U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center

Wetlands Management

Description of Technology
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.

Benefits
This technology provides managers with technically sound, cost-effective techniques for restoring and improving existing wetlands, reduces wetland losses and water resource development project impacts, and achieves better stewardship and management of existing wetlands.

Significant Accomplishments
The Regional Supplements to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual have been adopted as the national standard for identifying and delineating wetlands. The Regional Supplements reflect current state-of-the-science and address regional wetland characteristics to improve accuracy and efficiency of wetland delineating procedures.

The Hydrogeomorphic Approach for assessing ecosystem functions is a science based method for evaluating functional performance of aquatic ecosystems. This method allows researchers to assess current ecosystem conditions, mitigation ratios, post-project impacts, and restoration success.

Classroom and field-oriented training in delineation, hydric soils, and functional assessment is continually provided to regulatory and wetlands professionals to improve technical proficiency.

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