Critical Definitions for Wetland Delineation: Normal Circumstances

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WDNR Critical Methods

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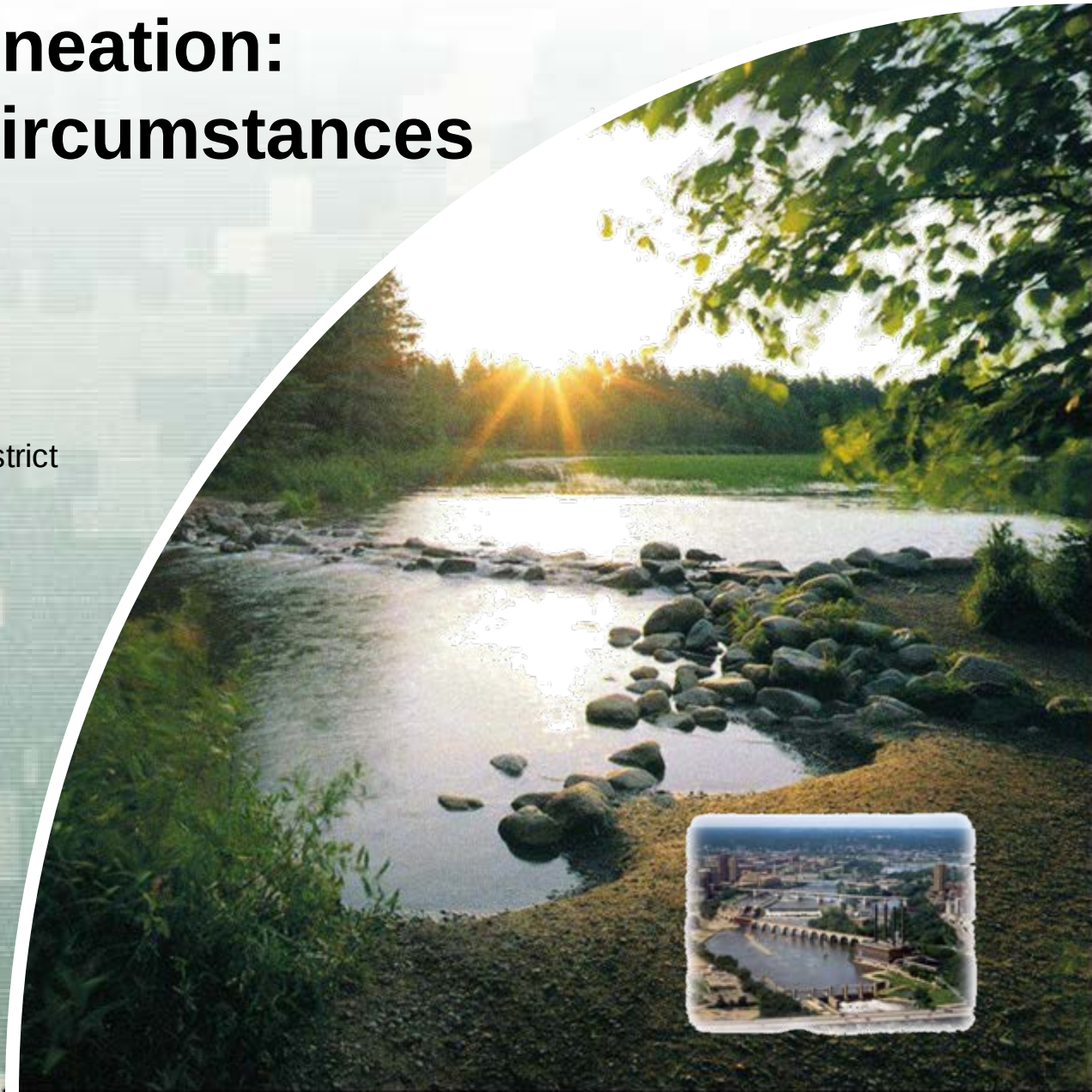

US Army Corps of Engineers

BUILDING STRONG®

What is a Wetland?

- Technical definition:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water 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.

Answer the Question

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:		Long:	Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:			NWI Classification:		

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ____ (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? ____

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	N		
Hydric soil present?		**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**	N
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?		If yes, optional wetland site ID:	

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

If yes, data collection is based on current conditions.

If no, data collection is based on conditions that would exist in absence of disturbance.

NEC vs. NC

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

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Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:			NWI Classification:		

Normal Environmental Conditions?

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ____ (If no, explain in remarks.)

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? ____

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

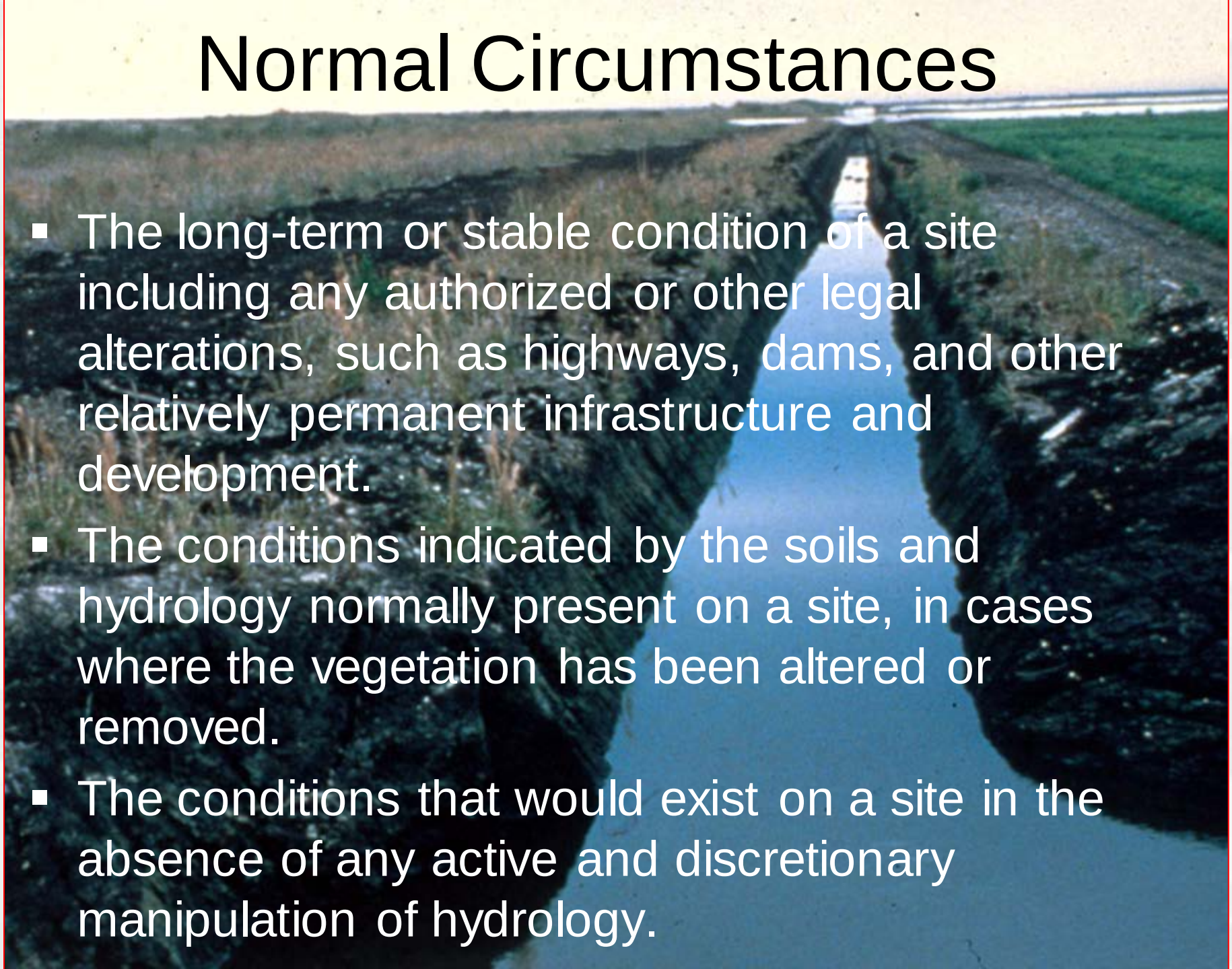
Normal circumstances?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	N		
Hydric soil present?		**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**	N
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?		If yes, optional wetland site ID:	

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

Normal Circumstances



- The long-term or stable condition of a site including any authorized or other legal alterations, such as highways, dams, and other relatively permanent infrastructure and development.
- The conditions indicated by the soils and hydrology normally present on a site, in cases where the vegetation has been altered or removed.
- The conditions that would exist on a site in the absence of any active and discretionary manipulation of hydrology.

Normal Circumstances

A new, **legal** alteration that is relatively permanent can establish a new normal circumstance (e.g., concrete dam, authorized wetland fill, ditch)

Ditch constructed in 1950s and maintained since = ditch is established as the normal circumstance; partially drained is the normal circumstance for hydrology

Ditch constructed last year = ?

1987 Manual: Mere presence of artificial drainage system does not necessarily mean wetland hydrology has been eliminated

Normal Circumstances

Recent, unauthorized fill that buried native soils and altered hydrology is not the normal circumstance

Normal Circumstances

- Regular cropping of an agricultural field is NOT the normal circumstance.
- Normal circumstances can exist in an agricultural field.

- Determine the soils and hydrology driving the site.
- Applying the “Mapping Conventions” will help determine ‘normal’ hydrology in agricultural settings.


30
360th St NW
30

Normal Circumstances

RELATIVE PERMANENCE

1. Alterations that occurred before implementation of the Clean Water Act.
2. Alterations that were authorized, exempt, or did not require authorization.
3. Hydrologic modifications, such as functioning ditches or subsurface drains, that were installed legally, are relatively permanent, are maintained, and operate by gravity without any artificial input of energy or manpower.
4. Ongoing hydrologic manipulation that is permanent and non-discretionary, such as pumping of surface or groundwater for municipal water supply, done under a court order, or required for public safety.
5. A site with undisturbed conditions, including those wetlands identified as problem areas

NOT normal circumstances

1. Unauthorized or illegal activities or activities done with the intent of evading Clean Water Act jurisdiction.
2. Total or partial clearing of vegetation, or selective removal of plant species (i.e., managed plant community).
3. The presence of a crop, tree farm, improved pasture, other planted vegetation, or cultivars (i.e., managed plant community).
4. Destruction of hydric soil indicators by cultivation or mixing of soil layers.
5. Irrigation.
6. Discretionary pumping of surface or groundwater, such as pumping for agricultural purposes.
7. Active and discretionary manipulation of water tables, such as subirrigation and other active water-table management for crop production or management of soil moisture and nutrients.

NONPERMANENT

What is a Wetland?

- Technical definition:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support,

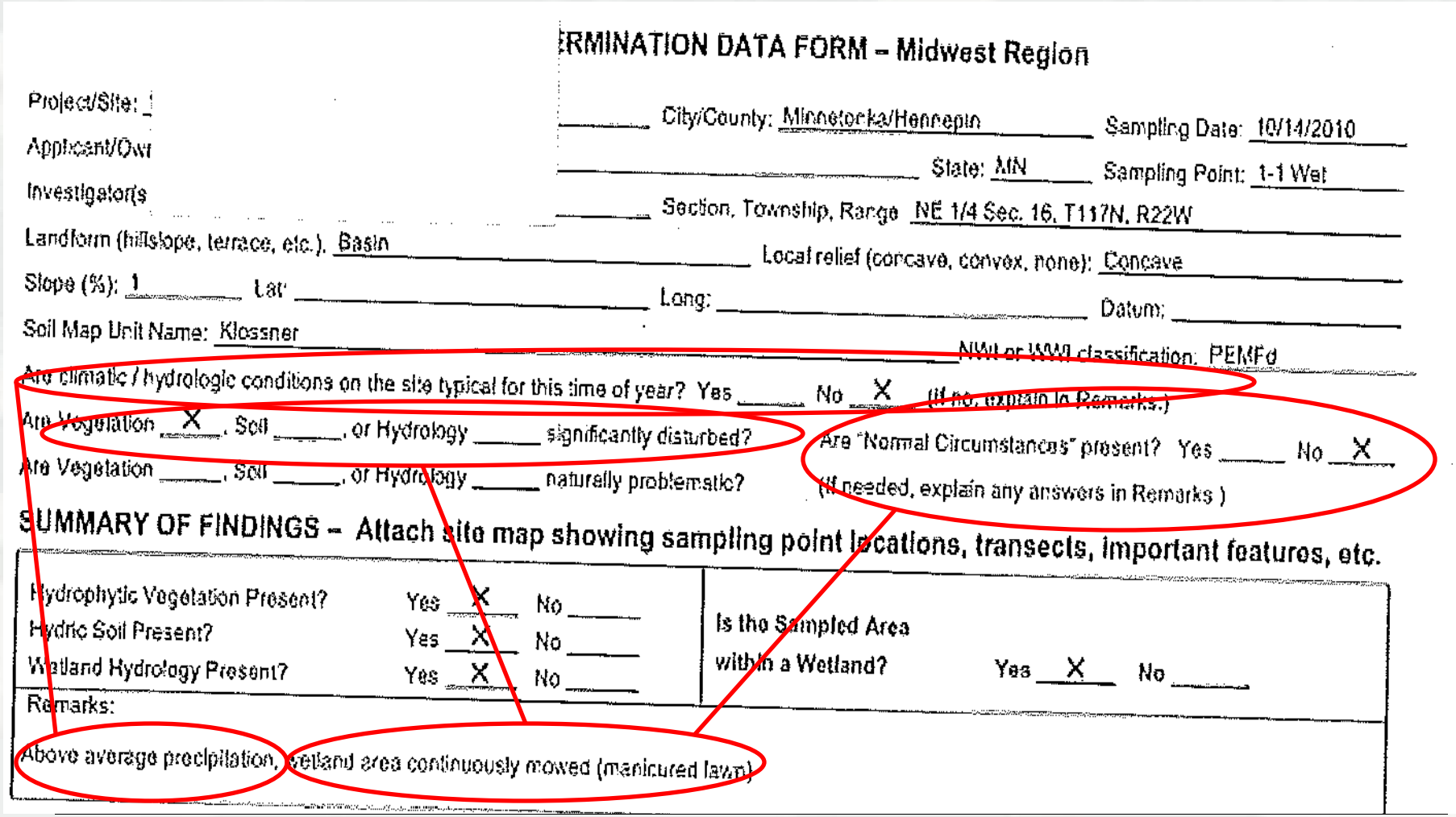
a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Difficult Wetland Situations

Disturbed/Atypical Situations:

- One or more parameters absent due to recent human activity or natural event
  - Unauthorized activities
  - Natural events
  - Man-induced wetlands

Checking the Boxes



ERMINATION DATA FORM – Midwest Region

Project/Site: _____ City/County: Minnetonka/Hennepin Sampling Date: 10/14/2010

Applicant/Owner: _____ State: MN Sampling Point: 1-1 Wet

Investigator(s): _____ Section, Township, Range: NE 1/4 Sec. 16, T117N, R22W

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): Basin Local relief (concave, convex, none): Concave

Slope (%): 1 Lat: _____ Long: _____ Datum: _____

Soil Map Unit Name: Klossner NWI or WWI classification: PEMFd

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes _____ No X (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation X, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes _____ No X

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes X	No _____	Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?	Yes X No _____
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes X	No _____		
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes X	No _____		

Remarks:

Above average precipitation, wetland area continuously mowed (manicured lawn)

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation X, soil X, or hydrology significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? NO

Are vegetation , soil , or hydrology naturally problematic?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	
Hydric soil present?	**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?	If yes, optional wetland site ID:

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

Recently discharged fill material. Date of discharge reported as 4/12/14.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ___ (If no, explain in remarks)

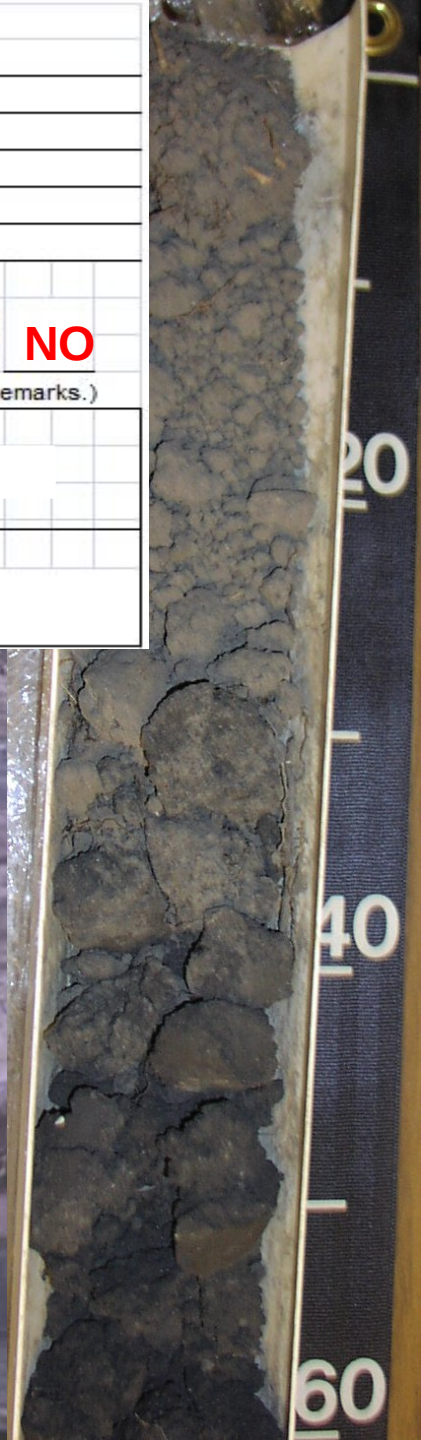
Are vegetation X, soil X, or hydrology ___ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? NO

Are vegetation ___, soil ___, or hydrology ___ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	N		
Hydric soil present?		**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**	
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?		If yes, optional wetland site ID:	

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)



Areas affected by grazing

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:				NWI Classification:	

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ? (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation ? , soil , or hydrology significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? YES

Are vegetation , soil , or hydrology naturally problematic?

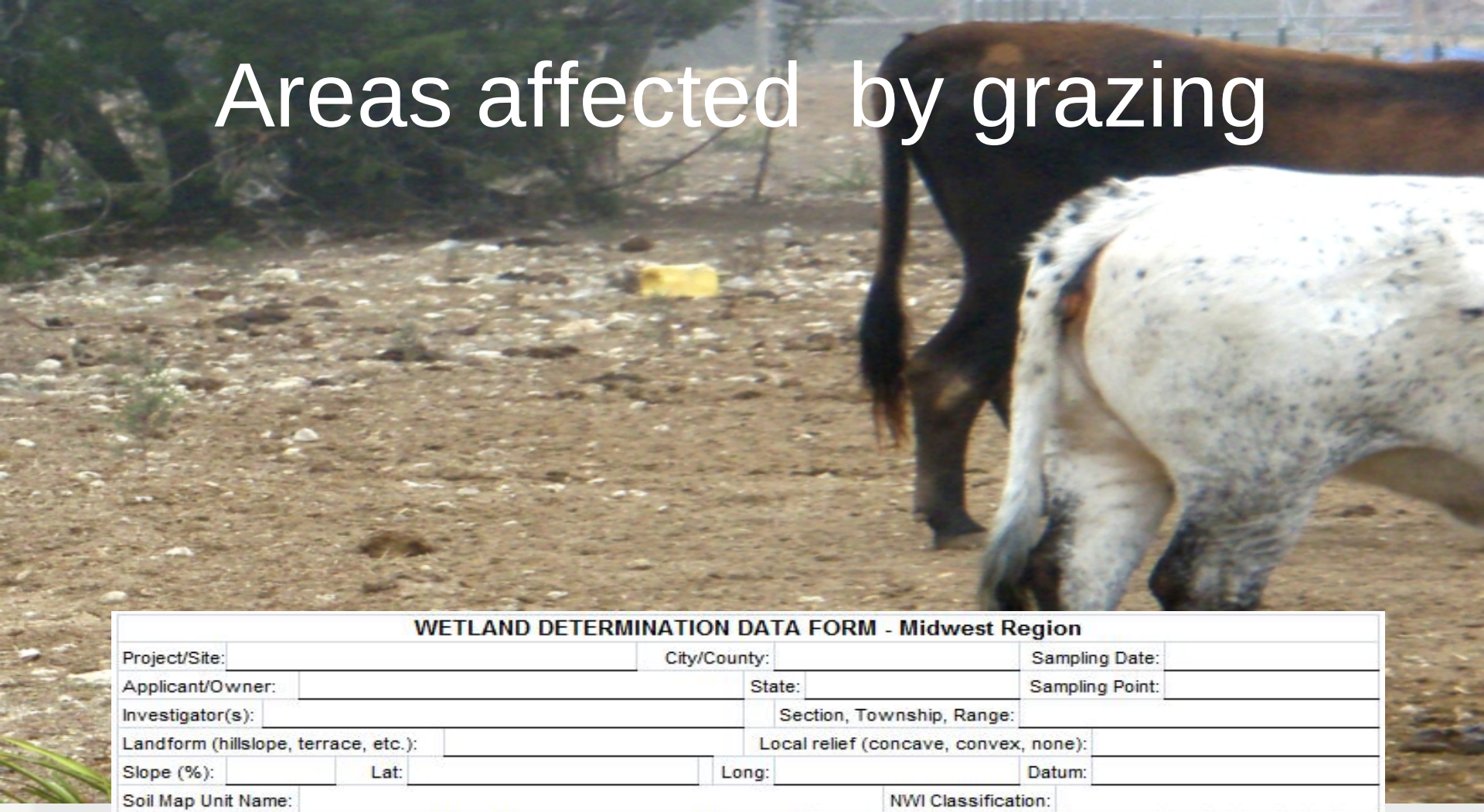
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	
Hydric soil present?	**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?	If yes, optional wetland site ID:

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

Area is regularly grazed by livestock.

Areas affected by grazing



WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ( ) (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation (X), soil ( ), or hydrology ( ) significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? NO

Are vegetation ( ), soil ( ), or hydrology ( ) naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	N		
Hydric soil present?		**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**	
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?		If yes, optional wetland site ID:	

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

Area is regularly overgrazed by livestock.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ____ (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation X, soil X, or hydrology X significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? NO

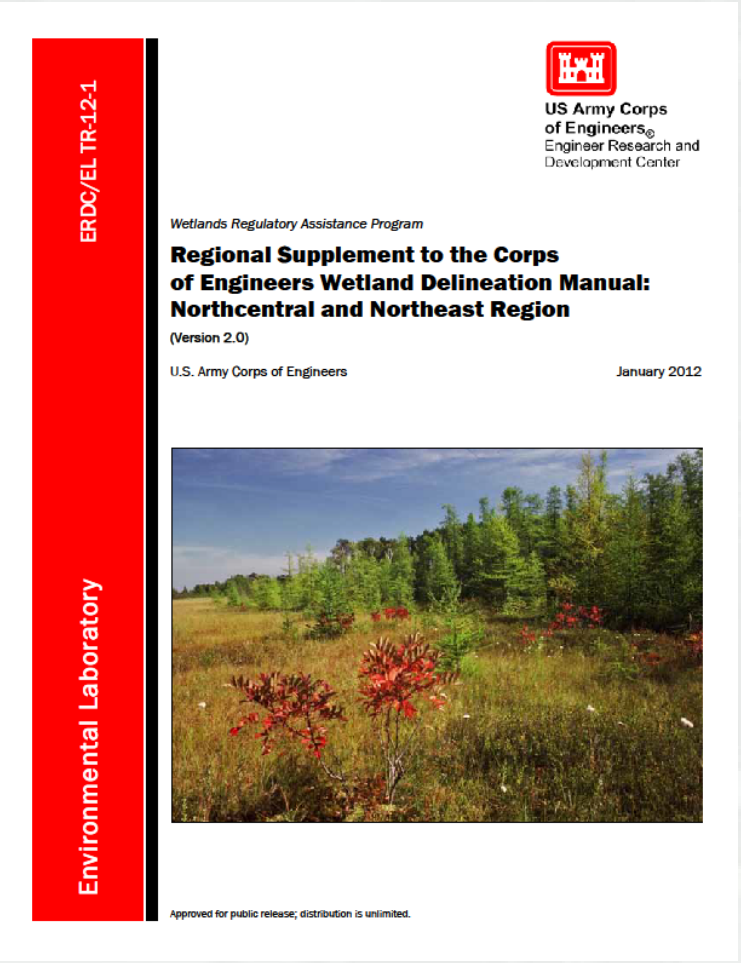
Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	N		
Hydric soil present?		**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**	
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?		If yes, optional wetland site ID:	

Area is currently a golf course; regular irrigation and turf management (not NC); hydrology and soils disturbed years ago for construction (NC).

Difficult Wetland Situations



Problem Areas:

- One or more parameters absent due to normal seasonal or annual variability, or permanently due to the nature of the soils or plant species
  - Seasonal wetlands
  - Prairie potholes
  - Floodplain wetlands
  - Interdunal swales

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	July 15, 2013
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? YES (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? YES

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology X naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	
Hydric soil present?	**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?	If yes, optional wetland site ID:

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

The area is a wicked big puddle and it's July, so it's wicked dry.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? **NO** (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? **YES**

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology **X** naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	
Hydric soil present?	**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?	If yes, optional wetland site ID:

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

The site is a prairie pothole wetland following a 3-year drought.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

Project/Site:		City/County:		Sampling Date:	
Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ____ (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? YES

Are vegetation ____, soil X, or hydrology X naturally problematic?

(If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	
Hydric soil present?	**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?	If yes, optional wetland site ID:

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

The site is a floodplain, with alluvial soils and seasonal hydrology.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM - Midwest Region

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Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:			NWI Classification:		

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ___ (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation X, soil X, or hydrology ___ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? NO

Are vegetation ___, soil ___, or hydrology ___ naturally problematic?

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	N		
Hydric soil present?		**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**	
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?		If yes, optional wetland site ID:	

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

Agricultural field where vegetation has been removed and soils **bulldozed**.

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Applicant/Owner:		State:		Sampling Point:	
Investigator(s):		Section, Township, Range:			
Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.):		Local relief (concave, convex, none):			
Slope (%):	Lat:	Long:		Datum:	
Soil Map Unit Name:		NWI Classification:			

Are climatic/hydrologic conditions of the site typical for this time of the year? ____ (If no, explain in remarks)

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ significantly disturbed? Are "normal circumstances" present? **YES**

Are vegetation ____, soil ____, or hydrology ____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Hydrophytic vegetation present?	
Hydric soil present?	**Is the sampled area within a wetland?**
Indicators of wetland hydrology present?	If yes, optional wetland site ID:

Remarks: (Explain alternative procedures here or in a separate report.)

Normal Circumstances

The conditions that would exist if humans hadn't screwed with them.

Determine if one or more parameters is MISSING or OBSCURED due to disturbance.


I THINK YOU'VE CONFUSED ME
WITH SOMEONE WHO BUILDS A DAM.
WeKnowMemes