

General Instructions for the Wetland Assessment Procedure (WAP) Test

1. There are ten wetlands set up for the test. Four of the test wetlands are located in the Cypress Creek wellfield, and six are located in the Morris Bridge wellfield (please see attached location maps and directions).
2. The transects have been established by District staff. Each transect should be marked by three wooden stakes with fluorescent tops. The stakes are labeled "wetland edge", "NP-6", and "Deep" (for wetland interior). If you cannot find the stakes, please call the SWFWMD office (see item #8 below). There may be many other stakes, PVC pipes, and other markers from other monitoring efforts, but please ignore these.
3. Each participant must assess all 10 wetlands individually. If two or more assessors prefer to travel together for safety or convenience, please make every effort to work independently during the test.
4. All ten wetlands must be assessed during the time period of May 2 through May 22, 2004.
5. Complete the enclosed form in its entirety for each wetland, including the sheet of "extra" questions. Grayed areas of the form are not needed for the test.
6. If you determine that you would normally decide not to evaluate the transition or deep zones (for whatever reason), please note so, but perform the assessment anyway for purposes of the test.
7. Since we may have as many as 30 participants walking through each wetland over the course of 3 weeks, please tread as lightly as possible! As explained in the WAP manual, please do your best to discount any pathway, obvious footpath, or tire track disturbances in your assessment.
8. Once you have completed assessing all ten wetlands, and have completed the forms for each, please take the time to give us your overall impressions of the test and methodologies. Although the field form you are using is an interim form, and not necessary the one that will be used in ongoing assessments, please give us your general opinions of the form.
9. If you notice anything wrong with each wetland setup (stakes missing, etc.), have trouble locating any of the wetlands, or have any other questions in the field that may prevent you from completing the test, please do not hesitate to call either Ted Rochow (Ext. 4271), Michael Hancock (Ext. 4255), or Jill Hood (Ext. 4239) at 1-800-423-1476 for assistance.

WETLAND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE FIELD FORM (DRAFT 4/27/2004)

Wellfield		Station ID	
Historic FLUCCS Code		Wetland Type	
Personnel		Date	
Time			

Ground Photography

	<i>N</i>	<i>E</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>W</i>
Photo point at deep well				
Photo point at NP-6				

Water Level

Staff			
Well 1 Reading		Well 1 Description	
Well 2 Reading		Well 2 Description	

Water Level Description: _____

SPECIES IDENTIFICATION

Transitional Zone Species			Deep Zone Species		
<i>Groundcover Species</i>	<i>Percent Cover</i>	<i>Wetland Status</i>	<i>Groundcover Species</i>	<i>Percent Cover</i>	<i>Wetland Status</i>
Total			Total		

Comments: _____

Transitional Zone Species			Deep Zone Species		
<i>Shrubs and Small Tree Species</i>	<i>Percent Cover</i>	<i>Wetland Status</i>	<i>Shrubs and Small Tree Species</i>	<i>Percent Cover</i>	<i>Wetland Status</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total			Total		

Comments: _____

Transitional Zone Species			Deep Zone Species		
<i>Tree Species</i>	<i>Percent Cover</i>	<i>Wetland Status</i>	<i>Tree Species</i>	<i>Percent Cover</i>	<i>Wetland Status</i>
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total			Total		

Comments: _____

ZONATION

Groundcover Zonation

- 1) Many signs of abnormal **groundcover zonation** all through wetland
- 2) Many signs of abnormal **groundcover zonation** in the **transition zone** and outer **deep zone** (if no **transition zone** or no plants in **transition zone** select 2).
- 3) Some signs of abnormal **groundcover zonation** in the **transition zone** and outer **deep zone** (if no **transition zone** or no plants in **transition zone** select 3).
- 4) Some signs of abnormal **groundcover zonation** limited to the **transition zone**.
- 5) Normal **groundcover zonation**.
- N/A Not enough **groundcover** to make evaluation.

Comments:

Shrub and Small Tree Zonation

- 1) Many signs of abnormal **shrub and small tree zonation** all through wetland
- 2) Many signs of abnormal **shrub and small tree zonation** in the **transition zone** and **outer deep zone** (if no **transition zone** or no plants in **transition zone** select 2).
- 3) Some signs of abnormal **shrub and small tree zonation** in the **transition zone** and **outer deep zone** (if no **transition zone** or no plants in **transition zone** select 3).
- 4) Some signs of abnormal **shrub and small tree zonation** limited to the **transition zone**.
- 5) Normal **shrub and small tree zonation**.
- N/A Not enough **shrubs and small trees** to make evaluation.

Comments:

Tree Zonation

- 1) Many signs of abnormal **tree zonation** all through wetland
- 2) Many signs of abnormal **tree zonation** in the **transition zone** and outer **deep zone** (if no **transition zone** or no plants in **transition zone** select 2.
- 3) Some signs of abnormal **tree zonation** in the **transition zone** and outer **deep zone** (if no **transition zone** or no plants in **transition zone** select 3.
- 4) Some signs of abnormal **tree zonation** limited to the **transition zone**.
- 5) Normal **tree zonation**.
- N/A Not enough **trees** to make evaluation.

Comments: _____

STRESS

Stress of Appropriate Shrub and Small Tree Species

- 1) > 50 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 2) 25 - 50 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 3) 10 - 25 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 4) 5 - 10 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 5) <5 percent exhibit **stress**.
- N/A Not enough **cover** to make evaluation.

Appropriate Species

Comments: _____

Stress of Inappropriate Shrub and Small Tree Species

- 1) <5 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 2) 5 - 10 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 3) 10 - 25 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 4) 25 - 50 percent exhibit **stress**.
- 5) > 50 percent exhibit **stress**.
- N/A Not enough **cover** to make evaluation.

Inappropriate Species

Comments: _____

Canopy Stress of Appropriate Tree Species

- 1) > 50 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 2) 25 - 50 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 3) 10 - 25 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 4) 5 - 10 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 5) <5 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- N/A Not enough **cover** to make evaluation.

Appropriate Species

Comments: _____

Canopy Stress of Inappropriate Tree Species

- 1) < 5 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 2) 5 - 10 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 3) 10 - 25 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 4) 25 - 50 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- 5) > 50 percent of individual **trees** exhibit **stress**.
- N/A Not enough **cover** to make evaluation.

Inappropriate Species

Comments: _____

Leaning or Dead Trees

- 1) > 25 percent of **trees** dead or leaning.
- 2) 15 - 25 percent of **trees** dead or leaning.
- 3) 5 - 15 percent of **trees** dead or leaning.
- 4) < 5 percent of **trees** dead or leaning.
- 5) Normal numbers of dead or leaning **trees** for wetland type.
- N/A Not enough **cover** to make evaluation.

Appropriate Species

Comments: _____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Disturbance

_____ May not want to analyze/compare with other wetlands due to the **extensive** level of non-ground-water withdrawal related disturbance.

_____ May not want to analyze/compare with other wetlands due to the **extensive** level of **subsidence**.

Are any of the following conditions apparent and obvious?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Wetland edges have been filled or disturbed	_____	_____	_____
Excessive dumping or trash in wetland	_____	_____	_____
Hog disturbance	_____	_____	_____
Significant impact from cattle (trampling, etc...)	_____	_____	_____
Vehicles driving through wetland (including bicycles)	_____	_____	_____
Insect Damage	_____	_____	_____
Disease	_____	_____	_____

Comments:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Are there signs of fire?	_____	_____	_____
Approximate year of fire?		<u>Year</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
		_____	_____
Expanse of fire?		<u>Extensive</u>	<u>Localized</u>
		_____	_____
Intensity of fire?		<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
		_____	_____

Fire Comments:

Hydrology

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Does the wetland have augmentation equipment in place?	_____	_____	_____
If yes, was augmentation taking place during your visit?	_____	_____	_____

Augmentation Comments: _____

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Is there clear evidence of direct stormwater inflow via a ditch or other man-made conveyance?	_____	_____	_____
Is there clear evidence of direct drainage from the wetland via a ditch or other man-made conveyance?	_____	_____	_____
Are there any other drainage activities in the area of note?	_____	_____	_____
Is there a borrow pit or retention pond in the vicinity of the wetland?	_____	_____	_____

Drainage Comments: _____

Soils

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Are there any new signs of soils oxidation or subsidence (since last 5-year review)?	_____	_____	_____

Soils Comments: _____

For Lakes Only

Indicate the category that best describes the docks for the entire lake.

- 1) Docks completely out of the water.
- 2) Docks touching the water or with < 50 percent of the dock over water.
- 3) Docks > 50 percent over water.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Is the littoral zone stranded?	_____	_____	_____

Protected Wildlife and Plants

Protected Species			Wetland Dependent Species		
Species	Activity	Notes	Species	Activity	Notes

Protected and Wetland Dependent Species Comments: _____

Recovery and Stress

Yes No Not Sure

Are young **trees** (appropriate to the wetland type) starting to grow in wetland locations in a way that would suggest recovery from groundwater withdrawal stress is taking place?

Comments (include species): _____

Yes No Not Sure

Are vines (inappropriate to the wetland type and rooted in the wetland) dropping leaves or dying in a way that would suggest recovery from groundwater withdrawal stress is taking place?

Comments (include species): _____

Additional Questions for the WAP Test (to be answered at each wetland)

1. What was your time of arrival?
2. What was your time of departure?
3. Were there any other assessors present at the time of your assessment?
4. In your opinion, does the location of the wetland edge, NP-6, and wetland interior seem reasonable? If not, please explain.
5. Please generally describe the "assessment area" that you used for each vegetation type (groundcover, shrubs and small trees, trees).
6. What was the most difficult part of the assessment for this wetland?
7. What is your general opinion of the WAP's application at this wetland?
8. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent, how would rate the overall health of this wetland? Feel free to explain your answer.

"Final" questions to be answered once for the entire test

1. What is your previous experience using the original WAP?
 - a. I've never used the previous WAP methodology.
 - b. I've applied the original WAP one to three times.
 - c. I've applied the original WAP many times (more than three)
2. Do you feel the questions in the WAP were worded clearly? If not, any suggestions are appreciated.