



Summer 2000

Update

Wetland Function Assessment Project

A periodic bulletin on a Washington State effort to develop methods for assessing the performance of wetland functions

Workshop for Decision-makers Offered

The Wetland Function Assessment Project is offering a full-day workshop in understanding the new wetland function assessment methods. During the workshop, participants will be introduced to the new "Methods for Assessing Wetland Functions: Riverine and Depressional Wetlands in the Lowlands of Western Washington."

The workshop is designed for those who make decisions about regulating or managing wetlands.

The workshop will not enable the participants to apply the methods in the field. Those who wish to do so should attend a separate five-day technical training (see below). The next five-day training for users is planned for spring of 2001.

During the workshop for decision makers, project staff will briefly explain the origin and development of the methods and how they assess functions for riverine and depressional wetlands. They will also discuss how to interpret the results and use them to make management decisions about wetlands. Potential misuses and common misunderstandings will also be covered. Participants will work in small groups to make management decisions regarding a mock project involving wetland impacts.

The workshop will be from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM and will be held in three different locations: Everett, Olympia, and Vancouver in October and November. The cost is \$50.00.

The deadline for registration is September 29, 2000. To register, fill out the registration form in this Update and send it to the Department of Ecology along with your payment or purchase order.

Another Training Completed in Western Washington

Fifteen more wetland specialists have completed the intensive five-day training in applying the "Methods for Assessing Wetland Functions: Riverine and Depressional Wetlands in the Lowlands of Western Washington." This training was the fourth to be held since the methods were released in 1999. Trainees included staff from local, tribal, federal and state agencies and private consulting firms. The training was held on June 5-8, 2000 in Olympia.

Project staff provided background information on general concepts regarding assessment methods, as well as detailed information about the development and structure of the methods and procedures used to collect data. Two days were spent in the field at two sites practicing collecting the data needed to assess functions.

With the completion of the June class, over 70 people have been trained in the application of the methods. The next technical training is planned for spring of 2001.

List of Corrections and Clarifications Available

Various corrections and clarifications need to be made to the western Washington methods. These changes were identified during trainings and continued application of the methods in the field. A list of these corrections and clarifications will soon be available. It is important that anyone who has received a copy of the methods directly or through a

training session obtain the list. It is especially important for those applying the methods regularly in the field to read and understand the changes as soon as possible. Call Tom Hruby at (360) 407-7274 or email him at tom.hruby@ecy.wa.gov if you have questions about the changes.



Ecology workers stop and smell the grasses.

The list of corrections only includes those corrections that are substantive in nature. For example, they don't include grammatical errors. Minor corrections will be made with future editions of the methods.

Columbia Basin Methods Nearing Completion

The Assessment Team and project staff have been working hard to complete the "Method for Assessing Wetland Functions: Depressional Wetland in the Columbia Basin of Eastern Washington." The methods were developed for a broad range of

Changes and clarifications will be available in late September.

- ❖ Access the user's list serve if you have taken a training course
- ❖ Visit our web site at www.ecy.gov/programs/shorelan.html
- ❖ E-mail Mary Lynam at mlyn461@ecy.wa.gov or call her at (360) 407-6908 to have a copy e-mailed or sent to you.

Update: Wetland Function Assessment Project (continued)

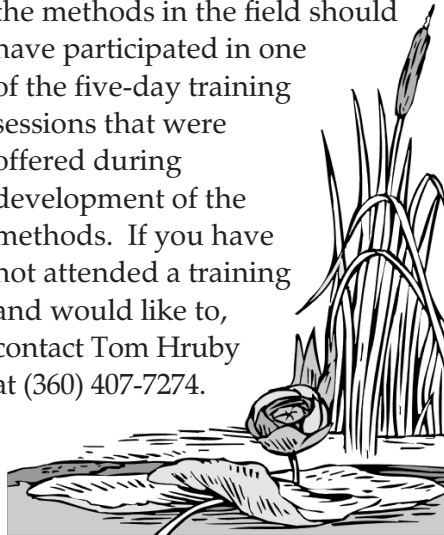
inundation regimes including vernal pools.

As with the western Washington methods, methods for the Columbia Basin were developed using an interactive process. After the initial methods were developed, seven teams consisting of 21 wetland specialists collected field data at 54 depressional wetlands during 1999. The data were used to calibrate the methods. Revisions were made and new iterations were used for a field test. Fourteen wetland experts volunteered to be trained and to test the methods. The test was completed during the summer of 2000. The Assessment Team will meet one more time to address any concerns that resulted from the field test and revise the methods accordingly.

Staff plan on releasing the methods in October 2000. The methods will be available through the Washington State Department of Printing.

There will be a charge for the methods to cover the cost of printing and shipping. If you want to be notified directly when the methods are released, or receive an order form when they are available, contact Mary Lynum by phone at (360) 407-6908 or by email at mlyn41@ecy.wa.gov.

Anyone who plans to apply the methods in the field should have participated in one of the five-day training sessions that were offered during development of the methods. If you have not attended a training and would like to, contact Tom Hruby at (360) 407-7274.



**REGISTRATION:
Decision-maker's Workshop**


Space is limited and pre-registration by mail is required. If you register, but are unable to attend, an alternate may attend in your place. Refunds will only be issued if the training is cancelled. If you have questions or concerns regarding this information, contact Mary Lynum at 360-407-6908 or mlyn461@ecy.wa.gov.

Government/Corporate purchase orders and checks are accepted, but credit cards are not. Your form will be returned if payment or purchase order is not included. Send registration and payment to:

**Department of Ecology
Function Assessment
Training
Attn: Bernadette Williams
P.O. Box 5128
Lacey, WA 98509-5128**

An online version of this document is available in PDF format at www.ecy/biblio/0006027.html

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
 P.O. Box 47600
 Olympia, WA 98504



Registration Form for Decision Maker's Workshop - Complete a separate registration form for each person attending. Make checks or purchase order payable to Department of Ecology. Please check one:

- October 11, 2000 in Olympia
 October 24, 2000 in Vancouver
 November 2, 2000 in Everett

Registrant Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Be sure to enclose payment of \$50.00 so we can process your registration.