



Module 8.

What to do when you suspect a wetland? A summary.



Summary

Wetlands means “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.”

Clean Water Act Section 404 Regulations 40 CFR 230.3(t)



Practical Definition

- Wetlands Form the Transition Zone Between Upland and Aquatic Environments
- Wetlands Often have Unique Flora and Fauna
- 3 Wetland Parameters :
 - **Wetland Hydrology**
 - **Hydric Soils**
 - **Hydrophytic Vegetation**

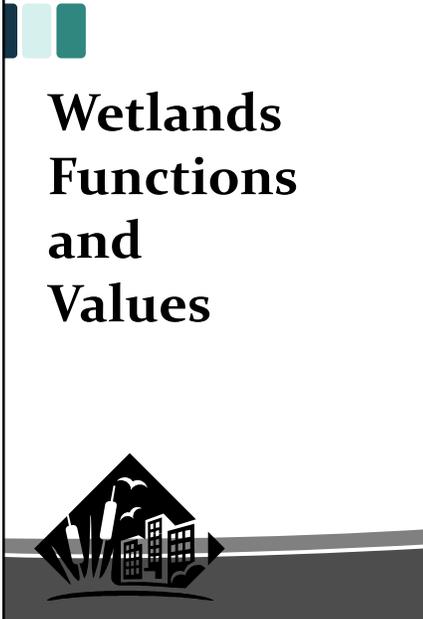


But also!

- Ponds
- Drainage ways
- Creeks
- Seeps
- Streams
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Wetlands Functions and Values



	Provision of habitat
	Filtration of water
	Flood retention
	Erosion reduction
	Recreation – canoeing, fishing, bird watching
	Harvesting – berries, grains
	Carbon storage
	Nutrient cycling
	Groundwater recharge

Examples of what is regulated?

- Fill of a surface water
- Dredge or excavate in a surface water
- Withdraw from a surface water
- Draining wetlands
- Permanently flood or impound a wetland
- Otherwise alter the physical, chemical or biological properties and make them detrimental to the public health, or to animal or aquatic life, or to the uses of such waters for domestic or industrial consumption, or for recreation, or for other uses.



How are wetlands and surface waters protected in Virginia?

- They need to be delineated
- Any filling/dredging needs to be permitted
- Any non-permitted filling/dredging needs to be reported to DEQ



Examples of what is excluded?

- Normal agricultural activities
- Normal silvicultural activities
- Normal residential lawn and yard maintenance and use activities
- Isolated wetlands of minimal ecological value (<1/10 acre, not forested, no T&E or special community, not in floodplain)
- Certain surface water withdrawal activities



Are these Wetlands?

The Obvious



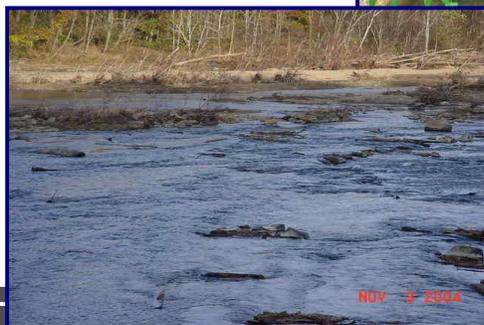
Are these Wetlands?

- ✓ Vegetation
- ✓ Soil
- ✓ Hydrology



Is this a stream?

The Obvious



Is this a stream?

✓ Stream Channel



 **When in Doubt!**

Ask Questions?

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WetlandsStreams.aspx>



 **Remember!**

Construction and Land Development is not negative;
moreover it is necessary, but

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It can have undeniable and sometimes unforeseen
consequences on the environment including wetlands.
We need to avoid these impacts as much as possible and
try to minimize them.



Remember!

We ESC and Stormwater professionals are in a unique situation to contribute to the environmental integrity stewardship of a project.

