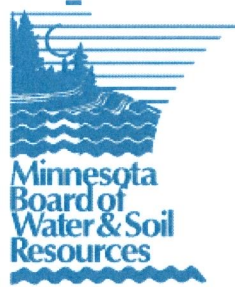




**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District



Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: FEB 22 2012

Final Northcentral/Northeast Regional Supplement To the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), announce the availability of the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region, Version 2.0*. This supplement was developed by regional expert delineators with input from state and Federal agencies, academia and other local experts. It was peer reviewed by a panel of independent scientists and field tested by interagency teams of state and Federal agencies to determine the clarity and ease of use of the document and whether its use will result in any spatial changes in wetland jurisdiction for Clean Water Act Section 404 purposes. Version 2.0 of the Northcentral and Northeast regional supplement can be found at:

http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/RegulatoryProgramandPermits/reg_supp.aspx.

2. The following changes were incorporated into Version 2.0 of this supplement:

a. Minor wording and organizational changes have been made throughout the document in an attempt to improve its clarity and consistency with other regional supplements. Several web links have been updated.

b. In Chapter 3, some new photos of hydric soil indicators have been added. In addition, the wording of several hydric soil indicators has been updated to conform to Version 7.0 of the National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils (NTCHS) field indicators. In particular, see hydric soil indicators A5, A11, A12, S6, S7, S8, S9 and others for updated wording. Also, indicator A16 Coast Prairie Redox remains in the section addressing hydric soil indicators for problem soils. This indicator has been considered for removal. Please provide input if you are actively using this indicator in delineations.

c. In Chapter 5, wording has been added to address high chroma sandy soils occurring on the shores of the Great Lakes in Michigan. These changes are based on data collected subsequent to publication of the interim version of the supplement (2009-2011).

d. An addition has been made to the section on Hydrology and Growing Season (page 79) based on deliberations of regional working group members and the National Technical Committee for Wetland Vegetation. This was not included in the Glossary definition of Growing Season. “Determinations of the beginning or the end of the growing season should not include evergreen species, including such herbaceous species as *Polystichum acrostichoides* and *Lycopodium* spp., or deciduous species that retain their leaves into the winter (e.g., *Rhamnus cathartica*). Certain herbaceous plants, such as *Alliaria petiolata*, *Carex blanda*, *Geum canadense*, and *Hesperis matronalis*, have basal rosettes and lower stem leaves that retain chlorophyll and remain green throughout the year, including winter (Figure 31). The winter presence of green tissue in these species is not considered a vegetative signal that the growing season has begun. These types of herbaceous species do not indicate the beginning or end of the growing season. If limited to using these types of species, look for new growth from the vegetative crowns to meet the biological activity indicator.”

e. The definitions of “Layer” and “Within” have been added to the glossary as requested by New England and Detroit Districts.

f. The section defining where to start soil observations (page 40) was updated to include the use of indicator S3.

g. Soil indicator TF2 – red parent materials has been removed and replaced by F21 – red parent material. This indicator has been approved for testing nationwide. Changes are based on National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils determinations. Associated additions to the glossary and list of references were also made to reflect these changes.

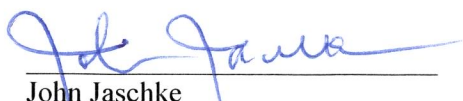
h. Definition of DBH was added to the glossary based on working group comments. “**Diameter at breast height (DBH)**. A standard method of expressing the diameter of the trunk or bole measured at 1.37 meters (4.5 feet) above the ground. On sloping ground, measurements should be taken from the uphill side of the trunk. If the DBH point falls on a swelling in the trunk, measure the girth below the swelling at the point where the diameter is smallest.”

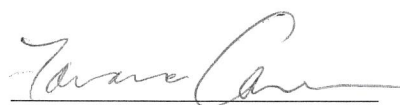
3. All three regional supplements applicable to Minnesota – Great Plains, Midwest and Northcentral/Northeast – are now final (i.e., Version 2.0). Figure 1 illustrates the boundaries between the three supplement regions based on township boundaries as opposed to the irregular land resource region boundaries. Wetland boundaries are not likely to differ between supplements in transitional areas, but one supplement may provide more detailed treatment of certain problem situations encountered on the site. In transitional areas, investigators must use experience and good judgment to select the supplement and indicators that are appropriate to the site based on its physical and biological characteristics. If in doubt about which supplement to use in a transitional area, apply each supplement and compare the results. For additional guidance, contact Steve Eggers at the St. Paul District (contact information is below) or BWSR wetland specialist. Contact information for BWSR is available on its website listed below.

4. The BWSR has posted a PDF version of the Northcentral/Northeast Supplement (Version 2.0), boundary map, and the new data form, on its website: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/>.

5. The Corps will continue to accept comments/suggestions and new data on this supplement. Comments may be submitted to Ms. Karen Mulligan (CECW-CO), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G. Street, NW, Washington DC 20314-1000 or by e-mail to 87Manual@usace.army.mil.

6. The St. Paul District contact for the regional supplements is Mr. Steve Eggers, Senior Ecologist, Regulatory Branch, (651) 290-5371 or steve.d.eggers@usace.army.mil .



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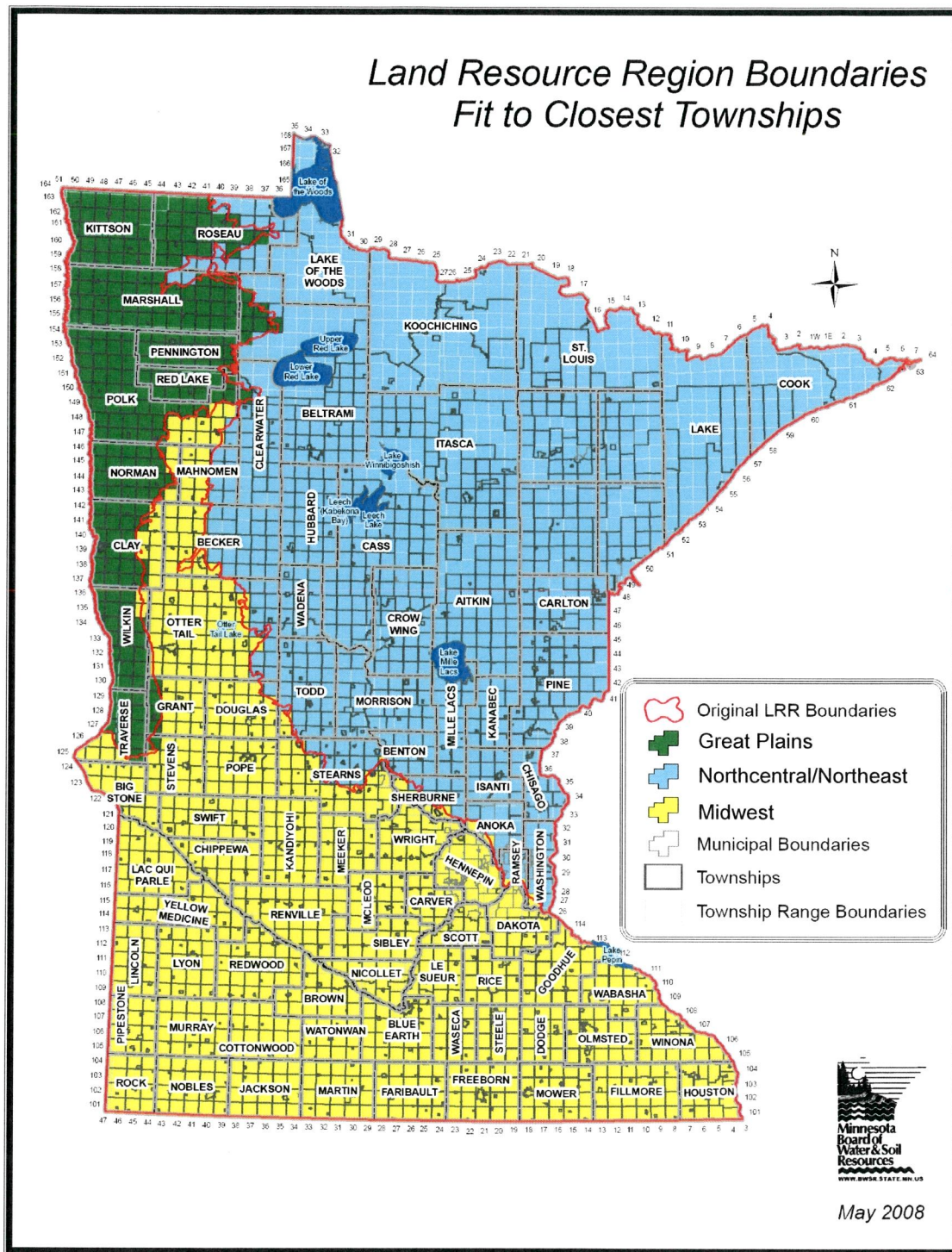


Figure 1
Modified Boundaries of Supplements in Minnesota Using Township Boundaries