

## MN Wetland Professional Certification Program Basic Class- Day 2

BOARD OF WATER

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# WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT (WCA)

https://bwsr.state.mn.us/wetlands-regulation

State Law passed in 1991

MN Statute **103G** and parts of 103A,B,E,F

MN Rule Chapter 8420



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## What Does WCA Regulate?

- Draining or filling of wetlands (wholly or partially)
- Excavation of wetlands (under certain conditions)



Excavation

WCA regulates excavation in permanently and semipermanently flooded areas of Type 3, 4, or 5 wetlands and in all wetland types if the excavation results in conversion to nonwetland (i.e. deepwater habitat which is defined as average water depth of 8.2 feet or greater).

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## What WCA Does NOT Regulate

- The use of wetlands for pasture or cropland
- Normal farming practices (plowing, seeding, timber harvesting, etc.)
- · Control of noxious weeds • Impacts to created (nonnatural) wetlands (ditches, ponds, etc. created in upland areas)



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BWSR Wetland Section | www.bwsr.state.mn.us/we





• Tribes have special legal status as sovereign RESEARCH nations • Tribal lands are American Indian Tribes, and State composed of Trust lands, allotted trust lands, fee lands • Many tribes have enacted their own environmental

regulations Federal regulatory environmental laws apply on Tribal Lands

## WCA Authority on Tribal Lands?

• WCA does not have

- jurisdiction on Trust lands • Fee lands are held by an
- owner (tribal member or not)
- Authority of state

environmental laws on tribal land is limited to fee lands held by a non-tribal owner

## Pre-Statehood Areas

Different regulations apply depending on whether you are in a <50% area, 50 – 80% area, or >80% area.



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## Bank Service Areas

rview

### • Used in wetland mitigation siting

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Wetland Conservation



 Natural body that occurs on the land surface, occupies space, and is characterized by one or both of the following:

The ability to support rooted plants in a natural environment
Upper limit is air or shallow (>2.5 m) water

 Lower limit is either bedrock or the limit of biological activity

• Lower limit for classification set at an arbitrary 2 m

· Horizons or layers, or

Basics of Soil     Soil formation     Suil formation     Ladccape position     Soil Properties     Soil Properties     Soil Properties     Soil Properties     Soil acceleration     Hydric soil development     Web Soil Survey     Interpreting soil reports	
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## What is Soil?



		Factor So	s That Influence bil Development
Climate- weather conditions prevailing over long period of time     Parent material- geologic material from		Design Matter sense processes for any instance sense instance sense insta	He Had Table
which soils form     Topography- landscape position and slope     processes		And an and a formula of a second seco	Annual and a local constantial and and annual sets of the set and and annual sets of the set and annual sets of the set and annual sets of the set annual sets of the sets of th
• Organisms- essential role of microbes in the soil, includes humans	5	Carl Bridge	- Anno
<ul> <li>Time- soil doesn't "age", it develops. vegetation, organisms and climate "act on" parent material and topography to develop soil.</li> </ul>	-		

## Landscape Position

- Location relative to other landforms
- Critically influences water flow and soil formation
- Most wetlands, even groundwater seeps, are on some sort of concave surface





•12 orders of soil taxonomy



## Soil Taxonomy

 Alfisols: wide range of climate, forest soils, clay in subsoil Andisols: volcanic, high nutrient

- · Entisols: recent deposition, dunes, slopes, floodplains, sandy
- Gelisols: permafrost, high latitudes and/or elevation
- Histosols: high organic, most saturated year round
- · Inceptisols: wide range of climate, moderate weathering
- Mollisols: "prairie soils", dark colored, high organic
- Oxisols: highly weathered tropical, stable, low fertility • Spodosols: coarse-textured, acidic, conifer forests
- · Ultisols: humid climate, weathered, clay-rich
- · Vertisols: high content of expanding clays, Red River Valley

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## Soil Taxonomy

• What orders are based upon?

### Soil forming factors: CLORPT

Climate, organisms, relief (landform), parent material, time Climate and organisms (all orders) Parent Material (Vertisol, Andisol, Histosol)



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## Mineral horizons

• Primarily sand, silt, and clay, with varying amounts of organic matter

## Organic horizon

 consists of mostly decomposed organic . material











<ul> <li>Soil Structure- arrangement of solid parts and of the pore spaces located between them</li> </ul>	Gran (Soil agen
<ul> <li>Aggregation- interaction and arrangement of soil particles</li> </ul>	Lenti
• Precipitation of oxides carbonates	We

- and silicates
- Cementation
- Can decline under cultivation & irrigation







Permeability- ability of water or air to move through the soil profile

- Permeability is "measured" in inches per hour
- Permeability is an estimated property
- Larger grain sizes= higher permeability



## Capillary Fringe

Based upon permeability

- The zone above the free water table that is effectively saturated
- Water held at tension
- Theoretical values much higher than "real life"
- Difficult to measure



	Coloring Agents in Soil
Organic matter	
<ul> <li>OM will mask all other coloring agents.</li> </ul>	
• Iron (Fe)	1 SSOM
<ul> <li>brown colors are the result of Fe oxide stains coating individual particles</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Manganese (Mn)</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>resulting in a very dark black or purplish black color</li> </ul>	
Calcium	
<ul> <li>Lack of coatings</li> </ul>	
Color of the mineral soil grains (stripped	1)



"Bright-colored" soil is bright because the gray-colored mineral grains are coated with a thin layer of "paint" formed by Fe oxides. Stripping the paint off the particles leaves the mineral grains exposed.

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### Contrast Contrast rence in Color Bets (A means "differe een Matrix and RMF ce between") Diff Contrast refers to the degree of visual distinction Value (v) Chroma (c) between associated colors • Faint -- evident only on close examination • Distinct -- readily seen at ah = 2; arms length Δh = 0; or $\Delta c \ge 3$ or $\Delta c \ge 2$ • Prominent -- contrast $\Delta v \ge 3$ $\Delta v \ge 2$ Δh = 1; Δh = 2; strongly h a value ≤3 and a ch of hue differences ma of <2 sh Several indicators require distinct or prominent contrast!

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Landscape and formation of hydric soils Landscape position Surface shape (linear, concave, convex) • Erosional or depositional Hydraulics How water moves Hydroperiod- seasonal pattern of water table depth in a wetland Long term- organic

Seasonal inundation- thick O, dark A

- Seasonal saturation- thin O
- Floodplain- thin, stratified layers

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Hydric Soil Development



- soil) 2. Organic matter (energy source)
- 3. Soil temperature warm enough for microbial respiration (>41F)
- 4. Duration of conditions (Time)

In anaerobic conditions decomposition slows and leads to organic accumulation





## Definition of a Hydric Soil

• A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.



Hydric soils indicators develop in

1. Reduction and Re-oxidation of Iron

2. Organic Matter Accumulation



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Hydric Soil Development

anaerobic conditions by the process of : Foundation of the Field Indicator Manual.

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• Here's what happens when water moves into a soil profile:

Downward movement

- Lateral movement
- Lose some things
- Changes in chemical state in others

Think old car left in the elementschemical reactions leave "rust in the soil"



## Change in the state of iron

- •Available O<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, and Mn depleted
- •Bluish Grey when reduced
- •Grey when depleted from soil
- •Orange or Red when oxidized





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High Value (4 or more) Low Chroma (2 or Less)

Depleted Matric Requirement





	Field Indicators of Hydric Soils	Field Indic	ator Organization- Regions
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Andrew Hydric Solis in the Hydric Solis in the H	Land Pressure Region Boundary P Sto Cleant Teenange	AS Utilik Land Resizing Regions
National Technical Committee for Hydric Soils		Regions Textures	
Used for <b>on-site</b> <b>verification</b> of hydric soils		Diagnostic Zones	











### Key terms to help interpret indicators:

- Aquic- moisture regime, reducing regime virtually free of dissolved oxygen
- Histic- saturated organic horizon • Epipedon-horizon near the surface
- Depletions- areas of low chroma
- where oxides have been stripped away · Concentrations-zones where oxides
- have accumulated

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## Format of Indicator Descriptions

- Alpha-numeric designation
- A1
- Short name Histosol
- Applicable land resource regions (LRR)
- Use in all LRRs
- Description of the indicator User notes
  - Additional information, explanation and guidance
- Supplement adds regional likelihood, locations

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Histic epipedon- saturated, organic horizons 8 inches or more thick in the upper part

 Applicable land resource regions (LRR) • Use in all LRRs

> A2.—Histic Epipedon. For use in all LRRs. A stic epipedon underlain by mineral soil material stic epipedon undertain by mineral soil material with roma of 2 or less. User Notes: Most histic epipedons are surface orizona 20 cm (ii lichcha) or more thick of organic soil aterial (fig. 8). Aquic conditions or artificial drainage required. See Keys to Soil Taxonomy (Soil Survey tatt, 2014) for a complete definition.

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A2- Histic Epipedon

Hist d depth oriteria t of A3, results fi



















Review

Hydric soil indicators

• All, Fine, Sandy

Common soil indicators

Organic Indicators (A1, A2, A3)

 Redoximorphic features (F6, S3)

Depleted Matrix (F3, F7)

## Problematic Hydric Soils

Soil formation

horizons

Soil Properties

Texture

Color

• Sand, silt, clay

Hydric soil development

accumulation

Web Soil Survey

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• Hue, value, chroma

Interpreting soil reports

Parent material, landscape position,

Anaerobic conditions, reduction, organic

Covered in Chapter 5 of the regional supplements

• Problematic hydric soils are the norm in some landscapes

• Red Parent Material (inhibited, or difficult to see redox features)

• Active floodplains (deposition of new material)

• Drained systems (relict hydric indicators)

• High Value (bright) / Low Chroma (grey),



Sandy soils

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