic microflora, and the dried remains of free floating algae left on or near the soil surface after dewatering.
- Primary
- Biotic crusts are soil aggregates held together by microorganisms (blue-green algae, green algae, diatoms, lichens and fungi) and the substances they produce. Ponding-remnant crusts often form polygons with upturned edges. Dried algal mats are common features of seasonally flooded wetlands.

# B12 – BIOTIC CRUST



Figure 4-6. Ponding-remnant biotic crusts on the surfaces of mud-crack polygons. Biotic crusts often have up-turned edges with the surface layer darker than the underlying material.

# HYDROLOGY- B13 AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES

- Presence of numerous live individuals, diapausing insect eggs or crustacean cysts, or dead remains of aquatic invertebrates, such as clams, snails, insects, ostracods, shrimp, and other crustaceans on the soil surface.
- Primary
- Shells, exoskeletons, clam valves etc should be numerous and not imported or relic.

## B13 – AQUATIC INVERTEBRATES



Figure 4-14. Carapaces of tadpole shrimp (*Triops* sp.) and clam shrimp (*Leptestheria compleximanus*) in dried sediments of an ephemeral pool. Photo by Brian Lang (New Mexico Dept. of Game & Fish).

# HYDROLOGY – B1 WATER MARKS

- Water marks are discolorations or stains on the bark of woody vegetation, rocks, bridge pillars, buildings, fences, or other fixed objects as a result of inundation.
- Primary (Secondary in Riverine situations)
- When several water marks are present, the highest reflects the maximum extent of recent inundation and can be used to indicate the water-level elevation. Consider water marks left by extreme, infrequent or brief flooding events. Water marks often reflect higher than normal flows and should be considered a secondary indicator in riverine situations within the region.

## B1 – WATER MARKS



Figure 4-15. Water marks on a boulder.

# HYDROLOGY – B2 SEDIMENT DEPOSITS

- Sediment deposits are thin layers or coatings of fine-grained mineral material (e.g. silt, clay) or organic matter (e.g. pollen), sometimes mixed with other detritus, remaining on tree bark, plant stems or leaves, rocks and other objects after surface water recedes.
- Primary (Secondary in Riverine situations)
- Generally occurs in ponded situations where water stood long enough to allow suspended sediment to settle. Sediment deposits indicate the minimum level of inundation and can be extrapolated across lower elevations. Sediment deposits may be left by extreme events or infrequent high flows. Sediment deposits may reflect higher than normal flows and should be considered secondary indicators in riverine situations within the region.

## B2 – SEDIMENT DEPOSITS



Figure 4-16. Sediment deposits (tan coloration) on tree bases in a seasonally flooded area.

# HYDROLOGY – B3 DRIFT DEPOSITS

- Drift deposits consist of rafted debris that has been deposited on the ground surface or entangled in vegetation or other fixed objects. Drift material may be deposited at or near the high water line in ponded or flooded areas, piled against the upstream side of trees, rocks, and other fixed objects, or widely distributed within the dewatered area.
- Primary (Secondary in Riverine situations)
- Commonly found along streams, tidal marshes, lake shores and ponded areas. The elevation of the drift line can be extrapolated across the lower elevation areas. Drift lines can be caused by extreme, infrequent or brief flooding events and may exist for years in arid regions. Drift deposits may be the result of higher than normal flows and should be considered secondary indicators in riverine situations within the region.

## B3 – DRIFT DEPOSITS



Figure 4-17. Drift deposit on the upstream side of a sapling in a floodplain wetland.

# HYDROLOGY – B10 DRAINAGE PATTERNS

- This indicator includes flow patterns visible on the soil surface or eroded into the soil, low vegetation bent over in the direction of flow, absence of leaf litter or small woody debris due to flowing water, and similar evidence that water flowed across the ground surface.
- Secondary
- Generally seen where water flows over the surface and is not confined within a channel. Consider areas affected by recent extreme or unusual flooding events.

## B10 – DRAINAGE PATTERNS



Figure 4-18. Vegetation bent over in the direction of water flow across a stream terrace.

# HYDROLOGY – C1 HYDROGEN SULFIDE ODOR

- A hydrogen sulfide odor (rotten egg) within 12 inches of the soil surface.
- Primary
- Odor produced in response to prolonged soil saturation and to be detectable the soil must have been saturated long enough to be very reduced. Hydrogen sulfide serves as both an indicator of hydric soil and wetland hydrology.

# HYDROLOGY – C3 OXIDIZED RHIZOSPHERES ALONG LIVING ROOTS

- This indicator consists of iron oxide coatings or plaques on the surface of living roots and/or iron oxide coatings or linings on soil pores immediately surrounding living roots within 12 inches of the soil surface and occupying at least 2% of the volume of the soil layer.
- Primary
- Oxidized rhizospheres are evidence of saturation and reduction during the plant lifetime. Oxidized iron must be associated with living roots to indicate contemporary wet conditions. Distinguish between organic material associated with root and oxidized iron.

# C3 – OXIDIZED RHIZOSPHERES ALONG LIVING ROOTS



Figure 4-19. Iron oxide plaque (orange coating) on a living root. Iron also coats the channel or pore from which the root was removed.

# HYDROLOGY – C4 PRESENCE OF REDUCED IRON

- Presence of reduced (ferrous) iron in the upper 12 inches of the soil profile, as indicated by a ferrous iron test or by the presence of a soil that changes color upon exposure to air.
- Primary
- The presence of ferrous iron can be verified with alpha, alpha-dipyrridyl dye (NRCS Hydric Soils Technical Note 8) or observing a soil that changes color upon exposure to air. Saturated soil low in weatherable iron may not exhibit a positive reaction to the dye or exposure to air.

## C4 – PRESENCE OF REDUCED IRON



Figure 4-20. When alpha, alpha-dipyridyl dye is applied to a soil containing reduced iron, a positive reaction is indicated by a pink or red coloration to the treated area.

# HYDROLOGY – C6 RECENT IRON REDUCTION IN PLOWED SOIL

- Presence of 2% or more redox concentrations as pore linings in the plowed surface layer of soils cultivated within the last two years.
- Primary
- Cultivation breaks up or destroys redox features in the plow zone. The presence of intact redox features indicates that the soil was saturated and reduced since the last episode of cultivation. Use caution with relic features that may be broken up but not destroyed by plowing. The indicator is most reliable in areas that are cultivated regularly, so that soil aggregates and older redox features are more likely to be broken up.

# C6 – RECENT IRON REDUCTION IN PLOWED SOIL



Figure 4-21. Redox concentrations in a recently cultivated soil.

# HYDROLOGY – C 2 DRY SEASON WATER TABLE

- Visual observation of the water table between 12 and 24 inches below the surface during the normal dry season or during a drier than normal year.
- Secondary
- A water table between 12 and 24 inches during the dry season, or during an abnormally dry year, indicates a normal wet-season water table within 12 inches. Wetlands with seasonally perched water tables do not have dry season water tables.
- A dry season water table below 24 inches does not necessarily indicate a lack of wetland hydrology.

# HYDROLOGY – C7 THIN MUCK SURFACE

- This indicator consists of a layer of muck 1 inch or less thick on the soil surface.
- Secondary
- In a dry climate, muck accumulates only where soils are saturated to the surface for long periods each year. Thin muck surfaces disappear quickly or become incorporated into mineral horizons when wetland hydrology is removed. The presence of a thin muck layer on the soil surface indicates an active wetland hydrology regime.

# HYDROLOGY – C8 CRAYFISH BURROWS

- Presence of crayfish burrows, as indicated by openings in soft ground up to 2 inches in diameter, often surrounded by chimney-like mounds of excavated mud.
- Secondary
- Crayfish burrows are usually found near streams, ditches, and ponds in areas that are seasonally inundated or have seasonal high water tables

## C8 – CRAYFISH BURROWS



Figure 4-22. Crayfish burrow.

# HYDROLOGY – C9 SATURATION VISIBLE ON AERIAL IMAGERY

- One or more recent aerial photographs or satellite images show soil saturation. Saturated soil signatures must correspond to field verified hydric soils, depressions or drainage patterns, differential crop management, or other evidence of a seasonal high water table.
- Secondary
- Indicator useful when plant cover is sparse and ground surface is visible on image. Saturated areas generally reflect a darker signature than adjacent non-saturated areas. Consider antecedent weather conditions and dates of growing season for the date of the image to identify extreme or abnormal conditions. Indicator requires onsite verification that saturated signatures correspond to hydric soil or other evidence of a seasonal high water table.

# C9 – SATURATION VISABLE ON AERIAL IMAGERY



Figure 4-23. Aerial photograph of an agricultural field with saturated soils indicated by darker colors.

# HYDROLOGY – D3 SHALLOW AQUITARD

- This indicator occurs in and around the margins of depressions, such as temporary pools, and consists of the presence of an aquitard within the soil profile that is potentially capable of perching water within 12 inches of the surface. Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils must also be present.
- Secondary
- An aquitard is a relatively impermeable soil layer or bedrock that slows or stops the downward infiltration of water and can produce a perched water table, generally in flat or depressional landforms. Potential aquitards include fragipans, cemented layers, dense glacial till, lacustrine deposits, and clay layers. Often redoximorphic features are evident in the layers above the aquitard.

# HYDROLOGY – D5 FAC- NEUTRAL TEST

- The plant community passes the Fac-neutral test.
- Secondary
- The Fac-neutral test is performed by compiling a list of dominant plant species across all strata in the community, and dropping from the list any species with a Fac indicator status. The Fac-neutral test is met if >50% of the remaining dominant species are rated FacW and/or Obl. If there are an equal number of dominants that are Obl and FacW versus FacU and Upl, nondominant species should be considered. This indicator is only applicable to wetland hydrology determinations.

**DIFFICULT  
WETLAND  
SITUATIONS IN  
THE ARID WEST**

# DIFFICULT SITUATION – INTRODUCTION 1

- Difficult situations in the Arid West include Problem Areas and Atypical Situations
- Problem Area wetlands are defined as naturally occurring wetland types that periodically lack indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, or wetland hydrology due to normal seasonal or annual variability or may permanently lack certain indicators due to the nature of the soil or plant species
- Atypical Situations are defined as wetlands in which vegetation, soil, or hydrology indicators are absent due to recent human activities or natural events

# DIFFICULT SITUATION – INTRODUCTION 2

- The list of difficult wetland situations presented in this chapter IS NOT intended to be exhaustive and other difficult situations may exist in the region
- Wetland determinations on difficult sites must be based on THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE to the field inspector, interpreted in light of his or her personal experience and knowledge of the ecology of wetlands in the region

# PROBLEMATIC HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION

- Problematic hydrophytic vegetation procedures should only be used where indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology are present but no indicators of hydrologic vegetation are evident, unless one or both of these factors is also disturbed or problematic

# PROBLEMATIC HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION

## SPECIFIC PROBLEMATIC VEGETATION

- a) Temporal Shifts in Vegetation- Hydrophytic vegetation decisions should be based on the plant community that would be normally present during the wet portion of the growing season in a normal rainfall year.
  - 1] Seasonal Shifts in Plant Community:
  - 2] Long-Term Drought Conditions

# PROBLEMATIC HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION SPECIFIC PROBLEMATIC VEGETATION

- b) Sparse and Patchy Vegetation. For delineation purposes, an area should be considered vegetated if it has at least 5% areal cover of plants during the peak of the growing season. Unvegetated areas have less than 5% cover and may be “waters”. Patchy vegetation is a mosaic of both vegetated and unvegetated areas. Site specific analysis must be used to identify wetland, water and upland components of mosaics.

# PROBLEMATIC HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION SPECIFIC PROBLEMATIC VEGETATION

- c) Riparian Areas. Riparian corridors can be lined with hydrophytic vegetation, upland vegetation, unvegetated areas or a mosaic of these types. Soils are frequently Entisols and lack indicators of hydric soil even when hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are present. In Riparian areas with phreatophytes, the groundwater may be too deep to support wetlands and generally have a non-hydrophytic understory.

# PROBLEMATIC HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION

## SPECIFIC PROBLEMATIC VEGETATION

- d) Areas Affected by Grazing. Short or long term grazing can cause soil compaction and selective avoidance or destruction of plant species resulting in unreliable vegetative determinations.
- e) Managed Plant Communities. Managed plant communities include cleared woody vegetation, discing, plowing, mowing, planting, irrigation, use of herbicide etc. If the natural vegetation has been altered through management to such an extent that a hydrophytic vegetation determination may be unreliable, it is a problem site.

# PROBLEMATIC HYDROPHYTIC VEGETATION

## SPECIFIC PROBLEMATIC VEGETATION

- f) Areas Affected by Fires, Floods, and Other Natural Disturbances. The vegetation on a site has been removed or made unidentifiable by a recent fire, flood, or other disturbance.
- g) Vigor and Stress Responses to Wetland Conditions. Plants can develop stress-related features (i.e. stunting in agricultural crops, browning or yellowing of native or planted vegetation) when subjected to long periods of saturation in the root zone. Check comparative conditions between plants in wet and non-wet areas. Consider factors other than wetland effects

# PROBLEMATIC HYDRIC SOIL SOILS WITH FAINT OR NO INDICATORS

- Examples of problematic hydric soils in the arid west include but are not limited to:
  - 1) Moderately to Very Strongly Alkaline Soils - pH 7.9 or higher
  - 2) Volcanic Ash - Low Fe, Mn or S content
  - 3) Vegetated Sand / Gravel Bars in Floodplains-Low Fe, Mn, C, recent deposition
  - 4) Recently Developed Wetlands - Indicators not developed
  - 5) Seasonally ponded soils or shallow perched water tables

# PROBLEMATIC HYDRIC SOIL - SOIL WITH RELICT OR INDUCED HYDRIC SOIL INDICATORS

- Relict redoximorphic features may persist in areas that no longer have wetland hydrology and may be difficult to distinguish from contemporary features
- When indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology are present, then hydric soil indicators can be assumed to be contemporary
- Artificial wetland hydrology can induce the formation of hydric soil indicators (i.e. upland irrigated agricultural fields). Some irrigated fields may have wetland hydrology in the early portion of the growing season

# PROBLEMATIC HYDRIC SOIL – INDICATORS

- 1 cm Muck (LRR C)
- 2 cm Muck (LRR B)
- Reduced Vertic
- Red Parent Material

# PROBLEMATIC WETLAND HYDROLOGY SITUATIONS AND PROCEDURES

- List includes problem hydrology situations when indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils are present but wetland hydrology indicators are lacking due to normal variations in rainfall, runoff, human activities or other reasons:
  - A] Site visit during the dry season
  - B] Periods with below normal rainfall
  - C] Drought years
  - D] Years with unusually low winter snowpack
  - E] Reference sites
  - F] Hydrology tools

# PROBLEMATIC WETLAND HYDROLOGY SITUATIONS AND PROCEDURES

G] Long-term hydrologic monitoring – on difficult sites that lack hydrology indicators, direct monitoring of surface AND GROUNDWATER may be necessary. Technical Standard for Water-Table Monitoring of Potential Wetland Sites (2005) describes minimum standards to monitor hydrology. Standard calls for at least 14 consecutive days of a combination of ponding, flooding, or a water table at or above 12 inches of the soil surface during the growing season in a normal year. 87 Manual Hydrologic Zones based on % of inundated/saturated in the growing season is no longer used in the Arid West

# DATA SHEET



**WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region**

Project/Site: \_\_\_\_\_ City/County: \_\_\_\_\_ Sampling Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Applicant/Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Sampling Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Investigator(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ Local relief (concave, convex, none): \_\_\_\_\_ Slope (%): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subregion (LRR): \_\_\_\_\_ Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Long: \_\_\_\_\_ Datum: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soil Map Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NWI classification: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No _____	Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No _____	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland? Yes _____ No _____
Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No _____	Remarks:	

**VEGETATION**

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Use scientific names.)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b> Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A)  Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: _____ (B)  Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A/B)
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
Total Cover: _____				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b> Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____ OBL species _____ x 1 = _____ FACW species _____ x 2 = _____ FAC species _____ x 3 = _____ FACU species _____ x 4 = _____ UPL species _____ x 5 = _____ Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B)  Prevalence Index = B/A = _____
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
Total Cover: _____				<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b> ___ Dominance Test is >50% ___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup> ___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet) ___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)
<u>Herb Stratum</u>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____	
8. _____	_____	_____	_____	
Total Cover: _____				<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u>				
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes _____ No _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	
Total Cover: _____				
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____ % Cover of Biotic Crust _____				
Remarks:				



# DATA FORM – SITE INFORMATION

Project/Site: \_\_\_\_\_ City/County: \_\_\_\_\_ Sampling Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant/Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Sampling Point: \_\_\_\_\_  
Investigator(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Section, Township, Range: \_\_\_\_\_  
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ Local relief (concave, convex, none): \_\_\_\_\_ Slope (%): \_\_\_\_\_  
Subregion (LRR): \_\_\_\_\_ Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Long: \_\_\_\_\_ Datum: \_\_\_\_\_  
Soil Map Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NWI classification: \_\_\_\_\_

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are Vegetation \_\_\_\_\_, Soil \_\_\_\_\_, or Hydrology \_\_\_\_\_ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

# DATA FORM – SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

**SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.**

<p>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?      Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>Hydric Soil Present?                      Yes _____ No _____</p> <p>Wetland Hydrology Present?            Yes _____ No _____</p>	<p>Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?                      Yes _____ No _____</p>
<p>Remarks:</p>	

# DATA FORM – VEGETATION

## VEGETATION

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Use scientific names.)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status	Dominance Test worksheet:	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A)	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: _____ (B)	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A/B)	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____		
Total Cover: _____					
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u>				Prevalence Index worksheet:	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Total % Cover of: _____ Multiply by: _____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	OBL species _____ x 1 = _____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	FACW species _____ x 2 = _____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	FAC species _____ x 3 = _____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	FACU species _____ x 4 = _____	
Total Cover: _____				UPL species _____ x 5 = _____	
<u>Herb Stratum</u>				Column Totals: _____ (A) _____ (B)	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Prevalence Index = B/A = _____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____		
3. _____	_____	_____	_____		
4. _____	_____	_____	_____		
5. _____	_____	_____	_____		
6. _____	_____	_____	_____		
7. _____	_____	_____	_____		
8. _____	_____	_____	_____		
Total Cover: _____					
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u>				Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Dominance Test is >50%	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0 <sup>1</sup>	
Total Cover: _____				___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)	
				___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)	
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____ % Cover of Biotic Crust _____				<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.	
				Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes _____ No _____	
Remarks:					

# VEGETATION

<u>Tree Stratum</u> (Use scientific names.)	<u>Absolute % Cover</u>	<u>Dominant Species?</u>	<u>Indicator Status</u>	<b>Dominance Test worksheet:</b>	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A)	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: _____ (B)	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: _____ (A/B)	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____		
Total Cover: _____					
<u>Sapling/Shrub Stratum</u>				<b>Prevalence Index worksheet:</b>	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Total % Cover of: _____	Multiply by: _____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	OBL species _____ x 1 = _____	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	FACW species _____ x 2 = _____	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	FAC species _____ x 3 = _____	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	FACU species _____ x 4 = _____	
Total Cover: _____				UPL species _____ x 5 = _____	
<u>Herb Stratum</u>				Column Totals: _____ (A)	_____ (B)
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	Prevalence Index = B/A = _____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:</b>	
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Dominance Test is >50%	
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Prevalence Index is $\leq 3.0^1$	
5. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Morphological Adaptations <sup>1</sup> (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)	
6. _____	_____	_____	_____	___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation <sup>1</sup> (Explain)	
7. _____	_____	_____	_____		
8. _____	_____	_____	_____		
Total Cover: _____					
<u>Woody Vine Stratum</u>				<sup>1</sup> Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.	
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	<b>Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?</b> Yes _____ No _____	
2. _____	_____	_____	_____		
Total Cover: _____					
% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum _____	% Cover of Biotic Crust _____				
<b>Remarks:</b>					





# DATA FORM – HYDROLOGY

## HYDROLOGY

<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b>		<u>Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)</u>
<u>Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)</u>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Water (A1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Salt Crust (B11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) (Riverine)
<input type="checkbox"/> High Water Table (A2)	<input type="checkbox"/> Biotic Crust (B12)	<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) (Riverine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation (A3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) (Riverine)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Marks (B1) (Nonriverine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drainage Patterns (B10)
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment Deposits (B2) (Nonriverine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)	<input type="checkbox"/> Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
<input type="checkbox"/> Drift Deposits (B3) (Nonriverine)	<input type="checkbox"/> Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)	<input type="checkbox"/> Thin Muck Surface (C7)
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface Soil Cracks (B6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)	<input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish Burrows (C8)
<input type="checkbox"/> Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Explain in Remarks)	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
<input type="checkbox"/> Water-Stained Leaves (B9)		<input type="checkbox"/> Shallow Aquitard (D3)
<b>Field Observations:</b>		<input type="checkbox"/> FAC-Neutral Test (D5)
Surface Water Present?    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____	<b>Wetland Hydrology Present?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
Water Table Present?    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____		
Saturation Present?    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Depth (inches): _____ (includes capillary fringe)		
Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:		
Remarks:		



DATA FORM  
 ROUTINE WETLAND DETERMINATION  
 (1987 COE Wetlands Delineation Manual)

Project/Site: _____ Applicant/Owner: _____ Investigator: _____	Date: _____ County: _____ State: _____
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site?      Yes No Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation)?      Yes No Is the area a potential Problem Area?      Yes No (If needed, explain on reverse.)	Community ID: _____ Transect ID: _____ Plot ID: _____

**VEGETATION**

Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator	Dominant Plant Species	Stratum	Indicator
1. _____	_____	_____	9. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	10. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	11. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	12. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	13. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	14. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	15. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____	16. _____	_____	_____

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW or FAC (excluding FAC-). \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

**HYDROLOGY**

___ Recorded Data (Describe in Remarks): ___ Stream, Lake, or Tide Gauge ___ Aerial Photographs ___ Other ___ No Recorded Data Available	<b>Wetland Hydrology Indicators:</b> <b>Primary Indicators:</b> ___ Inundated ___ Saturated in Upper 12 Inches ___ Water Marks ___ Drift Lines ___ Sediment Deposits ___ Drainage Patterns in Wetlands <b>Secondary Indicators (2 or more required):</b> ___ Oxidized Root Channels in Upper 12 Inches ___ Water-Stained Leaves ___ Local Soil Survey Data ___ FAC-Neutral Test ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)
<b>Field Observations:</b> Depth of Surface Water: _____ (in.) Depth to Free Water in Pit: _____ (in.) Depth to Saturated Soil: _____ (in.)	
Remarks: _____	

