

The Wetlands Regulation Center



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Wetlands Delineation under the Clean Water Act

Wetland delineation is simply the act of establishing the boundary between wetlands and uplands (or non-wetlands). There are two delineation procedures developed at the federal level and several states have their own wetland delineation procedures.

The most important document is the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual which can be used for wetland delineations associated with both the Clean Water Act and the Food Security Act. The regulatory program developed under the Food Security Act is administered by the USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and you will need to refer to their current guidance on this matter.

For reference purposes we have included a copy of the 1989 Federal Manual which Congress withdrew in 1991.

Wetlands Delineation Policy Documents

[MOA Concerning the Delineation of Wetlands](#) Federal Register 19 January 1994

Federal Wetland Delineation Procedures

[Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual](#) Including modifications

[Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands](#) January 1989

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*Environmental Technical Services Co., 834 Castle Ridge Rd., Austin, TX 78746-5152
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cited in SC11-1786 George Jackson, et al. The Shakespeare Foundation, Inc. et al. archived on October 10, 2013