

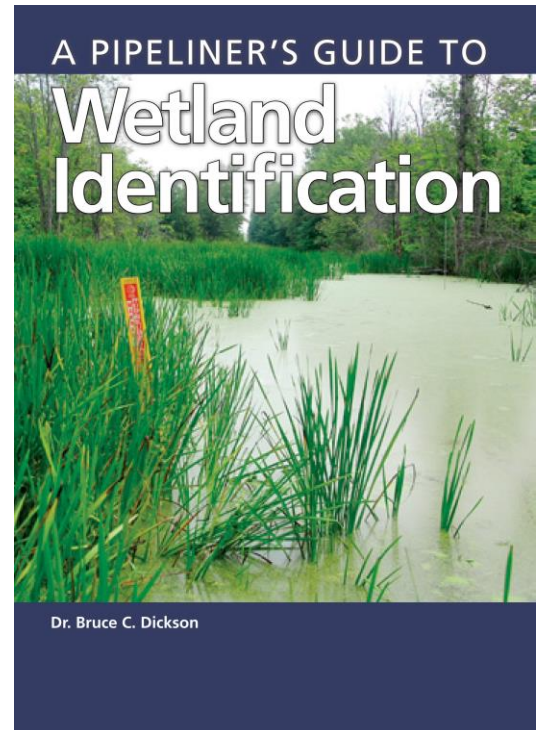
A Pipeliner's Guide to Wetland Identification

RedHorse Environmental designed, developed and published a wetland identification guide for oil and gas pipeline personnel to facilitate locating wetlands on rights-of-way. *A Pipeliner's Guide to Wetland Identification* is intended to assist individuals with little prior exposure to the general characteristics of wetlands to recognize wetland indicators through direct observation of landscape and site features and the various indicator species of plants commonly encountered in wetlands of the Northeastern Region of the United States when conducting pipeline site assessments.

While the guide is designed to help in the identification of wetlands, it is not a comprehensive document and does not cover all the aspects of generally accepted indicators of wetland conditions. In particular, site hydrology and vegetation is featured in this guide whereas soils are omitted.

The guide is not designed for formal wetland delineation purposes nor is it intended to replace the 1987 US Army Corps of Engineers Delineation Manual or Regional Supplements.

The guide is 110 pages and is printed on water proof pages and is available at RedHorse Environmental.



Wetland Classification and the National Wetlands Inventory Program

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service have a comprehensive wetland classification and associated inventory program that provides data on wetlands in the US. One of the primary products of the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI) is the National Wetland Inventory Maps that shows where known wetlands occur and their particular classification. Each classification carries a specific code that is displayed on NWI maps to identify that wetland's type. While many wetlands can be found in the NWI system many have not been mapped to date. Therefore, reliance on NWI maps to determine wetland presence/absence is not recommended. For a thorough treatment of the NWI Program see: <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/index.html>

Legal Definition of Wetlands:

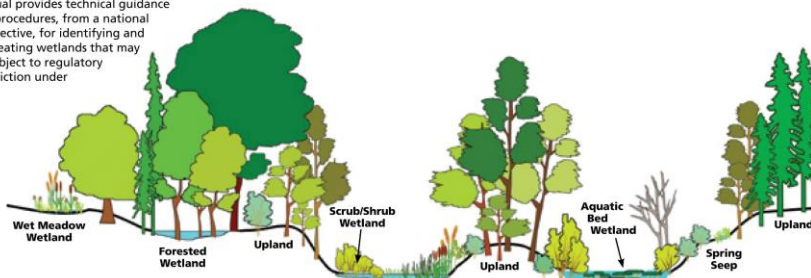
Wetlands are a subset of the "waters of the United States" that may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The United States Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual provides technical guidance and procedures, from a national perspective, for identifying and delineating wetlands that may be subject to regulatory jurisdiction under

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. 403).

According to the Corps Manual, identification of wetlands is based on a three-factor approach involving indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soil, and wetland hydrology. The 1987 Manual and later Supplements present wetland indicators, delineation guidance, and other information that is specific to geographic regions of the United States.

Understanding the legal definition of wetlands is important in that those areas that meet the criteria of the 1987 Manual and Supplements are defined as jurisdictional wetlands. These wetland areas are subject to regulation and may require permitting at the National and/or State level for any type of disturbance to occur within their boundaries.

Although a wetland may be identified during a routine site assessment using this guide it must be understood that the user is NOT conducting formal wetland delineations. In instances where wetland indicators are observed it is recommended that the site be referred to a qualified wetland scientist for further assessment and, if required, delineated according to USACE 87 Delineation Manual criteria.



Common Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*)

FORM: Perennial Forb; rosette of basal leaves and one or more flowering stalks to 3.5'

FOLIAGE: Leaf blades up to 16" long and 10" across, but usually smaller; smooth with parallel veins

FLOWERS: Approximately 1" across consisting of 3 rounded white petals; blooms late Spring

FRUIT: Globe-shaped heads, green then brown, Spring to Summer



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Forbes, Ferns & Horsetails

Example Plant Page