



July 24, 2015

## IOWA INSTRUCTION 180-395 – WETLAND DETERMINATION AND DELINEATION

### IA395.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction provides supplemental wetland identification procedures defined as State Offsite Methods (SOSM). Iowa Instruction 180-381 approved December 1, 2009, is cancelled.

### IA395.1 SCOPE

Title 7 Part 12 Section 12.30 of the Code of Federal Regulations directs the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop and utilize off-site and on-site wetland identification procedures. The State Offsite Methods were developed to meet the requirements of the regulations found at 7 CFR Section 12.30. The State Offsite Methods replace the Iowa NRCS Wetland Mapping Conventions for Agricultural Lands for 1985 Food Security Act as amended, and published in January of 1995 (better known as the State Mapping Conventions or Wetland Mapping Conventions). The State Offsite Methods will be used when applicable for identifying wetlands beginning on July 13, 2015.

### IA195.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed under the Topics/People/NRCS Employees/Iowa NRCS eDirective, or at this link [Iowa NRCS eDirectives website](#). The State Offsite Methods will be posted in Section I of the Field Office Technical Guide under the "Reference" folder.

### IA195.3 EXHIBITS

See attachments.

/s/Richard P. Ellsmore  
Acting State Conservationist

Attachments

E

(IA Instruction 180-395 First Edition – July 2015)

IOWA INSTRUCTION 180-395 – WETLAND DETERMINATION AND  
DELINEATION

1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides supplemental wetland identification procedures defined as State Offsite Methods (SOSM). Iowa Instruction 180-381 approved December 1, 2009, is cancelled.

2. EXPLANATION:

The 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, tied a participant's eligibility for certain United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) program benefits with not planting an agricultural commodity on a wetland converted after December 23, 1985, or converting a wetland to make possible the production of an agricultural commodity after November 28, 1990. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assists producers with meeting their Wetland Compliance requirements by identifying the location of wetlands and issuing Certified Wetland Determinations. The methods NRCS uses for identifying wetlands are contained in the National Food Security Act Manual parts 514 and 527. The purpose of the State Offsite Methods document is to provide guidance to agency experts to maximize consistency and accuracy of wetland determinations. The State Offsite Methods (SOSM) were developed at the direction of the Secretary of Agriculture. The SOSMs can be used alone or in addition/combination with existing NRCS methods. State Offsite Methods will be used when applicable for all new and existing wetland determination requests when wetland identification work has not been started as of July 13, 2015. If the State Mapping Conventions have been used prior to July 13, 2015, to begin the wetland identification process, they will continue to be used until the wetland identification process is completed.

Approved By: /s/

Date: July 27, 2015

Richard P. Ellsmore  
Acting State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
210 Walnut Street, Room 693  
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

Attachments

- Exhibit A – State Guidance for Wetland Determinations Including State Offsite Methods Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Exhibit B – Wetland Determination Data Sheet - Part 1 and Part 2

(IA Instruction 180 – 395 First Edition – July 2015)