



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

CECW-OR (1145)

JUL - 1 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, DISTRICT  
COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Wetland Identification Tutorial

1. This memorandum is being issued to clarify the purpose of the newly developed software package "Identifying Wetlands: a Tutorial." The Tutorial is available as a CD or is downloadable from the ERDC web site.
2. Dr. Jim Wakeley of ERDC was commissioned by Corps HQ to develop this Tutorial as a training tool for project managers who have not yet had the opportunity to attend a Regulatory IV course and as a refresher and information source for project managers who may have taken the course some time ago. It consists of eight instructional modules with test questions to determine if the reader understands the material. There are also embedded links to important documents and information sources on the Internet.
3. The Tutorial is not meant as a substitute for the field-oriented Regulatory IV course. It primarily teaches the fundamentals of wetland identification, but not boundary delineation. It does not include all of the details in the course such as atypical or problem areas nor all of the regional considerations associated with wetland delineation. Districts should continue to use the best local scientific information for determining wetland jurisdictional boundaries.
4. While this Tutorial outlines the basic techniques for identifying wetlands, regional differences may still occur. Project managers should continue to use their own field experience, as well as that of their colleagues, and best professional judgment when making wetland delineations.
5. If you have any questions about this memorandum, please contact Katherine Trott at (202) 761-4617.



Mark F. Sudol  
Regulatory Branch Chief



## Availability of a CD-Based Tutorial on Wetland Identification

*by James S. Wakeley*

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**PURPOSE:** This technical note announces the availability of an Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) CD titled “Identifying Wetlands: A Tutorial.” This CD-based, self-learning tool (also available for download over the Internet) is aimed at new personnel in the Corps Regulatory program as well as experienced staff who need a handy reference to current guidance and information resources for wetland identification.

**BACKGROUND:** A previous technical note ([ERDC TN-WRAP-02-01](#), May 2002), describes the need for and plan to develop a CD- or Web-based tutorial covering core topics in wetland delineation. The primary goal was to provide new hires in the Corps Regulatory program with basic information on wetland identification that they need to get up to speed on this essential skill. The tutorial is not intended to replace the week-long PROSPECT training course “Regulatory IV – Interagency Wetland Identification and Delineation.” However, Regulatory IV is generally offered only once a year and space in the course may be limited. Therefore, some new staff must wait a year or more for this essential training. “Identifying Wetlands: A Tutorial” can help fill the knowledge gap. Furthermore, the tutorial is a valuable resource for experienced regulators by making available in one place the delineation manual, guidance memos, useful Web links, current definitions and indicators, and practical guidance for identifying wetlands.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE TUTORIAL:** The tutorial is organized into the following eight modules:

- 1 - Introduction and Basic Approach
- 2 - Preliminary Data Gathering
- 3 - Introduction to Hydrology and Soil Chemistry
- 4 - Introduction to Wetland Vegetation
- 5 - Introduction to Soil Properties and Descriptions
- 6 - Wetland Hydrology Indicators
- 7 - Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators
- 8 - Hydric Soil Indicators

Information can be accessed in a variety of ways. People who are unfamiliar with wetland identification should navigate the entire tutorial in the order presented. Optional self tests are provided at the end of each module to gauge the student’s progress. More experienced personnel can find the information they need quickly by using the expandable table of contents, the key-word index, or the word-search capability.

ERDC and Corps Headquarters are seeking comments on the tutorial and suggestions for future editions. If it proves useful, the tutorial could be expanded to include additional modules on routine

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and comprehensive methods, atypical situations, problem area wetlands, and other topics in wetland delineation.

**POINTS OF CONTACT:** To download the tutorial from the Environmental Laboratory Web site, click on <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/wrap/tools.html>. This technical note should be cited as follows:

Wakeley, J. S. (2003). "Availability of a CD-based tutorial on wetland identification," WRAP Technical Notes Collection (ERDC TN-WRAP-03-01), U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS.