

U.S Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District Regulatory Branch MVN Wetland Delineation Report Requirements

Information required for a Wetland Delineation Report submitted as part of a Jurisdictional Determination (JD) request or permit application.

The New Orleans District receives well over a thousand requests for JDs in an average year, and many more JDs are required as a component of our regulatory permitting process. Due to our current and long term workload, it is not usually feasible for us to complete a wetland delineation for the JD for properties greater than 5 acres in size. For those properties over 5 acres, we request that requestors and/or applicants obtain the services of an independent wetland consultant to provide us with a wetland delineation report (including all necessary data).

This document provides a list of detailed information that is required to be submitted with all wetland delineations submitted to the Corps for a JD or permit application. In addition, it is required that all aquatic resources referenced in the submittal documents be marked in the field by appropriate flagging. Flags should be spaced so that each flag can be seen from the location of the adjacent ones. Each flag should be marked with a unique identifier mark detailing the wetland ID (e.g. A, B, C, etc.) and a flag number (e.g. 1, 2, 3, etc.) creating a flagging sequence (e.g. A-1, A-2, A-3, etc.).

To reduce delays in your JD, the information provided must be a complete and accurate representation of wetlands and other aquatic resources that are present onsite utilizing methods outlined in the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plain Region (Version 2.0). Please note that disturbed or problematic sites, as well as sites with previous land use practices such as agriculture and silviculture, should utilize methods outlined in Chapter 5 of the Regional Supplement.

Submittals received without the information listed below will be returned with a request for any lacking requirements (unless the deviation is approved by the Chief of the Surveillance and Enforcement Section). The New Orleans District staff will review all reports and perform site visits (if deemed necessary). In the event revisions are required, representative changes will be identified to the requestor/applicant. The requestor/applicant will be responsible for applying all necessary changes throughout the report. Failure to provide accurate corrections will result in the withdrawal and return of the JD request or permit application.

Further information required for a Wetland Delineation Report submittal:

1) Site specific data and data forms

- Data points should be taken to reflect the current site conditions and accurately represent the vegetative communities on site. The data collected should be dated ***no older than twelve months prior*** to the JD request submittal date.
- A sufficient number/location of data points should be taken to represent the wetland/upland status of the entire investigation area. Data point locations should confirm or refute the potential for aquatic resource presence depicted on the submitted mapping and available resources (Truecolor aerials, Infrared aerials, etc.).

- Data points must be located such that there is at least a pair of points for each wetland identified on both sides of the wetland line in positions that illustrate the distinction between wetland and upland. Multiple small wetlands of the same community type can use one set of data points.
- Additional data points should be placed in areas that have similar signatures to the mapped wetlands, but are delineated as uplands.
- Each data point should be supported with a complete, accurate, and current Wetland Determination Data Form.
 - All site information and summary of findings should be provided.
 - All applicable hydrology indicators must be marked or a statement provided that none are present.
 - Vegetation data must be provided with accurate absolute % cover, including calculations of relative cover (50% and 20%). Use the Four strata or Five strata data sheet as necessary.
 - Soil profile descriptions should be to a minimum depth of 20 inches where practicable. Including all relevant details for Redox features (color, %, type, and location), soil texture, and any appropriate remarks.
 - Mark all appropriate hydric soil indicators.

2) Maps, Figures, and Photos

- A Location Map should be provided including streets, intersections, cities, etc. clearly depicting the location of the site in relation to surroundings.
- A Flagging Key map depicting the location and identifying name (e.g. "A-2") of each wetland flag onsite (see second intro paragraph).
- Project Area/Review Area boundary must be overlain on:
 - Current Truecolor aerial imagery.
 - Infrared aerial imagery (all reasonably available years).
 - USGS Topographic Map.
 - NRCS Hydric Rating by Map Unit Web Soil Survey Map.
 - LiDAR/Elevation mapping.
- Site photographs from locations of data points and other relevant site features. Depict photo location and direction on the aquatic resources figure. Photographs should clearly depict the vegetation within the plot. Photographs showing a clear, well-lit depiction of the soil profile next to the appropriate Munsell page should also be included.
- A Figure depicting all aquatic resources and other pertinent features identified. Figure should include:
 - Title Block with project name, applicant, section, township, range, parish, state, date.
 - Solid BLACK line depicting project review area boundary with label.
 - North arrow.

- All aquatic resources found on site.
 - Wetland features marked in red.
 - Non-wetland waters marked in blue.
 - Uplands marked in solid green outline (Approved JD requests only).
 - Potential Non-jurisdictional waters/wetlands marked in purple (Approved JD requests only). All features labeled as non-jurisdictional must be accompanied by evidence-based justification in the report.
 - Scale bar that accurately depicts dimensions across the entire property (map must not be distorted or angled).
- Provided with the above map will be the following information (can be located on a separate map):
 - Size of the site (acres)
 - The length (linear feet) and width of each individual linear aquatic resource within the review area.
 - The size (acres) of each individual non-linear wetland and/or other aquatic resources within the review area.
 - Data point locations.
 - Photo locations and direction.
 - Digital copies of the shapefiles for all onsite features (wetlands, waters, etc.). These files should be submitted to the Corps and include all necessary information to utilize with ArcMap (*.shp, *.shx and *.dbf at a minimum).
 - Confirmation that the map has been approved by all field personnel that collected the field data and their contact information. These field personnel should be reasonably available to meet on site for a review of the data.