

**Montana Ecological Integrity Assessment Field Form 2015**

ASSESSMENT AREA INFORMATION									
Site ID			Visit #			Date			
Site Name			Level 2 _____ Level 3 _____			Observer(s)			
Level 4 Ecoregion									
Land Ownership					Is this a mitigation wetland? <b>Y</b> <b>N</b>				
USGS Quad Name					Pre-construction Visit # _____				
HUC4/HUC5/HUC6									
Slope 1 (°)			Aspect 1 (°)			AA is: _____ Centered on original target coordinates _____ Not centered on original target coordinates _____ Shifted but within 60 m of the original target coordinates			
Slope 2 (°)			Aspect 2 (°)						
GPS Coordinate Info									
Target AA Center Coordinates: Latitude (Y)				Longitude (X)					
GPS Unit Info. and Unit #:									
Actual AA Center Coordinates:									
Waypoint ID			Accuracy (m)			Percent of AA that is upland (not wetland). THIS CANNOT BE MORE THAN 10% OF THE AA.			
Datum			Elevation (m)						
Latitude (Y)			Longitude (X)						
If AA is not a 40 m radius circle, record GPS coordinate information below:									
	Waypoint ID	Latitude (Y)	Longitude (X)	Accuracy (m)					
AA Corner #1									
AA Corner #2									
AA Corner #3									
AA Corner #4									
AA Track	Track Name:			Comments:					
General AA description, including surrounding uplands					Directions to AA and Access Comments:				
Topographic Position (check one)			Amount of AA Covered by Standing Water (check one)			Estimated Depth of Standing Water (check one)			Surface Water Permanence (check one)
slope		floodplain	none	51-75%	< 0.5 m	1-2 m	Semipermanent		
toeslope		valley bottom	1-25%	76-100%	0.5 - < 1 m	> 2 m	Seasonal		
basin floor			26-50%					Temporary	
Assessment Area Photos-Taken from the center of the AA in the four cardinal directions									
Camera Information:									
Photo #	N	Description:							
Photo #	E								
Photo #	S								
Photo #	W								
Site Overview Photo #	Aspect								
Additional Photos:									

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Ecological System (check one--use Key to Ecological Systems):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> GP Prairie Pothole       | <input type="checkbox"/> RM Fen                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WGP Saline Depression    | <input type="checkbox"/> RM Wet Meadow                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WGP Open Depression      | <input type="checkbox"/> LM Riparian Woodland and Shrubland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WGP Closed Depression    | <input type="checkbox"/> RM Riparian Shrubland              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> W. N. Am. Emergent Marsh | <input type="checkbox"/> RM Riparian Woodland               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NWGP Riparian/Floodplain | <input type="checkbox"/> NRM Wooded Vernal Pool             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                    |   |

**Confidence Level:**

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very High | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High      | <input type="checkbox"/> Low    |
- Reason for selecting confidence level:

**HGM Class (check one-use Key to Hydrogeomorphic Classes):**

- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slope        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lacustrine Fringe                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Depressional | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverine (floodplain)*                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flat         | Specific classification and metrics apply to the Riverine HGM Class |

**Confidence Level:**

- |                                    |                                 |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very High | <input type="checkbox"/> Medium | <u>Reason for selecting confidence level:</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High      | <input type="checkbox"/> Low    |   |

**Has the wetland been anthropogenically altered (impounded, diked, ditched, drained, etc.)?**

**Has this wetland been artificially created, enhanced, or restored?**

**Cowardin Classification (check all that apply-use Key to Cowardin Systems):**

**Cowardin System**

Palustrine (P)

**Cowardin Class**

Aquatic Bed (AB)     Unconsolidated Bottom (UB)     Unconsolidated Shore (US)

Emergent (EM)     Scrub-Shrub (SS)

Lacustrine Littoral (L2)

Aquatic Bed (AB)     Unconsolidated Bottom (UB)     Unconsolidated Shore (US)

**Cowardin Water Regimes:**

**For L2UB, L2AB OR PAB, PUB**

**Intermittently Exposed (G):** surface water is present all year except in years of extreme drought

**Semipermanently Flooded (F):** surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years; if surface water absent, water table at/near the surface

**Artificially Flooded (K):** amount and duration of flooding completely controlled by artificial means (dikes, dams, pumps)

**For PEM, PSS, PFO**

**Semipermanently Flooded (F):** surface water persists throughout the growing season in most years; if surface water absent, water table at/near the surface

**Seasonally Flooded (C):** surface water is present early in the growing season, but absent by the end of the season in most years; if surface water absent, water table is often near the surface

**Saturated (B):** saturated to the surface during the growing season; surface water seldom present

**Temporarily Flooded (A):** surface water present for brief periods early in the growing season; water table lies well below the surface for most of the growing season; both upland and wetland plants present

**Intermittently Flooded (J):** substrate usually exposed; flooded for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity; may have weeks, months, years between inundation periods. The sites are often saline/alkaline

**For L2US, PUS**

**Seasonally Flooded (C):** surface water is present early in the growing season, but absent by the end of the season in most years; if surface water absent, water table is often near the surface

**Temporarily Flooded (A):** surface water present for brief periods early in the growing season; water table lies well below the surface for most of the growing season; both upland and wetland plants present

**Intermittently Flooded (J):** substrate usually exposed; flooded for variable periods without detectable seasonal periodicity; may have weeks, months, years between inundation periods. The sites are often saline/alkaline

**Cowardin Special Modifiers**

- Beaver (b)  
 Excavated (x)  
 Partially ditched/draind (d)  
 Diked/impounded (h)

Cowardin Code	% of AA	Cowardin Code	% of AA

**ASSESSMENT AREA DRAWING (add north arrow, document plant zones, indicate direction of drainage into or out of wetland, and include sketch of vegetation plot and soil pit placement). ALSO INDICATE ALL PLANT ZONES ON AERIAL PHOTO, IF POSSIBLE**



**Notes:**



<b>Physical Patch Types</b>	How many <b>physical patch types</b> occur within the site (refer to physical patch type table below)?	
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**List of Physical Patch Types within the Assessment Area**

PHYSICAL PATCH TYPE	Present in AA	Percent Cover within AA	Description
Cover Classes 1: trace 2: <1% 3: 1-<2% 4: 2-<5% 5: 5-<10% 6: 10-<25% 7: 25-<50% 8: 50-<75% 9: 75-<95% 10: >95%			
Open water-pond or lake			Medium to large natural water body
Open water -pools			Areas that hold stagnant or slow moving water from groundwater discharge but are not associated with a defined channel.
Open water-river/stream			Areas of flowing water associated with a sizeable channel.
Open water-small rivulet			Areas of flowing water associated with a narrow stream channel.
Open water-oxbow/backwater channel			Areas holding stagnant or slow moving water that have been partially or completely disassociated from the primary river channel.
Open water-tributary/secondary channel			Areas of flowing water entering the main channel from a secondary source.
Open water-beaver pond			Areas that hold stagnant or slow moving water behind a beaver dam.
Active beaver dam			Debris damming a stream clearly constructed by beaver (note gnawed ends of branches)
Beaver canals			Canals cut through emergent vegetation by beaver.
Braided river channel			River channel consisting of a network of small channels separated by small and often temporary islands or bars.
Adjacent or onsite springs/seeps			Localized point of emerging groundwater, often on or at the base of a sloping hillside.
Debris jams/woody debris			Aggregated woody debris in a stream channel deposited by high flows.
Pool/riffle complex			Deep, slow-moving pools alternating with shallow, fast-moving riffles along the relatively straight course of a stream or river.
Point bars			A low ridge of sediment (sand or gravel) formed on the inner bank of a meandering stream.
Bank slumps or undercut banks in channel or along shoreline			A bank slump is the portion of a stream or other wetland bank that has broken free from the rest of the bank but has not eroded away. Undercut banks are areas along the bank or shoreline of a wetland that have been excavated by waves or flowing water.
Mudflats			An accumulation of mud at the edge of shallow waters, such as a lake or pond. Often intermittently flooded or exposed.
Salt flat/alkali flat			Dry open area of fine-grained sediment and accumulated salts. Often wet in the winter months or with heavy precipitation.
Animal mounds or burrows			Mounds or holes associated with animal foraging, denning, predation, or other behaviors.
Plant hummocks			A mound composed of plant material resulting in a raised pedestal of persistent roots or rhizomes.
Water tracks/hollows			Depressions between hummocks or mounds that remain permanently saturated or inundated with slow moving surface water.
Natural island			Naturally occurring islands surrounded by water. Island can be dominated by either wetland or upland vegetation.
Anthropogenic island			Island created by artificial means, often for nesting waterfowl.
Floating mat			Mats of peat held together by roots and rhizomes of sedges. Floating mats are underlain by water and /or very loose peat.
Marl/limonite beds			Marl is a calcium carbonate precipitate often found in calcareous fens. Limonite forms in iron-rich fens when iron precipitates from the groundwater incorporating organic matter.
Other:			

Identify and describe the plant zones that occur within the assessment area. Identify the dominant plant species within each stratum. To be considered a separate plant zone, it must make up more than 5% of the AA (e.g., 250 m<sup>2</sup> for an AA of 0.5 ha).

**Plant Zones in Entire Assessment Area**

Height Scale for Each Plant Zone				Cover Scale for Each Plant Zone			
1	<0.5 m	6	10-15 m	1	Trace	6	10-<25%
2	0.5-1 m	7	15-20 m	2	<1%	7	25-<50%
3	1-2 m	8	20-35 m	3	1-<2%	8	50-<75%
4	2-5 m	9	35-50 m	4	2-<5%	9	75-<95%
5	5-10 m	10	>50 m	5	5-<10%	10	>95%

**Stratum**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| (FO) Forest/Woodland (Trees/Shrubs > 5 m)         | (V) Vines   |
| (SH) Shrubland (Shrubs >0.5-5 m)                  | (SF) Submerged/Floating (Rooted or floating-exclude emergent) |
| (DS) Dwarf Shrubland (<0.5 m)                     | (SV) Sparsely Vegetated (including bare ground)               |
| (H) Herbaceous (e.g., Graminoids, Forbs, Ferns)   | (CW) Coarse Woody Debris (≥ 7.6 cm in diameter)               |
| (NV) Nonvascular (Bryophytes, cryptogamic crusts) | (FW) Fine Woody Debris (≤ 7.5 cm in diameter)                 |

**Plant Zone #1 (indicate location on site drawing)**

Stratum	Dominant Species	Height Class	Cover Class	Comments

**Plant Zone #2 (indicate location on site drawing)**

Stratum	Dominant Species	Height Class	Cover Class	Comments



**1. Landscape Context Metrics —Circle the applicable number**

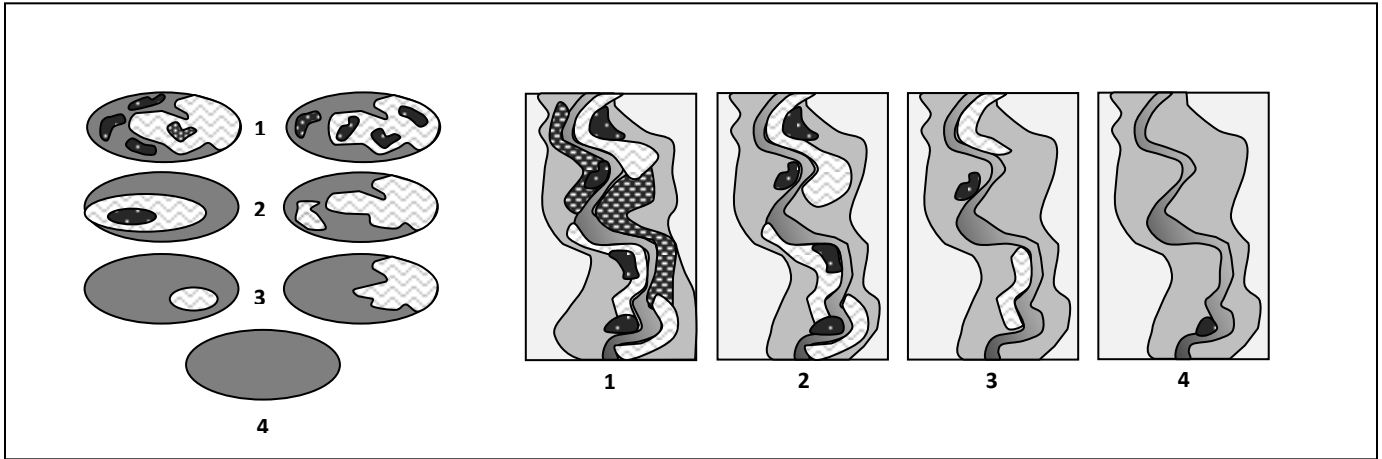
LANDSCAPE CONTEXT			
<b>Landscape Connectivity within 200 m of the AA perimeter</b>			
<i>For non-riverine wetlands, select the statement that best describes the landscape connectivity within a 200 m envelope around the AA perimeter (refer to site map).</i>	Intact: AA embedded in >90-100% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>1</b>
	Variegated: AA embedded in >75-90% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>2</b>
	Fragmented: AA embedded in >50-75% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>3</b>
	Severely fragmented: AA embedded in 25-50% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>4</b>
	Relictual: AA embedded in <25 % unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>5</b>
<i>For riverine wetlands, select the statement that best describes the landscape connectivity within a 200 m envelope upstream and downstream of the AA perimeter (refer to the site map).</i>	Intact: AA embedded in >90-100% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>1</b>
	Variegated: AA embedded in >75-90% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>2</b>
	Fragmented: AA embedded in >50-75% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>3</b>
	Severely fragmented: AA embedded in 25-50% unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>4</b>
	Relictual: AA embedded in <25 % unfragmented, natural landscape.		<b>5</b>
<b>Buffer Length</b>			
<i>Select the statement that best describes the buffer length around the AA perimeter.</i>	A buffer of at least 30 m occurs around 76-100% of the AA perimeter.		<b>1</b>
	A buffer of at least 30 m occurs around 51-75% of the AA perimeter.		<b>2</b>
	A buffer of at least 30 m occurs around 25-50% of the AA perimeter.		<b>3</b>
	A buffer of at least 30 m occurs around <25% of the AA perimeter, OR NO BUFFER EXISTS.		<b>4</b>
<b>Buffer Width: Select the statement that best describes the buffer width of the AA. Estimate width up to 200 m from AA perimeter at eight evenly spaced intervals. Draw a 'pie' on your aerial photo and determine buffer width for each section.</b>			
N	S	Average buffer width between edge of the AA and the edge of the buffer is >200 m.	<b>1</b>
NE	SW	Average buffer width between edge of AA and the edge of the buffer is >100-200 m.	<b>2</b>
E	W	Average buffer width between edge of the AA and the edge of the buffer is 50-100 m.	<b>3</b>
SE	NW	Average buffer width between edge of the AA and the edge of the buffer is <50 m, OR no buffer exists.	<b>4</b>
Average Buffer Width: _____			
<b>Buffer Condition within 200 m of the AA perimeter</b>			
<i>Select the statement that best describes the plant species composition within a 200 m envelope around the AA perimeter.</i>	Abundant (>95%) native vegetation cover and little or no (<5%) cover of non-native plants.		<b>1</b>
	Substantial (>75–95%) native vegetation cover and low (5–25%) cover of non-native plants.		<b>2</b>
	Moderate (50-75%) native vegetation cover.		<b>3</b>
	Low (<50%) cover of native vegetation, OR NO BUFFER EXISTS.		<b>4</b>
<i>Select the statement that best describes the extent of soil disturbance composition within a 200 m envelope around the AA perimeter.</i>	Soils are intact.		<b>1</b>
	Soils are slightly to moderately disturbed.		<b>2</b>
	Soils are moderately to extensively disturbed.		<b>3</b>
	Soils are highly disturbed OR ground is unnaturally bare, OR NO BUFFER EXISTS.		<b>4</b>
<i>Select the statement that best describes the extent of trash or evidence of human visitation within 200 m of the AA perimeter.</i>	No trash present OR no evidence of human visitation or recreation.		<b>1</b>
	Little trash OR evidence of minor human visitation or recreation.		<b>2</b>
	Moderate or greater amounts of trash OR evidence of moderate human visitation/recreation.		<b>3</b>
	Excessive amounts of trash OR evidence of high intensity human visitation/recreation, OR NO BUFFER EXISTS.		<b>4</b>

**2. Vegetation Metrics—Circle the applicable number**

VEGETATION		
<b>Relative cover of native plant species within the AA</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the relative cover of native plant species within the AA.</p>	>99% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of native vegetation.	<b>1</b>
	95-99% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of native vegetation.	<b>2</b>
	80-94% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of native vegetation.	<b>3</b>
	50-80% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of native vegetation.	<b>4</b>
	<50% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of native vegetation.	<b>5</b>
<b>Relative cover of listed noxious weed species within the AA (see State/County Noxious Weed list)</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the relative cover of listed noxious weed species within the AA.</p> <p>Identify and rank the three most common noxious weed species observed in the AA.</p> <p>1) _____</p> <p>2) _____</p> <p>3) _____</p>	No noxious weed species are present in the AA.	<b>1</b>
	<1-3% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of noxious weed species. If weeds occur in patches, then patches are small and isolated (1-2 patches) within the AA.	<b>2</b>
	>3-10% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of noxious weed species. If weeds occur in patches, then patches are moderate in size and common (3-5 patches) within the AA.	<b>3</b>
	>10% of the vegetation cover within the AA is comprised of noxious weed species. If weeds occur in patches, then patches are relatively large and abundant (>5 patches) within the AA.	<b>4</b>
<b>Relative cover of aggressive graminoids within the AA</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the relative cover of aggressive graminoids within the AA.</p> <p>Identify and rank the three most common aggressive graminoids observed in the AA.</p> <p>1) _____</p> <p>2) _____</p> <p>3) _____</p>	No aggressive graminoid species are present in the AA.	<b>1</b>
	Aggressive graminoids are present in the AA, but with low cover (<10% relative cover of cattails or <5% cover of reed canarygrass, common reed, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, common timothy, or meadow foxtail).	<b>2</b>
	Aggressive graminoids are common in the AA (10-25% relative cover of cattails or 5-10% relative cover of reed canarygrass, common reed, smooth brome Kentucky bluegrass, common timothy, or meadow foxtail).	<b>3</b>
	Aggressive graminoids are abundant in the AA (>25-50% relative cover of cattails or 10-25% relative cover of reed canarygrass, common reed, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, common timothy, or meadow foxtail).	<b>4</b>
	Aggressive graminoids are dominant in the AA (>50% relative cover of cattails or >25% relative cover of reed canarygrass, common reed, smooth brome, Kentucky bluegrass, common timothy, or meadow foxtail).	<b>5</b>
<b>Herbaceous Litter/Woody Debris Accumulation within the AA</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the herbaceous litter/woody debris accumulation of the site. <b>Note: Site must have the potential to accumulate woody debris (i.e., woody plant species should be present at the site).</b></p>	Site has moderate amount of fine litter/woody debris. New growth is more prevalent than previous years' growth. Layers of litter in pools or areas of topographic lows are thin.	<b>1</b>
	Site is characterized by small amounts of litter/woody debris, with little plant recruitment, OR litter/woody debris is somewhat excessive.	<b>2</b>
	Site has scant litter/woody debris OR litter/woody debris is excessive and is blocking plant recruitment.	<b>3</b>
<b>Interspersion of Plant Zones within the AA</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the patch interspersion of the site (use the associated schematics).</p>	Horizontal structure consists of a very complex array of nested or interspersed irregular biotic patches with no single dominant type.	<b>1</b>
	Horizontal structure consists of a moderately complex array of nested or interspersed irregular biotic patches with no single dominant type.	<b>2</b>
	Horizontal structure consists of a simple array of nested or interspersed irregular biotic patches with no single dominant type.	<b>3</b>
	Horizontal structure consists of one dominant patch type with no interspersion.	<b>4</b>



**Plant Zone Interspersion Schematic**



<b>Woody Species Establishment and Regeneration within the AA</b>		
<i>Select the statement that best describes woody species establishment and regeneration within the AA.</i>	All age classes of native woody species present OR woody species are naturally uncommon or absent.	<b>1</b>
	Middle age group(s) absent. All other well-represented.	<b>2</b>
	Seedlings and saplings and middle age group(s) absent. The stand is comprised mainly of mature species.	<b>3</b>
	Woody species predominately consist of relict or dying individuals or AA has a > 5% canopy cover of Russian Olive and/or Salt Cedar.	<b>4</b>
<b>Utilization of Trees and Shrubs with the AA</b>		
<i>Select the statement that best describes the utilization of trees and shrubs in the AA.</i>	0-5% of the available second year and older stems are browsed OR woody species are naturally uncommon or absent.	<b>1</b>
	>5%-25% of the available second year and older stems are browsed.	<b>2</b>
	>25%-50% of the available second year and older stems are browsed.	<b>3</b>
	More than 50% of the available second year and older stems are browsed.	<b>4</b>

**3. Physicochemical Metrics—Circle the applicable number.**

<b>PHYSICOCHEMICAL</b>		
<b>Soil Surface Integrity within the AA</b>		
<i>Select the statement that describes the soil surface integrity within the AA.</i>	Soil disturbance is limited to naturally caused disturbances such as flood deposition or game trails.	<b>1</b>
	Soil disturbance due to human causes (including livestock) is present but minimal. Depth of disturbance is limited to a few inches and does not show evidence of ponding or channeling water. Site will recover within a few years after disturbance removal.	<b>2</b>
	Soil disturbance due to human causes is common and will be slow to recover. Damage is not excessive and the site will recover with the removal of degrading human influences and moderate recovery times.	<b>3</b>
	Soil disturbance is widespread and substantially degrades the site. Water, if present, would be channeled or ponded. The site will not recover without restoration and/or long recovery times.	<b>4</b>

<b>Water Quality: Select the statements that best describe the following water quality indicators within the AA. If there is no water in the AA, then leave these metrics blank.</b>		
<i>Algae</i>	No visual evidence of degraded water quality. No potential source of water quality degradation observed. Water is clear with minimal algae growth.	<b>1</b>
	Some negative water quality indicators are present and/or some potential sources of water quality degradation observed. Algae are limited to small and localized areas within the wetland. Water may have a minimal greenish tint, cloudiness, or sheen.	<b>2</b>
	Algal growth occurs in large patches throughout the AA. Potential sources of water quality degradation are apparent. Water may have a moderate greenish tint or sheen.	<b>3</b>
	Algal mats may be extensive, blocking light to the bottom. Potential sources of water quality degradation are apparent. Water has strong greenish tint, sheen, or turbidity. The bottom is difficult to see during the growing season.	<b>4</b>
<i>Turbidity</i>	No visual evidence of degraded water quality. No potential source of water quality degradation observed.	<b>1</b>
	Water is slightly cloudy and/or some potential sources of water quality degradation observed, but there is no obvious source of sedimentation	<b>2</b>
	Water is cloudy, but the bottom is still visible. Potential sources of water quality degradation are apparent.	<b>3</b>
	Water is milky and/or muddy. The bottom is no longer visible. Potential sources of water quality degradation are apparent.	<b>4</b>
<i>Sheen (petroleum-based)</i> <b>Note: Sheens can be caused by bacteria. When disturbed, a bacterial sheen will break up into small platelets; petroleum sheens will quickly reform.</b>	No visual evidence of degraded water quality. No potential source of water quality degradation observed. Water is clear with no sheen.	<b>1</b>
	Some negative water quality indicators are present and/or some potential sources of water quality degradation observed. Sheen on the water is limited to small and localized areas within the AA.	<b>2</b>
	Sheen occurs in large patches throughout the surface water of the AA. Potential sources of water quality degradation are apparent. Water may have a moderate sheen.	<b>3</b>
	Sheen is extensive throughout the surface of the water in the AA. Potential sources of water quality degradation are apparent. Water has a strong sheen.	<b>4</b>

**4. Hydrologic Metrics—Circle the applicable number.**

HYDROLOGY		
<b>Water Inputs into the AA</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the water sources into the AA during the growing season.</p>	Sources are precipitation, groundwater, and/or natural runoff, or natural flow from an adjacent freshwater body, or the AA naturally lacks water in the growing season.	<b>1</b>
	Sources are mostly natural but can include occasional or small effects of modified hydrology. No large point sources or dams control the overall hydrology.	<b>2</b>
	Sources are primarily from anthropogenic sources (e.g., urban runoff, pumped water, impoundments, regulated releases through a dam).	<b>3</b>
	Natural sources have been eliminated based on the following indicators: impoundment of all possible wet season inflows, diversions of all dry-season inflows, predominance of xeric vegetation, etc.	<b>4</b>
<p>Rank major water sources observed in the AA, or observed to potentially impact the AA, starting with 1 being the most dominant through 3. Mark all others present with a 4 and those not present as NA.</p>	<b>Natural Sources:</b>	<b>Count of Discrete Inlets:</b>
	Overbank flooding	Channels
	Alluvial storage/hyporheic flow	Spring
	Throughflow	Ditches
	Groundwater discharge	Culvert
	Precipitation	Pipes
	Snowmelt	Pumps
	<b>Anthropogenic Sources:</b>	Other/Comments:
	Irrigation run-off/ditches	
	Urban run-off	
	Pipes directly feeding into wetland	
	Culvert	
Pumps		
Other:		
<b>Water Outlet of the AA</b>		
<p>Select the statement that best describes the water outlet of the AA during the growing season.</p>	Water leaves the site through natural runoff, natural flow, evaporation, or outlet is blocked by natural features (e.g., beaver dam), OR the site naturally lacks water in the growing season.	<b>1</b>
	Outflow is mostly natural, but there is some modification due to anthropogenic restrictions (e.g., filling or development, channelization).	<b>2</b>
	Withdrawals are primarily from anthropogenic sources, and outflow has been significantly altered by flow obstructions (culverts, paved stream crossings, impoundments, ditching).	<b>3</b>
	Natural outflow has been completely eliminated due to the following indicators: dike/levees, railroads, or roads with no culverts.	<b>4</b>
<p>Rank major water outlets observed in the AA, or observed to potentially impact the AA, starting with 1 being the most dominant through 3. Mark all others present with a 4 and those not present as NA.</p>	<b>Natural Sources:</b>	<b>Count of Discrete Outlets:</b>
	Channelized flow (headwater wetland)	Channels
	Recharge to adjacent stream	Culvert
	Throughflow	Ditches
	Non-channelized flow to contiguous wetland area	Pumps
	No natural outlet	Other/Comments:
	<b>Anthropogenic Sources:</b>	
	Culverts under roadways / trails	
	Ditches established to drain wetland	
	Natural outlet blocked/bermed	
	Water is being pumped out of wetland	
	Other:	

<b>Hydroperiod of the AA (for depressional, lacustrine, and slope wetlands--NOT fens)</b>		
<i>Select the statement that best describes the hydroperiod of the AA.</i>	Hydroperiod of the AA is characterized by natural patterns of filling or inundation and drying or drawdowns.	<b>1</b>
	The filling or inundation patterns in the AA are of greater magnitude or duration than would be expected under natural conditions, but thereafter the AA is subject to natural drawdown or drying.	<b>2</b>
	Hydroperiod of the AA is characterized by natural patterns of filling or inundation, but thereafter, is subject to more rapid or extreme drawdown or drying, as compared to more natural wetlands. OR the filling or inundation patterns in the AA are of substantially lower magnitude or duration than would be expected under natural conditions, but thereafter, the AA is subject to natural drawdown or drying.	<b>3</b>
	Both the inundation and drawdown of the AA deviate from natural conditions (either increased or decreased in magnitude and/or duration).	<b>4</b>
<b>Hydroperiod of the AA (for fens)</b>		
<i>Select the statement that best describes the hydroperiod of the AA.</i>	Hydroperiod of the AA is characterized by stable, saturated hydrology, or by naturally damped cycles of saturation and partial drying.	<b>1</b>
	Hydroperiod of the AA experiences minor altered inflows or drawdown/drying, as compared to more natural wetlands (e.g., ditching).	<b>2</b>
	Hydroperiod of the AA is somewhat altered by greater increased inflow from runoff, or experiences moderate drawdown or drying, as compared to more natural wetlands (e.g., ditching).	<b>3</b>
	Hydroperiod of the AA is greatly altered by increased inflow from runoff or experiences large drawdown or drying, as compared to more natural wetlands (e.g., ditching).	<b>4</b>
<b>Surface Water Connectivity of the AA (for depressional, lacustrine, and slope wetlands--NOT isolated fens)</b>		
<i>Select the statement that best describes the surface water connectivity of the site.</i>	Water, when present, has unrestricted access into or out of the wetland. There are no artificial obstructions to surface water flow.	<b>1</b>
	Artificial obstructions limit the access of surface water into or out of the wetland, but the limitations exist for < 50% of the AA perimeter.	<b>2</b>
	Artificial obstructions limit the access of surface water into or out of the wetland for 50–90% of the AA perimeter. Flood flows may exceed the obstructions, but drainage into or out of the AA is probably obstructed.	<b>3</b>
	Artificial obstructions limit the access of surface water into or out of the wetland for >90% of the AA perimeter.	<b>4</b>
<b>Surface Water Connectivity of the AA (for naturally isolated fens)</b>		
<i>Select the statement that best describes the surface water connectivity of the site.</i>	No natural surface water connectivity with surrounding water bodies.	<b>1</b>
	Partial surface water connectivity with surrounding water bodies exists via artificial means (e.g., ditching or draining to dry the fen).	<b>2</b>
	Substantial to full surface water connectivity exists via artificial means that has obvious drying effects on the peat body.	<b>3</b>

Onsite and Surrounding Disturbances—Indicate the Scope and Impact of disturbances (see tables on p. 14).

Disturbances Observed <i>and</i> Expected to Impact the Site	Scope		Impact		Field Indicator Observed
	200 m	AA	200 m	AA	
<b>Transportation Disturbances</b>					
Paved surfaces (e.g., roads, parking lots)					
Unpaved roads					
Railroads					
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Development or Recreation</b>					
Domestic or commercial development					
Intensively managed sports fields, golf courses					
Recreation or human visitation					
Filling or dumping of sediment or fill					
Trash or refuse dumping					
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Agriculture</b>					
Dryland farming (e.g., wheat, barley, etc.)					
Open range livestock grazing					
Horse paddock					
Feedlot					
Irrigated cropland					
Irrigated hay pasture					
Irrigation ditches affecting wetland					
Permanent tree plantation					
Cropland treated with pesticides					
Disturbed fallow lands dominated by exotic species					
Haying of native grassland					
Fallow fields (no human use in past 10 years)					
Fields with recent plowing or discing					
Shelterbelts					
Fences that impede wildlife					
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Resource Extraction</b>					
Gravel pits, open pit mining					
Small scale mining activity or abandoned mines					
Abandoned oil/gas wells					
Oil/gas pump jacks (active)					
Injection wells, tank batteries, collection facilities, or other oil/gas-associated infrastructure					
Intensive logging (50-75% trees of >50 cm diameter removed)					
Selective logging (<50% of trees >50 cm diameter removed)					

Disturbances Observed <i>and</i> Expected to Impact the Site	Scope		Impact		Field Indicator Observed
	200 m	AA	200 m	AA	
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Vegetation Removal/Conversion</b>					
Chemical vegetation control					
Evidence of intentional burning					
Mechanical vegetation removal					
Vegetation conversion (e.g., from shrubland to grassland)					
<b>Natural or Environmental Disturbances</b>					
Beetle-killed <i>Pinus</i> species					
Other diseased conifers					
Evidence of recent fire (<5 years)					
Beaver activity					
Evidence of prolonged drought					
Browsing of woody vegetation by native ungulates					
<b>Hydrologic Disturbances</b>					
Upstream spring box					
Impoundment of flowing water					
Potential for agricultural runoff					
Potential for urban runoff					
Culvert					
Upstream dam					
Reservoir/stock pond					
Weir or drop structure					
Dredged inlet/outlet channel					
Engineered channel (e.g., riprap)					
Pumps, diversions, or ditches that move water <i>into</i> wetland					
Pumps, diversions, or ditches that move water <i>out of</i> wetland					
Berms/Dikes/Levees					

**Scope and Impact Ratings**

Scope of Disturbances	
5	Pervasive – Affects nearly all (>75%) of the envelope or AA.
4	Large – Affects most (>50-75%) of the envelope or AA.
3	Moderate – Affects much (>25-50%) of the envelope or AA.
2	Restricted – Affects some (>10-25%) of the envelope or AA.
1	Small – Affects a small (1-10%) portion of the envelope or AA.
0	Nil – Affects little to none (<1%) of the envelope or AA.
Impact of Disturbances	
4	Extreme – likely to extremely modify, degrade, destroy, or eliminate the wetland.
3	Serious – likely to seriously modify, degrade or reduce wetland function or condition.
2	Moderate – likely to moderately modify, degrade or reduce wetland function or condition.
1	Slight – likely to only slightly modify, degrade, or reduce wetland function or condition.

**SOIL PROFILE DATA FORM—Draw soil pit locations on site drawing**

<b>Soil Pit #:</b> _____	<b>GPS Waypoint:</b> <b>Latitude (Y):</b> _____	<b>Longitude (X):</b> _____	<b>Depth of Standing Surface Water (cm):</b> _____
<b>Module or Plant Zone:</b> _____	<b>Accuracy (m):</b> _____		<b>Depth to Saturation (cm):</b> _____
			<b>Depth to free water in pit (cm) (NP=not present):</b> _____

**SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION**

Soil Layer	Depth to Lower Boundary of Layer	Soil Texture (Mineral Soils)	Soil Texture Modifier	If organic, indicate texture  P = Peat M = Muck MP = Mucky Peat	% Visible plant fibers	Soil Matrix Color*			Redox Concentrations Features			Redox Depletion Features					
						H	V	C	Redox Concentration Abundance (%)			Redox Concentration Color			Redox Depletion Abundance (%)		
						H	V	C	H	V	C	H	V	C	H	V	C

**Hydric Soil Indicators Observed (check all that apply):	Soil Profile Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (Organic layer greater than 40 cm)	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (Organic layer at least 20 cm from surface)	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic (rotten eggs) odor	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic streaking (dark vertical streaks in the subsurface layers)	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low Chroma Colors	Photo # _____

Remarks:

‡Redoximorphic features cannot form in soils with parent materials that are low in iron and manganese  
 \*To determine the soil matrix color: if soils are dry, wet sample until it no longer changes color. Always have the sun at your back when comparing to color chart to find best match.

**SOIL PROFILE DATA FORM—Draw soil pit locations on site drawing**

Soil Pit #:	GPS Waypoint:	Longitude (X):	Depth of Standing Surface Water (cm): _____
_____	Latitude (Y):	_____	Depth to Saturation (cm): _____
_____	_____	_____	Depth to free water in pit (cm) (NP=not present): _____
Module or Plant Zone: _____	Accuracy (m): _____		

**SOIL PROFILE DESCRIPTION**

Soil Layer	Depth to Lower Boundary of Layer	Soil Texture (Mineral Soils)	Soil Texture Modifier	If organic, indicate texture P = Peat M = Muck MP = Mucky Peat	% Visible plant fibers	Soil Matrix Color*			Redox Concentrations Features			Redox Depletion Features				
									Redox Concentration Abundance (%)	Redox Concentration Color		Redox Depletion Abundance (%)	Redox Depletion Color			
						H	V	C		H	V	C		H	V	C

**Hydric Soil Indicators Observed (check all that apply):	Soil Profile Photos
<input type="checkbox"/> Histosol (Organic layer greater than 40 cm)	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Histic Epipedon (Organic layer at least 20 cm from surface)	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sulfidic (rotten eggs) odor	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic streaking (dark vertical streaks in the subsurface layers)	Photo # _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gleyed or Low Chroma Colors	Photo # _____

Remarks:

‡Redoximorphic features cannot form in soils with parent materials that are low in iron and manganese  
 \*To determine the soil matrix color: if soils are dry, wet sample until it no longer changes color. Always have the sun at your back when comparing to color chart to find best match.



**Intensive Level 3 Disturbance Evaluation**

Disturbances Observed <i>and</i> Expected to Impact the Site	Meters within 200 m envelope	Field Indicator Observed
<b>Transportation Disturbances</b>		
Paved surfaces (e.g., roads, parking lots)		
Unpaved roads		
Railroads		
Disturbances Observed <i>and</i> Expected to Impact the Site	Percent of 200 m envelope affected	Field Indicator Observed
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Development or Recreation</b>		
Domestic or commercial development		
Intensively managed sports fields, golf courses		
Recreation or human visitation		
Filling or dumping of sediment or fill		
Trash or refuse dumping		
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Agriculture</b>		
Dryland farming (e.g., wheat, barley, etc.)		
Livestock grazing		
Irrigated cropland		
Irrigated hay pasture		
Irrigation ditches affecting wetland		
Cropland treated with pesticides		
Disturbed fallow lands dominated by exotic species		
Haying of native grassland		
Fallow fields (no human use in past 10 years)		
Fields with recent plowing or discing		
Shelterbelts		
Fences that impede wildlife		
Permanent tree plantation		
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Resource Extraction</b>		
Gravel pits, open pit mining		
Small scale mining activity or abandoned mines		
Abandoned oil/gas wells		
Oil/gas pump jacks (active)		
Injection wells, tank batteries, collection facilities, or other oil/gas-associated infrastructure		
Intensive logging (50-75% trees of >50 cm diameter removed)		
Selective logging (<50% of trees >50 cm diameter removed)		

Disturbances Observed <i>and</i> Expected to Impact the Site	Percent of 200 m envelope affected	Field Indicator Observed
<b>Land Use Disturbances-Vegetation Removal</b>		
Chemical vegetation control		
Evidence of intentional burning		
Mechanical vegetation removal		
Vegetation conversion (e.g., from shrubland to grassland)		
<b>Natural or Environmental Disturbances</b>		
Beetle-killed conifers		
Other diseased conifers		
Evidence of recent fire (<5 years)		
Beaver activity		
Evidence of prolonged drought		
Browsing of woody vegetation by native ungulates		
<b>Hydrologic Disturbances</b>		
Upstream spring box		
Impoundment of flowing water		
Potential for agricultural runoff		
Potential for urban runoff		
Culvert		
Upstream dam		
Reservoir/stock pond		
Weir or drop structure		
Dredged inlet/outlet channel		
Engineered channel (e.g., riprap)		
Pumps, diversions, or ditches that move water <i>into</i> wetland		
Pumps, diversions, or ditches that move water <i>out of</i> wetland		
Berms/Dikes/Levees		





**VEGETATION PLOT**

For Level 3 Assessments, carry out the full vegetation plot following directions in the field manual.

**GPS COORDINATES OF VEGETATION PLOT (NAD 83)**

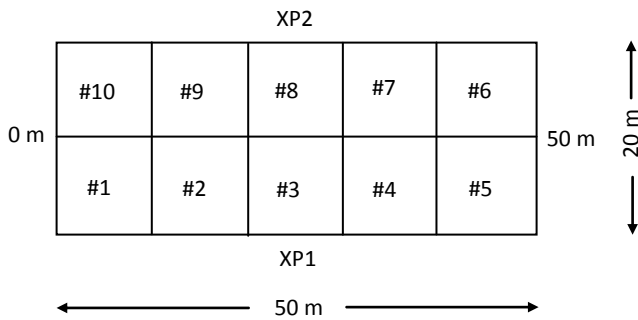
0 m	WP #: _____	Latitude (Y): _____	Longitude (X): _____	Accuracy (m): _____
50 m	WP #: _____	Latitude (Y): _____	Longitude (X): _____	Accuracy (m): _____
XP1	WP#: _____	Latitude (Y): _____	Longitude (X): _____	Accuracy (m): _____
XP2	WP#: _____	Latitude (Y): _____	Longitude (X): _____	Accuracy (m): _____

**PHOTOS OF VEGETATION PLOT**

0 m	Photo #: _____	Aspect: _____	Module _____	Photo #: _____
XP 1	Photo #: _____	Aspect: _____	Module _____	Photo #: _____
50 m	Photo #: _____	Aspect: _____	Module _____	Photo #: _____
XP 2	Photo #: _____	Aspect: _____	Module _____	Photo #: _____

**LAYOUT OF VEGETATION PLOT**

Plot layout (circle intensive modules and note any changes to the plot layout, i.e. 1x5 or 2x2 plot)



Plot representativeness (discuss decisions for placement and/or whether the plot is representative of AA)

Primary Flora Used for Plant Identification:

Secondary Flora(s) Used for Plant Identification:

**Vegetation Plot Species Table:** For each intensive module, record all species and estimate percent cover for the module. After intensive modules have been sampled, walk the remaining modules and record all species found in the residual “R” column and estimate percent cover for the entire plot. List any species outside the plot at the end of the table or designate with a 0 in Cover Class column. Mark intensive modules on form for reference.

**For woody species,** estimate seedling, sapling, and mature trees/shrubs separately if they occur in different strata. If standing dead or dying trees/shrubs occur, estimate their cover separately and mark a (D) in the stratum column.

VEGETATION PLOT SPECIES TABLE																	
		Cover Class/Depth	C/D	C/D	C/D	C/D											
		Module →															
Ground Cover																	
Cover of deep water >0.2 m/Cover of vegetated deep water																	
Cover of shallow standing water (<0.2 m)																	
Depth of deep water (cm) – average of 4 locations																	
Depth of shallow standing water (cm) – average of 4 locations																	
Bare Ground (soil, sand, sediments)																	
Bare Ground--gravel/cobble (2 mm to 250 mm)																	
Bare Ground--rock/boulder (>250 mm)																	
Litter																	
Litter Depth (take average of 4 locations where litter occurs)																	
Coarse Woody Debris (fallen trees, large branches ≥ 7.6 cm in diameter)																	
Fine Woody Debris (≤ 7.5 cm diameter)																	
Nonvascular (including under vegetation or litter)																	
Algae																	
Vegetation Stratum FO: Forest/Woodland; SH: Shrubland; DS: Dwarf Shrubland; H: Herbaceous; NV: Nonvascular; V: Vines; SF: Submerged/Floating; SV: Sparsely Vegetated; CW: Coarse Woody Debris; FW: Fine Woody Debris																	
Cover Classes 1: trace 2: <1% 3: 1–<2% 4: 2–<5% 5: 5–<10% 6: 10–<25% 7: 25–<50% 8: 50–<75% 9: 75–<95% 10: >95%																	
Height Classes 1: <0.5 m 2: 0.5–1m 3: 1–2 m 4: 2–5 m 5: 5–10 m 6: 10–15 m 7: 15–20 m 8: 20–35 m 9: 35–50 m 10: >50 m																	
		Module →														R	
		Presence/Cover/Height →	P	H	C	P	H	C	P	H	C	P	H	C	P	H	C
Stratum	Species																



