# Maps and figures required to answer questions correctly for Western Washington

## **Depressional Wetlands**

Map of:	To answer questions:	Figure #
Cowardin plant classes	D 1.3, H 1.1, H 1.4	
Hydroperiods	D 1.4, H 1.2	
Location of outlet (can be added to map of hydroperiods)	D 1.1, D 4.1	
Boundary of area within 150 ft of the wetland (can be added to another figure)	D 2.2, D 5.2	
Map of the contributing basin	D 4.3, D 5.3	
1 km Polygon: Area that extends 1 km from entire wetland edge - including polygons for accessible habitat and undisturbed habitat	H 2.1, H 2.2, H 2.3	
Screen capture of map of 303(d) listed waters in basin (from Ecology website)	D 3.1, D 3.2	
Screen capture of list of TMDLs for WRIA in which unit is found (from web)	D 3.3	

#### Riverine Wetlands

Map of:	To answer questions:	Figure #
Cowardin plant classes	H 1.1, H 1.4	
Hydroperiods	H 1.2	2
Ponded depressions	R 1.1	3
Boundary of area within 150 ft of the wetland (can be added to another figure)	R 2.4	4
Plant cover of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants	R 1.2, R 4.2	3
Width of unit vs. width of stream (can be added to another figure)	R 4.1	4
Map of the contributing basin	R 2.2, R 2.3, R 5.2	5
1 km Polygon: Area that extends 1 km from entire wetland edge - including polygons for accessible habitat and undisturbed habitat		6
Screen capture of map of 303(d) listed waters in basin (from Ecology website)	R 3.1	7
Screen capture of list of TMDLs for WRIA in which unit is found (from web)	R 3.2, R 3.3	8

#### Lake Fringe Wetlands

Map of:	To answer questions:	Figure #
Cowardin plant classes	L 1.1, L 4.1, H 1.1, H 1.4	
Plant cover of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants	L 1.2	
Boundary of area within 150 ft of the wetland (can be added to another figure)	L 2.2	
1 km Polygon: Area that extends 1 km from entire wetland edge - including polygons for accessible habitat and undisturbed habitat	H 2.1, H 2.2, H 2.3	
Screen capture of map of 303(d) listed waters in basin (from Ecology website)	L 3.1, L 3.2	
Screen capture of list of TMDLs for WRIA in which unit is found (from web)	L 3.3	

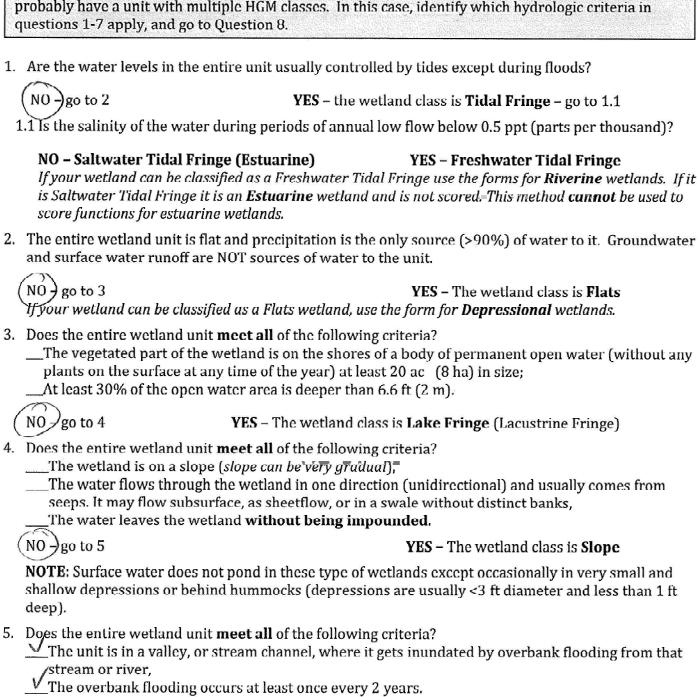
#### Slope Wetlands

Map of:	To answer questions:	Figure #
Cowardin plant classes	H 1.1, H 1.4	
Hydroperiods	H 1.2	
Plant cover of dense trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants	S 1.3	
Plant cover of dense, rigid trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants	S 4.1	
(can be added to figure above)		
Boundary of 150 ft buffer (can be added to another figure)	S 2.1, S 5.1	
1 km Polygon: Area that extends 1 km from entire wetland edge - including polygons for accessible habitat and undisturbed habitat	H 2.1, H 2.2, H 2.3	
Screen capture of map of 303(d) listed waters in basin (from Ecology website)	S 3.1, S 3.2	
Screen capture of list of TMDLs for WRIA in which unit is found (from web)	\$ 3.3·	

## **HGM Classification of Wetlands in Western Washington**

For questions 1-7, the criteria described must apply to the entire unit being rated.

If the hydrologic criteria listed in each question do not apply to the entire unit being rated, you probably have a unit with multiple HGM classes. In this case, identify which hydrologic criteria in questions 1-7 apply, and go to Question 8.



Wetland name or number A

NO – go to 6

(YES – The wetland class is Riverine
NOTE: The Riverine unit can contain depressions that are filled with water when the river is not flooding

6. Is the entire wetland unit in a topographic depression in which water ponds, or is saturated to the surface, at some time during the year? This means that any outlet, if present, is higher than the interior of the wetland.

NO - go to 7

YES - The wetland class is Depressional

7. Is the entire wetland unit located in a very flat area with no obvious depression and no overbank flooding? The unit does not pond surface water more than a few inches. The unit seems to be maintained by high groundwater in the area. The wetland may be ditched, but has no obvious natural outlet.

NO - go to 8

YES - The wetland class is Depressional

8. Your wetland unit seems to be difficult to classify and probably contains several different HGM classes. For example, seeps at the base of a slope may grade into a riverine floodplain, or a small stream within a Depressional wetland has a zone of flooding along its sides. GO BACK AND IDENTIFY WHICH OF THE HYDROLOGIC REGIMES DESCRIBED IN QUESTIONS 1-7 APPLY TO DIFFERENT AREAS IN THE UNIT (make a rough sketch to help you decide). Use the following table to identify the appropriate class to use for the rating system if you have several HGM classes present within the wetland unit being scored.

**NOTE**: Use this table only if the class that is recommended in the second column represents 10% or more of the total area of the wetland unit being rated. If the area of the HGM class listed in column 2 is less than 10% of the unit; classify the wetland using the class that represents more than 90% of the total area.

HGM classes within the wetland unit being rated	HGM class to use in rating
Slope + Riverine	Riverine
Slope + Depressional	Depressional
Slope + Lake Fringe	Lake Fringe
Depressional + Riverine along stream within boundary of depression	Depressional
Depressional + Lake Fringe	Depressional
Riverine + Lake Fringe	Riverine
Salt Water Tidal Fringe and any other class of freshwater wetland	Treat as ESTUARINE

If you are still unable to determine which of the above criteria apply to your wetland, or if you have **more than 2 HGM classes** within a wetland boundary, classify the wetland as Depressional for the rating.

RIVERINE AND FRESHWATER TIDAL FRINGE WET	LANDS	
Water Quality Functions - Indicators that the site functions to impr	ove water quality	
R 1.0. Does the site have the potential to improve water quality?		
R 1.1. Area of surface depressions within the Riverine wetland that can trap sediments during a	flooding event:	П
Depressions cover $>$ $^3/_4$ area of wetland	points = 8	
Depressions cover > 1/2 area of wetland	points =4)	U
Depressions present but cover < ½ area of wetland	points = 2	1
No depressions present	points = 0	WWW.WW.WW.WW.WW.WW.
R 1.2. Structure of plants in the wetland (areas with >90% cover at person height, not Cowardin	classes)	
Trees or shrubs $> \frac{2}{3}$ area of the wetland	points = 8	7
Trees or shrubs > ¹/₃ area of the wetland	points =(6)	6
Herbaceous plants (> 6 in high) > $^{2}/_{3}$ area of the wetland	points = 6	
Herbaceous plants (> 6 in high) > $\frac{1}{3}$ area of the wetland	points = 3	
Trees, shrubs, and ungrazed herbaceous $< \frac{1}{3}$ area of the wetland	points = 0	
Total for R 1 Add the points in the boxes above		10
Rating of Site Potential If score is: 12-16 = H \(\frac{\times}{6}\) 6-11 = M \(\frac{0}{5}\) 0-5 = L	Record the rating on th	e first page
		, , ,
R 2.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the water quality function of the	e site?	
R 2.1. Is the wetland within an incorporated city or within its UGA?	Yes = (2) No = 0	2
R 2.2. Does the contributing basin to the wetland include a UGA or incorporated area?	Yes <b>€1</b> No = 0	1 -
R 2.3. Does at least 10% of the contributing basin contain tilled fields, pastures, or forests that he within the last 5 years?	ave been clearcut Yes = 1 No (0)	Ö
R 2.4. Is > 10% of the area within 150 ft of the wetland in land uses that generate pollutants?	Yes (1) No = 0	1
R 2.5. Are there other sources of pollutants coming into the wetland that are not listed in question of the sources with sources and sources with sources and sources with sources with sources and sources with sour	ons R 2.1-R 2.4 Yes = 1 No = 0	ł
Total for R 2 Add the points	in the boxes above	5
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: X 3-6 = H1 or 2 = M0 = L	Record the rating on th	ie first page
R 3.0. Is the water quality improvement provided by the site valuable to society?		Na A. Saile
R 3.1. Is the wetland along a stream or river that is on the 303(d) list or on a tributary that drains	to one within 1 mi?	
Yes. Juanita Creek & Lake WA Forbader	Yes (1) No = 0	
R 3.2. Is the wetland along a stream or river that has TMDL limits for nutrients, toxics, or pathogo	ens? $Yes = 1 \text{ No} \left( \widehat{0} \right)$	Q,
R 3.3. Has the site been identified in a watershed or local plan as important for maintaining water YES If there is a TMDL for the drainage in which the unit is found) Nove Downstee	er quality? (answer	0
	in the boxes above	Λ
Rating of Value   If score is:2-4 = H1 = M0 = L	Record the rating on th	e first page

RIVERINE AND FRESHWATER TIDAL FRINGE WETLANDS	
Hydrologic Functions - Indicators that site functions to reduce flooding and stream eros	ion
R 4.0. Does the site have the potential to reduce flooding and erosion?	
R 4.1. Characteristics of the overbank storage the wetland provides:  Estimate the average width of the wetland perpendicular to the direction of the flow and the width of the stream or river channel (distance between banks). Calculate the ratio: (average width of wetland)/(average width of stream between banks).	
If the ratio is more than 20 points = 9  If the ratio is 10-20 points = 6  If the ratio is 5-<10 points = 4  If the ratio is 1-<5 points = $2$ If the ratio is < 1 points = 1	2
R 4.2. Characteristics of plants that slow down water velocities during floods: Treat large woody debris as forest or shrub. Choose the points appropriate for the best description (polygons need to have >90% cover at person height. These are NOT Cowardin classes).  Forest or shrub for > \frac{1}{3} \text{ area OR emergent plants > \frac{2}{3} \text{ area} \text{ points = 7}  Forest or shrub for > \frac{1}{10} \text{ area OR emergent plants > \frac{1}{3} \text{ area} \text{ points = 4}  Plants do not meet above criteria \text{ points = 0}	7
Total for R 4 Add the points in the boxes above	
Rating of Site Potential If score is:12-16 = H6-11 = M0-5 = L Record the rating of	n the first page:
R 5.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the hydrologic functions of the site?	
R 5.1. Is the stream or river adjacent to the wetland downcut? Yes = $0$ No = $1$	)
R 5.2. Does the up-gradient watershed include a UGA or incorporated area?  Yes +1 No = 0	١
R 5.3. Is the up-gradient stream or river controlled by dams?  Yes = 0 No 1	,
Total for R 5 Add the points in the boxes above	3
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is: X3 = H1 or 2 = M0 = L Record the rating of	n the first page
R 6.0. Are the hydrologic functions provided by the site valuable to society?	
R 6.1. Distance to the nearest areas downstream that have flooding problems?  Choose the description that best fits the site.  The sub-basin immediately down-gradient of the wetland has flooding problems that result in damage to human or natural resources (e.g., houses or salmon redds):  Surface flooding problems are in a sub-basin farther down-gradient  No flooding problems anywhere downstream  points = 1	
R 6.2. Has the site been identified as important for flood storage or flood conveyance in a regional flood control plan. Yes = 2 No $\neq 0$	30
Total for R 6 Add the points in the boxes above	0
Rating of Value If score is:2-4 = H1 = M0 = L Record the rating of	n the first page

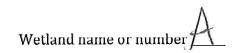
These questions apply to wetlands of all HGM classes.  HABITAT FUNCTIONS Indicators that site functions to provide important habitat	teriorista. Berioris
H 1.0. Does the site have the potential to provide habitat?	
H 1.1. Structure of plant community: Indicators are Cowardin classes and strata within the Forested class. Check the Cowardin plant classes in the wetland. Up to 10 patches may be combined for each class to meet the threshold of ¼ ac or more than 10% of the unit if it is smaller than 2.5 ac. Add the number of structures checked.  Aquatic bed  Emergent  Scrub-shrub (areas where shrubs have > 30% cover)  Forested (areas where trees have > 30% cover)  If the unit has a Forested class, check if:  The Forested class has 3 out of 5 strata (canopy, sub-canopy, shrubs, herbaceous, moss/ground-cover) that each cover 20% within the Forested polygon	2
H 1.2. Hydroperiods  Check the types of water regimes (hydroperiods) present within the wetland. The water regime has to cover more than 10% of the wetland or ¼ ac to count (see text for descriptions of hydroperiods).  Permanently flooded or inundated  Seasonally flooded or inundated  Occasionally flooded or inundated  Saturated only  Permanently flowing stream or river in, or adjacent to, the wetland  Seasonally flowing stream in, or adjacent to, the wetland  Lake Fringe wetland  Freshwater tidal wetland  2 points	2
H 1.3. Richness of plant species  Count the number of plant species in the wetland that cover at least 10 ft <sup>2</sup> .  Different patches of the same species can be combined to meet the size threshold and you do not have to name the species.  Do not include Eurasian milfoil, reed canarygrass, purple loosestrife, Canadian thistle  If you counted: > 19 species  5 - 19 species  5 - 5 species  points = 1  congruences  points = 1  points = 0	2
H 1.4. Interspersion of habitats  Decide from the diagrams below whether interspersion among Cowardin plants classes (described in H 1.1), or the classes and unvegetated areas (can include open water or mudflats) is high, moderate, low, or none. If you have four or more plant classes or three classes and open water, the rating is always high.  None = 0 points  Low = 1 point  Moderate = 2 points  All three diagrams in this row are HIGH = 3points	3

H 1.5. Special habitat features:		
Check the habitat features that are present in the wetland. The number of checks is the number of points.		
Large, downed, woody debris within the wetland (> 4 in diameter and 6 ft long).		
X Standing snags (dbh > 4 in) within the wetland		
Undercut banks are present for at least 6.6 ft (2 m) and/or overhanging plants extends at least 3.3 ft (1 m)		
over a stream (or ditch) in, or contiguous with the wetland, for at least 33 ft (10 m)		
Stable steep banks of fine material that might be used by beaver or muskrat for denning (> 30 degree		
	$\geq$	
slope) OR signs of recent beaver activity are present (cut shrubs or trees that have not yet weathered	$\supset$	
where wood is exposed)		
At least ¼ ac of thin-stemmed persistent plants or woody branches are present in areas that are		
permanently or seasonally inundated (structures for egg-laying by amphibians)	11	
Invasive plants cover less than 25% of the wetland area in every stratum of plants (see H 1.1 for list of		
strata)		
Total for H 1 Add the points in the boxes above	12	
Rating of Site Potential If score is: 15-18 = H 7-14 = M 0-6 = L Record the rating on the state of the state	he first page	
H 2.0. Does the landscape have the potential to support the habitat functions of the site?		
H 2.1. Accessible habitat (include only habitat that directly abuts wetland unit).	-mot t v + 575 C aut 79	
Calculate: % undisturbed habitat $\bigcirc$ + [(% moderate and low intensity land uses)/2] $\frac{15}{5}$ = $\frac{15}{5}$ %		
If total accessible habitat is:		
$> \frac{1}{3} (33.3\%) \text{ of } 1 \text{ km Polygon}$ points = 3	,	
	1	
20-33% of 1 km Polygon points = 2	1	
10-19% of 1 km Polygon points =(1')		
< 10% of 1 km Polygon points = 0	W. 4000	
H 2.2. Undisturbed habitat in 1 km Polygon around the wetland.		
Calculate: % undisturbed habitat $(0 + (\% \text{ moderate and low intensity land uses})/2) (5 = 2 / \%)$		
Undisturbed habitat > 50% of Polygon points = 3		
Undisturbed habitat 10-50% and in 1-3 patches points =(2)	(	
Undisturbed habitat 10-50% and > 3 patches points = 1		
Undisturbed habitat < 10% of 1 km Polygon points = 0		
H 2.3. Land use intensity in 1 km Polygon: If		
> 50% of 1 km Polygon is high intensity land use points = (-2)	~ 2	
≤ 50% of 1 km Polygon is high intensity and use points = 0	_	
	1	
Total for H 2 Add the points in the boxes above		
Rating of Landscape Potential If score is:4-6 = H<1 = L	e first page	
H 3.0. Is the habitat provided by the site valuable to society?	1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00 1.00	
H 3.1. Does the site provide habitat for species valued in laws, regulations, or policies? Choose only the highest score		
that applies to the wetland being rated.		
Site meets ANY of the following criteria: points =(2)		
It has 3 or more priority habitats within 100 m (see next page)		
It provides habitat for Threatened or Endangered species (any plant or animal on the state or federal lists)		
It is mapped as a location for an individual WDFW priority species		
It is a Wetland of High Conservation Value as determined by the Department of Natural Resources		
It has been categorized as an important habitat site in a local or regional comprehensive plan, in a  Shareline Master Plan, or in a watershood plan.		
Shoreline Master Plan, or in a watershed plan Site has 1 or 2 priority habitats (listed on next page) within 100 m points = 1		
Site does not meet any of the criteria above points = 0		
Rating of Value If score is: $\sqrt{2} = H$ $1 = M$ $0 = L$ Record the rating on	the tirst nage	

# **WDFW Priority Habitats**

Priority habitats listed by WDFW (see complete descriptions of WDFW priority habitats, and the counties in which they can be found, in: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2008. Priority Habitat and Species List. Olympia, Washington. 177 pp. http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/00165/wdfw00165.pdf or access the list from here: http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/phs/list/)

independent of the land use between the wetland unit and the priority habitat.
— Aspen Stands: Pure or mixed stands of aspen greater than 1 ac (0.4 ha).
Biodiversity Areas and Corridors: Areas of habitat that are relatively important to various species of native fish and wildlife (full descriptions in WDFW PHS report). Lake Wh
<ul> <li>Herbaceous Balds: Variable size patches of grass and forbs on shallow soils over bedrock.</li> </ul>
Old-growth/Mature forests: Old-growth west of Cascade crest – Stands of at least 2 tree species, forming a multi-layered canopy with occasional small openings; with at least 8 trees/ac (20 trees/ha) > 32 in (81 cm) dbh or > 200 years of age. Mature forests – Stands with average diameters exceeding 21 in (53 cm) dbh; crown cover may be less than 100%; decay, decadence, numbers of snags, and quantity of large downed material is generally less than that found in old-growth; 80-200 years old west of the Cascade crest.
<ul> <li>Oregon White Oak: Woodland stands of pure oak or oak/conifer associations where canopy coverage of the oak component is important (full descriptions in WDFW PHS report p. 158 – see web link above).</li> </ul>
Riparian: The area adjacent to aquatic systems with flowing water that contains elements of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems which mutually influence each other.
<ul> <li>Westside Prairies: Herbaceous, non-forested plant communities that can either take the form of a dry prairie or a wet prairie (full descriptions in WDFW PHS report p. 161 – see web link above).</li> </ul>
Instream: The combination of physical, biological, and chemical processes and conditions that interact to provide functional life history requirements for instream fish and wildlife resources.
<ul> <li>Nearshore: Relatively undisturbed nearshore habitats. These include Coastal Nearshore, Open Coast Nearshore, and Puget Sound Nearshore. (full descriptions of habitats and the definition of relatively undisturbed are in WDFW report – see web link on previous page).</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Caves: A naturally occurring cavity, recess, void, or system of interconnected passages under the earth in soils, rock, ice, or other geological formations and is large enough to contain a human.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Cliffs: Greater than 25 ft (7.6 m) high and occurring below 5000 ft elevation.</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Talus: Homogenous areas of rock rubble ranging in average size 0.5 - 6.5 ft (0.15 - 2.0 m), composed of basalt, andesite, and/or sedimentary rock, including riprap slides and mine tailings. May be associated with cliffs.</li> </ul>
Snags and Logs: Trees are considered snags if they are dead or dying and exhibit sufficient decay characteristics to enable cavity excavation/use by wildlife. Priority snags have a diameter at breast height of > 20 in (51 cm) in western Washington and arc > 6.5 ft (2 m) in height. Priority logs are > 12 in (30 cm) in diameter at the largest end, and > 20 ft (6 m) long.
<b>Note:</b> All vegetated wetlands are by definition a priority habitat but are not included in this list because they are addressed elsewhere.



## **CATEGORIZATION BASED ON SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Wetland Type		POARS	Category
Check off any criteria that apply to the wetland. Circle the	e category when the appro	priate criteria are met.	
SC 1.0. Estuarine wetlands			7
Does the wetland meet the following criteria for	Estuarine wetlands?		
<ul> <li>The dominant water regime is tidal,</li> </ul>		,	
Vegetated, and	V . 0		
— With a salinity greater than 0.5 ppt	Yes –Go to <b>SC 1.1</b>	No= Not an estuarine wetland	
SC 1.1. Is the wetland within a National Wildlife Refuge, Preserve, State Park or Educational, Environment	al, or Scientific Reserve de		Cat. I
SC 1.2. Is the wetland unit at least 1 ac in size and meets	at least two of the followi	ng three conditions?	
<ul> <li>The wetland is relatively undisturbed (has not than 10% cover of non-native plant species.</li> <li>At least ¾ of the landward edge of the wetlands.</li> </ul>	(If non-native species are	Spartina, see page 25)	Cat. I
mowed grassland.			Cat. II
<ul> <li>The wetland has at least two of the following contiguous freshwater wetlands.</li> </ul>		depressions with open water, or = Category I No = Category II	Cat. II
SC 2.0. Wetlands of High Conservation Value (WH	ICV)		
SC 2.1. Has the WA Department of Natural Resources up			
Conservation Value?		50 to SC 2.2 (No - Go to SC 2.3	Cat. I
SC 2.2. Is the wetland listed on the WDNR database as a			
		Category I No = Not a WHCV	
SC 2.3. Is the wetland in a Section/Township/Range that		e wetiandr	
http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/refdesk/dataseard	ntact WNHP/WDNR and g	to SC 2.4 No = Not a WHCV	
SC 2.4. Has WDNR identified the wetland within the S/T/			
their website?		Category I No = Not a WHCV	
SC 3.0. Bogs			
Does the wetland (or any part of the unit) meet b	ooth the criteria for soils a	nd vegetation in bogs? Use the key	
below. If you answer YES you will still need to ra			1
SC 3.1. Does an area within the wetland unit have organi			l
more of the first 32 in of the soil profile?		So to SC 3.3 ( No – Go to SC 3.2	1
SC 3.2. Does an area within the wetland unit have organi			
over bedrock, or an impermeable hardpan such a			
pond?		o to SC 3.3 No = Is not a bog	
SC 3.3. Does an area with peats or mucks have more that	n 70% cover of mosses at a Yes = <b>is a Cat</b> e		
cover of plant species listed in Table 4?  NOTE: If you are uncertain about the extent of m			
measuring the pH of the water that seeps into a l			
plant species in Table 4 are present, the wetland		p pri si ess tilun sio unu tile	Cat. I
SC 3.4. Is an area with peats or mucks forested (> 30% co		palpine fir, western red cedar.	
western hemlock, lodgepole pine, quaking aspen			
species (or combination of species) listed in Table			1
	Yes = Is a Ca		1