

Wetland Assessment Form 2016

Site ID (yyyy_xx): _____

	Name	Signature	Date
Assessment Form Completed (fieldwork)			
Assessment Form Entered into Digital Database			
Digital Data Reviewed for Accurate Transcription			
Digital Data Reviewed for Anomalous Values			
Paper Copy Backup Completed and stored in project folder			
Digital Form Backup Completed and stored in digital site folder			
AA map modified based on field collection			
GIS database updated with GPS point and assessment score			
Photos stored in site digital folder			
Other			

Site Photos	Camera ID:		
North:	East:	South:	West:

Classification

Visit Date:	Visit # for year:	Observer 1	Observer 2	
Cowardin Water Regime within Assessment Area (AA) (circle one):	Permanent	Seasonal	Temporary	Absent
Cowardin Special Modifiers within AA (circle all present):	Beaver	Excavated	Partially ditched/ drained	Diked/Impounded

Patch Types (within AA)

Write the following cover class codes (bold numbers) for each of the patch types present. Leave blank if not present. Values do not need to add up to 100%. *Indicates patch types not found in 2016

1 = 0.1-0.99% **2** = 1-5% **3** = 6-25% **4** = 26-50% **5** = 51-75% **6** = 76-95% **7** = >95%

Pond or lake	Pools	River/stream
Small rivulet	Oxbow/backwater channel	Tributary/secondary Channel
Beaver Pond	Beaver Dam	Beaver canals
Braided River Channel	Adjacent or onsite springs/seeps	Debris jams/woody debris
Pool/riffle complex	Point bars	Bank slumps or undercut banks in channel or along shoreline*
Mudflats	Salt flat/alkali flat*	Animal mounds or burrows
Plant hummocks	Water tracks/hollows	Natural island*
Anthropogenic island*	Floating mat*	Marl/limonite beds*

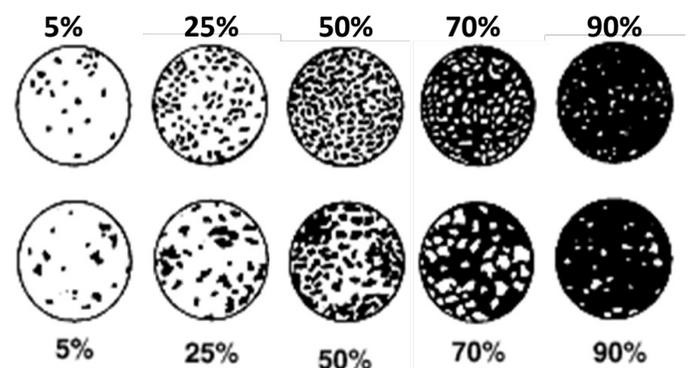
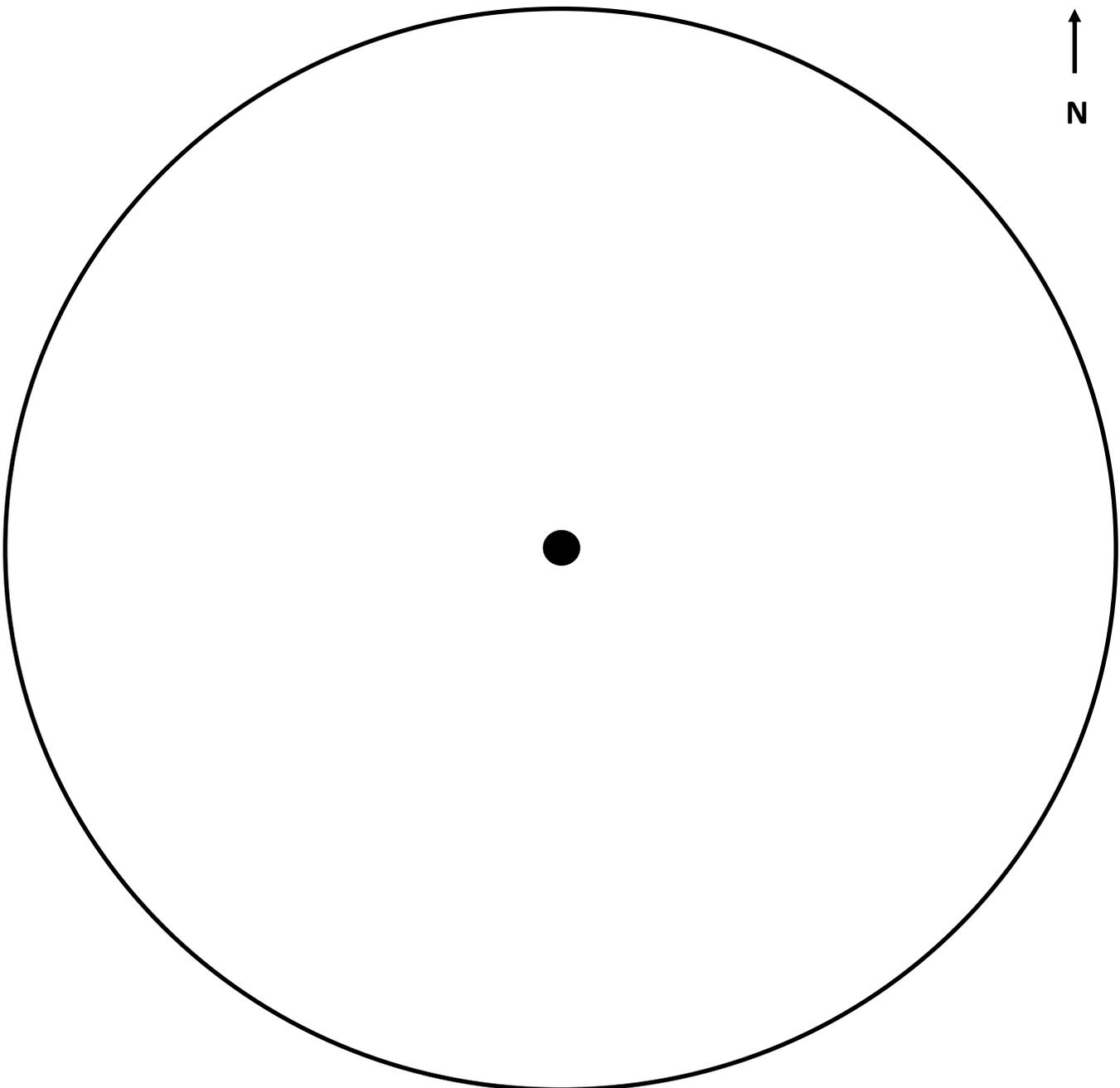


Diagram: Draw vegetation zones, features, and direction of water flow.

Vegetation Zones
(FO) Forest/Woodland (Trees > 20 ft & DBH > 3 in)
(SH) Shrubland (Shrubs 1.6-20 ft)
(DS) Dwarf Shrubland (<1.6 ft)
(H) Herbaceous (e.g., grasses, flowers, cattails, sedges)
(NV) Nonvascular (i.e. mosses)
(SF) Submerged/Floating (Rooted or floating, exclude emergent)
(SV) Sparsely Vegetated (including bare ground)
(CW) Coarse Woody Debris (>3 in diameter)
(FW) Fine Woody Debris (\leq 3 in diameter)

Site ID: _____



Conditional Assessment

Disturbances

Write in codes (see bottom of next page) for each disturbance present. Leave blank if absent.

* Indicates photo or explanation in Companion Guide

	200m buffer		AA	
	Scope	Impact	Scope	Impact
	(0-6)	(0-4)	(0-6)	(0-4)
Transportation Disturbances				
Paved surfaces (e.g. roads, parking lots)				
Unpaved roads (including unpaved parking lots)				
Railroads				
Land Use Disturbances-Development or Recreation				
Domestic or commercial development				
Sports fields, golf courses				
Recreation or human visitation (including hiking trails and your visitation)				
Filling or dumping of fill				
Trash or refuse dumping				
Land Use Disturbances-Agriculture				
Dryland farming (e.g. wheat, barley)				
Open range livestock grazing (i.e. cattle)				
*Horse paddock (e.g. small pasture)				
*Feedlot				
Irrigated cropland				
Irrigated hay pasture				
Irrigation ditches affecting wetland (see next page for non-irrigation ditches)				
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				
*Shelterbelts (Tree windbreaks)				
*Fences taller than 42" and/or lower than 18" (consider wider impacts)				
*Permanent tree plantation (large-scale tree farm)				
Land Use Disturbances-Resource Extraction				
*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				

	200m buffer		AA	
	Scope	Impact	Scope	Impact
Intensive logging - Within the last 10 years (50-75% trees of >50cm diameter removed)				
Selective logging - Within the last 10 years (<50% of trees >50 cm diameter removed)				
Land Use Disturbances-Vegetation Removal/Conversion				
*Chemical vegetation control (chemical smell, curling leaves)				
Evidence of intentional burning				
*Mechanical vegetation removal (heavy machinery)				
*Human caused vegetation conversion (i.e. lawns, shrubland to pasture)				
Natural or Environmental Disturbances				
Beetle-killed pine trees				
Other diseased/dead conifers				
Evidence of recent fire (<5 years)				
*Recent beaver activity (dams, chewed stumps, and ponds)				
Evidence of prolonged drought (decline in woody trees health, patchy bare ground)				
*Browsing of woody vegetation by native ungulates				
*Hydrologic Disturbances (include wider impacts)				
*Upstream spring box				
Human caused impoundment of flowing water (e.g. reservoir / stock pond)				
Potential for agricultural runoff				
Potential for urban runoff including sports fields, golf courses, roads and campgrounds				
*Culvert				
Upstream dam (w/in 200 m)				
*Weir or drop structure				
Dredged inlet/outlet channel				
*Engineered channel / stream in native stream (e.g. riprap, meander)				
Pumps, diversions, or ditches that move water into wetland (not irrigation)				
Pumps, diversions, or ditches that move water out of wetland (not irrigation)				
*Berms/Dikes/Levees (e.g. a mound or wall of earth or sand)				

Scope	Description
6	Pervasive - Covers >75% of the buffer or AA.
5	Large - Covers >50-75% of the buffer or AA.
4	Moderate - Covers >25-50% of the buffer or AA.
3	Restricted - Covers >10-25% of the buffer or AA.
2	Small - Covers 1-10% of the buffer or AA.
1	Nil - Covers <1% of the buffer or AA.
0	N/A - No evidence of disturbance of the buffer or AA
Impact	Description
4	Extreme - likely to extremely modify OR, degrade, destroy, or eliminate the wetland.
3	Serious - likely to seriously modify OR, degrade or reduce wetland function or condition.
2	Moderate - likely to moderately modify OR, degrade or reduce wetland function or condition.
1	Slight - likely to only slightly modify OR, degrade, or reduce wetland function or condition.
0	No evidence of modification OR, degradation, reduction

Buffer Width: How far can you travel in each direction before hitting an severe disturbance (see list in Companion Guide)?

1 = >200m

2 = 100-200m

3 = 50-99m

4 = <50m

N:	NE:	S:	SW:
E:	SE:	W:	NW:

Circle one answer for the following questions

Percent of AA buffered by 30m of vegetation: (invasives count as vegetation, crops don't)

76-100%	51-75%	25-50%	<25%
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Buffer Condition- Plants: Percent cover native vegetation (within 200m)

Abundant (>95%)	Substantial (76-95%)	Moderate (50-75%)	Low (<50%)
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Buffer Soil: Soil disturbance (within 200m)

Intact	Slight to moderate	Moderate to extensive	High
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Cover of Natives: (within AA)

>99%	95-99%	80-94%	50-80%
25-50%	<25%		

Cover of Noxious Weeds: (within AA)

Trace	1-3%	3-10%	>10%
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Cover of Aggressive Grasses: (within AA)

<10%	10-25%	25-50%	>50%
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Plant Litter (within AA): balance between litter and new growth

Balanced	Slightly Uneven	Very Uneven	
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Plant Zones: structural complexity (within AA)

1 (most complex)	2	3	4 (least complex)
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Woody Species: age distribution (within AA)

All ages or uncommon	Middle age group missing	Only mature	Relict
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Soil Integrity: (within AA)

Natural	Human minimal (<50%)	Human common (>50%)	Widespread (>90%)
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Water Quality: Algae (within AA)

No visual	Some	Large patches	Extensive
NA (water not present)			

Water Quality: Turbidity (within AA)

No visual	Slightly cloudy	Cloudy but bottom visible	Bottom not visible
NA (water not present)			

Water Quality: Sheen, petroleum based (within AA)

No visible	Some	Sheen in large patches	Sheen extensive
NA (water not present)			

Input: (into AA)

Natural	Mostly natural	Primarily human	Natural eliminated
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Outlet: (out of AA)

Natural	Some modification	Primarily human	Natural eliminated
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Connectivity: (AA)

Unrestricted	Limited artificial obstructions	Artificial 50-90%	Artificial > 90%
NA			

Hydroperiod: (within AA)

Natural	Greater than natural inflow	Rapid drydown	Both greater inflow/drydown
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Functional Assessment

Disturbance

Check one box for the following questions

Predominant conditions within 200m of AA (*see Companion guide)	
Undisturbed	
Moderate disturbance	
High disturbance	
Predominant conditions within AA	
Undisturbed	
Moderate disturbance	
High disturbance	

Evidence of overall wildlife use

Check one box for the following questions

Question 1: Wildlife sightings within AA	
Abundant wildlife or high species diversity	
Scattered wildlife groups or individuals or relatively few species	
Few or no wildlife observations	
Question 2: Wildlife signs (tracks, nests, game trails) within AA	
Abundant wildlife sign	
Common wildlife sign	
Little to no wildlife sign	
Question 3: See Companion guide (within 200m of AA)	
Substantial	
Moderate	
Minimal	

Wildlife observations:

Species of Concern: Check each species that you observe

	Within AA	Within 200m	Seen feeding or nesting?
Great Blue Heron			
American Bison			
Golden Eagle			
Grizzly Bear			
Pileated Woodpecker			
Ute's Ladies Tresses (orchid)			

General Fish Habitat Rating

Is there suitable fish habitat within the AA, or is habitat restorable and desired? If no, skip to "Flood attenuation."		
Yes	No	
Hiding/Resting/Escape Cover (Circle one)		
Optimal (20-50% cover)	Adequate (5-19% cover)	Poor (<5% or >50% cover)
Circle the habitat type being evaluated:		
Stream <150ft wide	Lake or pond <20 acres	Stream >150ft wide Lake >20 acres
Is thermal cover optimal or suboptimal?		
Optimal (≥50% shaded or >6.5 ft. deep)	Not optimal (<50% shaded and <6.5 ft. deep)	
Is fish use of the AA significantly reduced by a culvert, dike, or other man-made structure?		
Yes	No	
Duration of surface water in the portion of the AA used by fish (circle one):		
Permanent/Perennial	Seasonal/Intermittent	Temporary/Ephemeral

Flood Attenuation

Is the AA susceptible to flooding from in-channel or overbank flow? If no, skip to "Short and long-term surface water storage."		
Yes	No	
Entrenchment of the channel (Circle one)		
Slightly entrenched	Moderately entrenched	Entrenched
AA Outlet Information (Circle one)		
No outlet or restricted outlet	Unrestricted outlet	

Short and long-term surface water storage

Are wetlands in the AA subject to standing water? If no, skip to "Sediment/nutrient/toxicant retention and removal."		
Yes	No	
Saturation level of AA (Circle one)		
Entire site saturated	25-99% Saturated	<25% saturated
Wetlands in AA are subject to standing water... (use vegetation and topography to decide)		
≥ 5 out of 10 years	< 5 out of 10 years	

Sediment/Nutrient/Toxicant Retention and Removal

Are wetlands in the AA subject to such input? If no, skip to "Sediment/shoreline stabilization."		
Yes	No	
Cover of wetland vegetation within AA (Circle one):	>70%	<70%
Evidence of Flooding within AA? (Circle one):	Yes	No

Sediment/shoreline stabilization

Does the AA occur on the banks of a river, stream, or other natural or man-made drainage (flowing water) >2 ft wide, or on the shoreline of a body of water with waves? If no, skip to "Production export/food chain support."		
Yes	No	
Percent of wetland streambank or shoreline covered by sedges, willows, or reed canary grass (Circle one)		
>65%	35-64%	<35%

Production Export/Food Chain Support

Does the AA have potential to contain surface water? If no, Skip to "Groundwater discharge/recharge".		
Yes	No	
Percent of AA that is vegetated (Circle one)		
100-50%	25-50%	<25%
Does the AA contain a surface or subsurface outlet?		
Yes	No	

Groundwater discharge/recharge

Check all appropriate indicators for the AA.

*Requires local knowledge. Only check if you are sure.

Springs or seeps (flowing water reaching the surface from an underground aquifer) are known or observed	
*Vegetation growing during dormant season (late summer)/drought	
Wetland occurs at the toe of a natural slope	
*AA permanently flooded during drought periods	
Wetland contains an outlet, but no inlet	
Shallow water table; >50% of AA is wet to the touch	
Wetland contains inlet but no outlet	

Uniqueness Rating

Does the AA contains a fen, warm springs or mature (>80 yr.-old) forested wetland, large beaver dam complex ?	
Yes	No

Comments: