

April 5, 2016

## CONNECTICUT INSTRUCTION 180-380 – WETLAND DETERMINATIONS AND DELINEATIONS

### CT380.0 PURPOSE

The purpose of this instruction is to provide guidance on Job Approval Authority for completing Wetland Determinations and Delineations.

### CT380.1 SCOPE

The National Food Security Act Manual requires that certified wetland determinations and delineations be completed by qualified employees, as determined by the State Conservationist. The Connecticut Wetland Determination and Delineation Job Approval Authority spreadsheet is Connecticut's means of tracking individuals who are qualified to complete wetland determinations and delineations.

### CT380.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Connecticut instruction will be posted on the Connecticut NRCS SharePoint site, and the Job Approval Authority Spreadsheet will be located in Section III under Legislative Programs in the Field Office Technical Guide.

### CT380.3 EXHIBITS

See attachments.



Thomas L. Morgart  
State Conservationist

Attachments

CONNECTICUT INSTRUCTION 180-330 – WETLAND DETERMINATIONS AND DELINEATIONS

1. PURPOSE

This Connecticut Instruction provides the Job Approval Authority for completing Wetland Determinations and Delineations.

2. EXPLANATION

Certified wetland determinations and delineations must be completed by a qualified NRCS employee, as determined by the State Conservationist. Qualified employees (i.e., agency experts) must meet the following criteria:

- Completed required training and/or OJT
- Appropriate job-approval authority
- Demonstrated proficiency in making certified wetland determinations

Attached is the Certified Wetland Determination and Delineation Job Approval Authority spreadsheet listing the job approval for employees in the state with wetland determination responsibilities.

The official Certified Wetland Determination and Delineation Job Approval Authority spreadsheet will be maintained by the Connecticut Wetland Team, and will be placed in Section III under Legislative Programs in the Field Office Technical Guide. As employees gain expertise in different areas of wetland determinations, the spreadsheet will be updated.

  
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Approved By:  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

  
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Date:

Attachments

## CT-NRCS Wetland Team - Roster of Agency Experts

NAME	SOILS-DETERM/DELIN	VEG-DETERM/DELIN	HYD-DETERM/DELIN	WC Lables	SCOPE & EFFECT	Functional Assessment	MITIGATION EASEMENT
Barrett, Nels	1	3	2	2		1	1
Cadman, Abbie	1	1	1				
Isleib, Jacob	3	2	2	3		1	1
Krall, Lisa	3	2	2	3	1	2	1
Margo, Michael	1	1					
Parizek, Donald	3	2	3	3	1	1	1
Smith, Ben					1		
Surabian, Debbie	3	2	2	3	1	1	1
Theve, Marissa	2	2	2				
Timmons, Garrett		1					
(blank)	May or may not have exposure to the task or principles. Lacks training and experience to conduct the task independently.						
Level 1	Has successfully completed basic training but lacks experience to conduct the task independently.						
Level 2	Has successfully completed all suggested training, can apply the principles in normal wetland situations, and identifies difficult wetland situations requiring Level 3 staff.						
Level 3	Has consistently demonstrated proficiency in applying the principles, can serve as expert in difficult wetland situations, and can train other staff.						
<p>I certify that those staff members provided the highest job approval authority (Levels 2 and 3) have <u>successfully completed all appropriate training, including updated courses, or equivalent experience</u> (as approved by wetland team leadership) related to the skills needed to accomplish the specific task listed and have repeatedly <u>demonstrated the proficiency</u> needed to make an adverse technical decision as defined in the NRCS Appeals Procedures (7 CFR 614).</p>							
State Conservationist 							

**CT-NRCS Wetland Team - Roster of Agency Experts - Rating Criteria**

National Food Security Act Manual 180 Part 514.1(B)

*Note:* Course requirements are intended to approximate knowledge requirements and provide a clear pathway for individual career development. OJT or other experience may adequately substitute for certain course requirements. The *Individual Ratings Worksheet* (CT Wetland JAA Roster Appendix) serves to document training and/or in-lieu experience.

Has successfully completed basic training but lacks experience to conduct the task independently.			
Level 1	Requirements	Soils Determination	<i>Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase I and II<sup>1</sup></i> + familiarity with NFSAM (Parts 510 and 514) and the <i>Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region</i>
		Vegetation Determination	
		Hydrology Determination	
		WC Labels	Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase I and III + familiarity with NFSAM (Parts 510 and 514) and Food Security Act Wetland Identification Procedures (aka Circular 6)
		Scope & Effect	<i>Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase I</i> + basic understanding of hydrology, hydraulics, and drainage systems, + familiarity with NFSAM (Part 516(B)), and Engineering Field Handbook, Part 650- Ch. 19 Hydrology Tools for Wetland ID and Analysis
		Functional Assessment	<i>Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase I and II<sup>1</sup></i> , + familiarity with NFSAM (Parts 510, 514, 515, 516(A)) and <i>USACE New England District Highway Methodology Workbook</i>
		Mitigation Plan	<i>Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase I and II<sup>1</sup></i> , + familiarity with NFSAM (Parts 510, 514 and 515 (B)) + Engineering Field Handbook, Part 650- Ch. 13 Wetland Restoration, Enhancement, or Creation
Has successfully completed all suggested training, can apply the principles in normal wetland situations, and identifies difficult wetland situations requiring Level 3 staff.			
Level 2	Requirements	Soils Determination	<b>Level 1 requirements</b> + <i>Hydric Soils for Wetland Determinations OR Advanced Hydric Soils for Soil Scientists</i> + experience/training sufficient to accurately describe and interpret soil morphology (per State Soil Scientist) + experience applying <i>Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region</i>
		Vegetation Determination	<b>Level 1 requirements</b> + additional vegetation course(s) <sup>2</sup> and/or field id and keying experience + experience applying <i>Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region</i>
		Hydrology Determination	<b>Level 1 Requirements</b> + <i>Hydrology Tools for Wetland Restoration and Determination</i> + experience applying <i>Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region</i> + <i>Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Advanced Course (Phase III)</i>
		WC Labels	<b>Level 1 requirements</b> + <i>Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Advanced Course (Phase III)</i>
		Scope & Effect	<b>Level 1 requirements</b> + <i>Hydrology Tools for Wetland Restoration and Determination</i>
		Functional Assessment	<b>Level 1 requirements</b> + proficiency in completing <i>USACE New England District Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement</i> assessments
		Mitigation Plan	<b>Level 1 requirements</b> + <i>Wetland Restoration and Enhancement</i> or approved equivalent course + experience applying mitigation policy in NFSAM
Has consistently demonstrated proficiency in applying the principles, can serve as expert in difficult wetland situations, and can train other staff.			
Level 3	Requirements	Soils Determination	<b>Level 2 requirements</b> + consistently demonstrated proficiency in applying the principles.
		Vegetation Determination	
		Hydrology Determination	
		WC Labels	
		Scope & Effect	<b>Level 2 requirements</b> + additional training courses in use of hydrology software (SPAW, DRAINMOD, etc.) + demonstrated ability to use the hydrology tools.
		Functional Assessment	<b>Level 2 requirements</b> + consistently demonstrated proficiency in applying the principles.
		Mitigation Plan	

<sup>1</sup> ACOE Reg IV training may substitute for Wetland Identification for Food Security Act Purposes - Phase II.

<sup>2</sup> Examples of currently available vegetation courses: CNTSC Hydrophytic Vegetation Course (NRCS), Wetland Plant Identification (USFWS), Advanced Plant ID: Grasses, Sedges, Rushes, and Composites (USFWS)