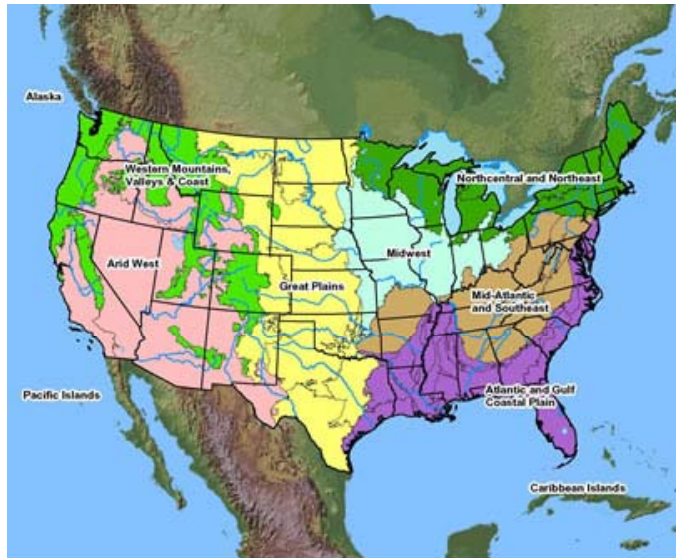


Status of the Regional Supplements to the Wetland Delineation Manual: Expansion of Atlantic Gulf Coastal Region

The Army Corps of Engineers initiated a program in 2003 to create regionalized supplements to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. This project was undertaken following the publication of a report, *“Developing a ‘Regionalized’ Version of the Corps of Engineers’ Wetlands Delineation Manual: Issues and Recommendations”* (2002),

<http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/Developing%20a%20Regionalized%20Version%20of%20the%20Corps%20Wetlands%20Deli.pdf>

which evaluated the existing national delineation manual and recommended a need to supplement it with regionalized criteria to improve the accuracy and consistency of wetland determinations. An interagency group was established and the U.S. was divided up into ecological regions. Work began with an Alaska supplement and continued with the arid west, western mountains and Great Plains. The Corps web page which shows work to date on the regional supplements is located at: http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/reg_supp.htm. Interdisciplinary interagency work groups have or will be established for each supplement. Following development of a regional supplement by the work groups there is opportunity for peer review and field testing followed by a one year interim implementation period before each regional supplement is finalized. Below is a status report of the regional supplements completed and underway.



A map of that displays the new areas for the supplements is available at:

http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/map_del_region.pdf

Alaska – Interim Regional Supplement (Feb. 2006) This document will be finalized when the one-year interim implementation period ends April 22, 2007. Comments submitted will be reviewed and there may be some changes. At present they do not appear extensive enough to warrant an additional round of public comments. <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/erdc-el-tr-06-3-web.pdf>

Arid West – This supplement has been developed and peer reviewed and is at the start of one-year interim implementation period. Public Notices have been or will shortly be posted in the affected districts. Interim Regional Supplement (December 2006)
http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/inte_aridwest_sup.pdf

Great Plains – This supplement has been developed and the peer review and the comment period is nearly complete. The committee is in the process of evaluating and making changes to the manual in response to the comments. When this is completed the one-year interim implementation/training period will begin. It is likely this will occur sometime in the spring. Interim Regional Supplement (August 2006)
http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/greatplains_supp_peer_review_draft_9-10-2006.pdf

Western Mountains – This supplement has been developed and the peer review is near completion. The Public Notice and comment period is likely to begin in the May/June timeframe when the snow has melted and field testing is possible

Midwest and Atlantic Gulf Coast – The committees have been organized and the first meetings for both groups were held in late 2006. Committee members are beginning to write the supplement and another meeting has been scheduled for both groups.

Atlantic Gulf Coast – Additional advisory members are needed for peer-review committee. For additional information on the peer-review committee, visit:

http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/technical%20services/Regulatory%20branch/PN/Regional_Supplements/RegionalSupplements/PN.pdf