

JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION OF WATERS OF THE U.S., INCLUDING WETLANDS ON THE CALIFORNIA COAST: LEGAL AND ECOLOGICAL PROTOCOLS FOR DIVERSE AND CHANGING LANDSCAPES

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Day #1 Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

8:00 – 9:00 Registration at Elkhorn Slough Registration Desk
Coffee, tea & light snacks

9:00 ***Introduction***
A. Welcome (Lee, Elkhorn Slough NERR, EPA, & Others)
B. Introduction to Texts & Materials
C. Introduction of Instructors & Class
D. Objectives & Goals
E. Procedures & Guidelines of Instruction
F. Health & Safety

BREAK

Lecture #1: Clean Water Act Part I. (Lee)

A. History of The Clean Water Act and other pertinent wetland protection statutes
B. Definition of Waters of the U.S., including Wetlands
C. Introduction to the logic of the three parameter approach and to the 1987 Federal Method for identifying and delineating jurisdictional wetlands

Lecture #1: Clean Water Act Part II. (Lee & Others) *Continue historical overviews, definitions and introduction to wetland identification and delineation*

D. Agency Responsibilities under current Memorandums of Agreement
E. Discussion of "Normal Circumstances", the extent of reach of waters of the U.S., adjacent & isolated wetlands, differences between Individual 404 and Nationwide Permits, Pertinent Memoranda of Agreement, etc.
F. California Coastal Act, Work in California Streams, "State" Wetlands, etc.

12:30 **Lunch**

Review of the status of the National Academy of Sciences Committee Recommendations (Lee)

Lecture #2: Hydrology Detailed explanation of parameters used for Jurisdictional Delineation: Wetland Hydrology (Curry)

Break

Continue detailed explanation of parameters used for Jurisdictional Delineation: Hydrology – with emphasis on the Arid West and Western Mountains Supplements (Curry)

Questions on Day #1; Introduction to Day #2

5:00 & After

Dinner (on your own)

Review of handout materials and suggested reading

Day #2 Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute

8:00 – 8:30

Coffee, tea & light snacks

8:30

Review of assigned reading, questions and answers

Lecture #3: Regulatory Updates Recent Developments & Guidance affecting Delineation of Waters/Wetlands and the Clean Water Act Section 404 Program (Lee)

A. SWANCC Decision

B. Rapanos Decision

C. General Permits, Nationwide Permits, etc.

D. Mitigation Guidance

Break

Lecture #4: Soils. Detailed explanation of parameters used for Jurisdictional Delineation, Hydric Soils. Emphasis on Introduction to Soils, Hydric Soil Criteria, Field Indicators, Soil Color, Soil Taxonomy, and the Arid West and Western Mountains Supplements (Harley, Lee)

Lecture #5: Vegetation Part I. Vegetation and Wetland Plants of the Central Coast (Hayes)

A. Overview of Wetland Plants and Plant Communities of the California Central Coast

B. Plant adaptations to life in inundated and saturated soil conditions

Lunch

Lecture #5: Vegetation Part II (Fiedler)

A. Introduction to Current Criteria for Identification of Hydrophytic Vegetation (1987 Manual & Arid West and Western Mountain Supplements)

B. Introduction to The National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands (Region 10 - California)

C. Sampling Vegetation (and filling out forms) in a regulatory context (50:20 rule; absolute & relative dominance, plot locations and sizes, etc.)

Questions on Day #2; Introduction to Day #3

5:00 & After

Dinner (on your own)

Review of handout materials and suggested reading

Day #3 - Field Delineations

8:00 Load buses; travel to field site #1

Field Site #1: Kirby Park

Field topics include: types of wetlands (estuarine fringe wetland/navigable water in fact); Rivers & Harbors Act 10/CWA 404; types of waters, special aquatic sites (mudflats), mean higher high water and transition to ordinary high water call; adjacent pocket wetland; navigable waters in fact.

Travel to Field Site #2

Field Site #2: Tom's Strawberry Field

Field topics include: Estuarine Fringe Wetlands; CWA routine jurisdictional delineation; how to take data; field indicators & what to look for; California Coastal Commission jurisdiction; issues of landscape scale; cartography

Lunch

Group report out on delineation

Load bus; travel to Field Site #3

Field Site #3: Boy Scout Flat, Watsonville

Field topics include: Flat Wetland, Fill and types of, atypical circumstances, using hydrology to meet soils criteria; field identification problems with mollisols; California Coastal Commission jurisdiction; jurisdiction of industrial waters/wetlands features

5:00 – 5:30 Load buses and travel back to Elkhorn Slough Reserve

5:30 & After Dinner on your own
Review of handout materials and suggested reading

Day #4 Field Delineations

8:00

Load bus at Elkhorn Slough Reserve
Travel to Field Site #4

Field Site #4: Toro Creek

Field topics include: Riverine Wetlands; ordinary high water (OHW) calls; indicator status of plants; presentation of stage data; issues of seasonal/intermittent/ephemeral hydrology; what constitutes a significant nexus and how to document; Riverine hydrogeomorphic (HGM) ecosystem (HGM) functions; buffers and buffer ordinances; endangered species.

Lunch

Travel to Field Site #4

Field Site #5: Ostracod Pond at Fort Ord

Field topics include: Closed depression wetlands; isolated wetlands (federal); California Coastal Commission jurisdiction; other state jurisdictions; soil characteristics, HGM ecosystem functions, including current depression HGM models; endangered species; effects of development within watersheds/cumulative impacts

5:00 – 6:00

Load bus and travel back to Elkhorn Slough Reserve

6:00 & After

Dinner on your own
Review of handout materials and suggested reading

Day #5 Field Delineations & Conclusion

8:00

Load bus at Elkhorn Slough Reserve
Travel to Field Site #5
Review Take home Quiz/Homework

Field Site #6: Harkins Slough Slope Wetlands

Field topics include: Slope wetlands; field sites complicated by disturbance history, especially sediment transport due to farming; seasonal/intermittent/ephemeral hydrology; mapping flow vectors to determine connection to navigable waters in fact.

Lunch

Field Site #7: Watsonville Slough Ecological Reserve – FINAL EXAM

Course conclusion; Hand out certificates, Awards, etc.

5:00

Travel back to Elkhorn Slough NERR and Adjourn