



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

Engineer Research and  
Development Center

# Wetlands Management

## Description

ERDC/EL provides wetlands managers with technically sound, cost-effective techniques for restoring and improving existing wetlands, reducing wetland losses and impacts due to water resource development projects, and achieving better stewardship and management of existing wetlands. U.S. Federal and State mandates require managers to assess the consequences of activities on wetland functions and values and to mitigate for losses caused by projects. Reliable classification and delineation methods and practical engineering designs for wetlands creation and restoration are critical needs.



## Capabilities

- Delineation and evaluation of wetlands—defining boundaries of wetlands using soil characteristics, hydrology, and vegetation; assessing the ecological value of wetlands.
- Restoration of existing wetlands and establishment of newly developed wetlands.
- Guidance on the stewardship and management of wetlands, including better ways to inventory and manage wetlands, conducting studies to assess wetland changes and cumulative impacts associated with these changes.

## Supporting Technology

- The Wetlands Delineation Manual: <http://el.erd.c.usace.army.mil/wetlands/pdfs/wlman87.pdf>
- The Hydrogeomorphic (HGM) classification system, a state-of-the art method for evaluating wetlands: <http://el.erd.c.usace.army.mil/wetlands/hgmhp.html>
- Wetlands delineation training: <http://el.erd.c.usace.army.mil/training.cfm?Topic=none>

## Benefits

Wetlands management technology provides managers with technically sound, cost-effective techniques for restoring and improving existing wetlands, reducing wetland losses and impacts due to water resource development projects, and achieving better stewardship and management of existing wetlands.

## Success Stories

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Wetlands Delineation Manual has been adopted as the national standard for wetlands jurisdictional determinations. The hydrogeomorphic classification system—a state-of-the-art method for evaluating ecological functions of wetlands—has been endorsed for use by all U.S. Federal regulatory agencies. Wetlands delineation training has been provided to more than 10,000 wetlands professionals.

## Point of Contact

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