

For Interested Party Review - February 2006 Draft

3745-1-53 Wetland use designation.

- (A) All surface waters of the state of Ohio ~~which that~~ meet the definition of a wetland in rule 3745-1-02 of the Administrative Code are assigned the wetland ~~designated~~ use.
- (B) Wetland classification use. All wetlands are assigned a wetland classification use based on the landscape position (hydrogeomorphic or HGM class) and dominant vegetation of the wetland. Wetland classification uses are listed in tables 1a and 1b of this rule.
- (C) Wetland tiered aquatic life use (WTALU) designations. The following tiered aquatic life use designations are specified for wetlands.
- (1) Superior wetland habitat (SWLH) - wetlands that are capable of supporting and maintaining a high quality community with species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to a wetland index of biotic integrity (IBI) score of at least eighty-three per cent (five-sixths) of the ninety-fifth percentile for the appropriate wetland type and region as specified in table 2a (vegetation IBI) or 2b (amphibian IBI) of this rule.
 - (2) Wetland habitat (WLH) - wetlands that are capable of supporting and maintaining a balanced, integrated, adaptive community having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to a wetland IBI score of at least sixty-six per cent (two-thirds) of the ninety-fifth percentile for the appropriate wetland type and region as specified in table 2a (vegetation IBI) or 2b (amphibian IBI) of this rule.
 - (3) Restorable wetland habitat (RWLH) - wetlands that are degraded but have a reasonable potential for regaining the capability of supporting and maintaining a balanced, integrated, adaptive community having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to a wetland IBI score of at least thirty-three per cent (one-third) of the ninety-fifth percentile for the appropriate wetland type and region as specified in table 2a (vegetation IBI) or 2b (amphibian IBI) of this rule.
 - (4) Limited quality wetland habitat (LQWLH) - wetlands that are seriously degraded and that do not have a reasonable potential for regaining the capability of supporting and maintaining a balanced, integrated, adaptive community having a species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to a wetland IBI score of less than thirty-three per cent (one-third) of the ninety-fifth percentile for the appropriate wetland type and region as specified in table 2a (vegetation IBI) or 2b (amphibian IBI) of this rule.
- (D) Equivalency to wetland antidegradation categories.
- (1) Wetlands with the SWLH aquatic life use are category 3 wetlands in accordance with

- rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code. Wetlands that are category 3 wetlands pursuant to rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code only because they support one or more superior functions or values but that have had their ecological condition degraded may or may not have the SWLH aquatic life use. For the purposes of determining attainment of water quality goals under the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq., as amended through July 1, 2005) and performance standards for restoration or creation of wetlands, WLH is the minimum aquatic life use that shall be attained unless attainment of SWLH is otherwise required by the director.
- (2) Wetlands with the WLH aquatic life use are category 2 wetlands in accordance with rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code. Wetlands that are category 2 wetlands pursuant to rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code only because they support one or more moderate functions or values but that have had their ecological condition degraded may or may not have the WLH aquatic life use.
 - (3) Wetlands with the RWLH aquatic life use are category 2 wetlands in accordance with rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code.
 - (4) Wetlands with the LQWLH aquatic life use are category 1 wetlands in accordance with rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code.
- (E) Special wetland use designations. In addition to aquatic life uses, wetlands may provide specific functions or values that are special wetland uses as listed in this paragraph.
- (1) Recreation - wetlands with known, publicly available recreational uses including hunting, fishing, and birdwatching.
 - (2) Education - wetlands with known educational uses (e.g., nature centers or schools).
 - (3) Fish reproduction habitat - wetlands that provide important reproductive habitat for fish.
 - (4) Threatened or endangered species habitat - wetlands that provide known habitat for federal or state endangered or threatened species.
 - (5) Flood storage - wetlands located in landscape positions such that they have substantial flood storage functions at the local or regional level.
 - (6) Water quality improvement - wetlands that are located in landscape positions such that they can perform water quality improvement functions for other waters of the state.

[Comment: using tables 1a, 1b, 2a, and 3, a WTALU can be assigned as described in the following example. The wetland being evaluated is a pumpkin ash (*Fraxinus profunda*) swamp in Fowler Woods state nature preserve. This is a swamp forest in a depressional landscape position. After a detailed vegetation survey, a vegetation IBI score of seventy-six is calculated. Referring to tables

1a and 1b of this rule, this wetland is classified as “depression/swamp forest” and receives the use code “IA1a.” Referring to table 2a, a vegetation IBI score of seventy-six is in the SWLH (superior wetland habitat) use range. Finally, table 3 is consulted and it is determined that the wetland has educational uses as a state nature preserve that is open to the public. The wetland aquatic life use designation can then summarized as, “SWLH-IA1a_b,” where SWLH = superior wetland habitat, IA1a = surface water depression swamp forest, and the subscript b = a special use of “educational.”]

Table 1a. Hydrogeomorphic classes for wetland classification system for Ohio wetlands.

Class	Class modifiers
I <u>Depression (includes areas that could be considered flats (e.g., “wet woods”))</u>	(A) <u>Surface water (sheet flow, precipitation)</u> (B) <u>Ground water (seasonal to permanent input)</u>
II <u>Impoundment</u>	(A) <u>Beaver</u> (B) <u>Human</u>
III <u>Riverine</u>	(A) <u>Headwater depression (1st or 2nd order)</u> (B) <u>Mainstem depression (3rd order or larger)</u> (C) <u>Channel</u>
IV <u>Slope (includes hillside fens, mound fens, and lacustrine fens)</u>	(A) <u>Headwater (1st or 2nd order)</u> (B) <u>Mainstem (3rd order or larger)</u> (C) <u>Isolated</u> (D) <u>Fringing</u>
V <u>Fringing (does not include lacustrine fens)</u>	(A) <u>Reservoir</u> (B) <u>Natural lake</u>
VI <u>Coastal</u>	(A) <u>Open embayment</u> (B) <u>Closed embayment</u> (C) <u>Barrier-protected</u> (D) <u>River mouth</u> (E) <u>Diked - managed</u> (F) <u>Diked - unmanaged</u> (G) <u>Diked - failed</u>
VII <u>Bog</u>	(A) <u>Strongly ombrotrophic</u> (B) <u>Moderately ombrotrophic</u> (C) <u>Weakly ombrotrophic</u>
add code <u>Mitigation</u>	Add appropriate pre-code to HGM class: <u>mr - mitigation, restoration</u> <u>mc - mitigation, creation</u> e.g. “mrII” = <u>mitigation, restoration, impoundment</u>

Table 1b. Plant community modifiers for wetland classification system for Ohio wetlands.

(1) <u>Forest</u>	(2) <u>Emergent</u>	(3) <u>Shrub</u>
(a) <u>Swamp forest. Includes all types of forested wetlands other than bog forests and forest seeps including but not limited to oak-maple, oak-maple-ash, maple-ash, pin oak, ash, pumpkin ash, mixed forest, red maple, white pine, cottonwood, and river birch.</u>	(a) <u>Marsh. Includes submergent marsh, floating-leaved marsh, mixed emergent marsh, and cattail marsh.</u>	(a) <u>Shrub swamp. Includes buttonbush swamp, alder swamp, mixed shrub swamp, and other shrub dominated wetlands.</u>
(b) <u>Bog Forest. Includes tamarack bog and tamarack-hardwood bog forests.</u>	(b) <u>Wet meadow. Includes wet prairie, lake plains (oak openings) sand prairie, prairie sedge meadow, fen, reed canary grass meadow, and other sedge or grass dominated wetlands.</u>	(b) <u>Bog shrub swamp. Includes tall shrub bog and leatherleaf bog.</u>
(c) <u>Forest seep. Includes forested skunk cabbage seeps, forested sedge seeps, and forested skunk cabbage-sedge seeps, and other forested wetlands with groundwater hydrologies.</u>	(c) <u>Sphagnum bog. Includes open kettle bogs with scattered shrubs, classic ringed bogs with open water centers and perimeters of shrubs and tamarack.</u>	(c) <u>Tall shrub fen.</u>

Table 2a. Vegetation index of biotic integrity (IBI) scores for wetland tiered aquatic life uses (WTALUs), and specific plant communities and landscape positions. TBD = to be developed. LQWLH = limited quality wetland habitat. RWLH = restorable wetland habitat. WLH = wetland habitat. SWLH = superior wetland habitat. Equivalent antidegradation categories as specified in rule 3745-1-54 of the Administrative Code are indicated in parentheses below the WTALU category.

<u>HGM class</u>	<u>HGM subclass</u>	<u>Plant community</u>	<u>Ecoregion</u>	<u>LQWLH</u> <u>(category 1)</u>	<u>RWLH</u> <u>(modified</u> <u>category 2)</u>	<u>WLH</u> <u>(category 2)</u>	<u>SWLH</u> <u>(category 3)</u>
<u>Depression</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Swamp forest, marsh,</u> <u>shrub swamp</u>	<u>EOLP</u>	<u>0 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 75</u>	<u>76 - 100</u>
			<u>All others</u>	<u>0 - 24</u>	<u>25 - 50</u>	<u>51 - 62</u>	<u>63 - 100</u>
	<u>All</u>	<u>Wet meadow (non-</u> <u>slope sedge/grass</u> <u>community)</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 29</u>	<u>30 - 59</u>	<u>60 - 75</u>	<u>76 - 100</u>
<u>Impoundment</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Marsh, shrub swamp</u>	<u>EOLP</u>	<u>0 - 26</u>	<u>27 - 52</u>	<u>53 - 66</u>	<u>67 - 100</u>
			<u>All others</u>	<u>0 - 24</u>	<u>25 - 47</u>	<u>48 - 63</u>	<u>64 - 100</u>
		<u>Wet meadow (non-</u> <u>slope sedge/grass</u> <u>community)</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 29</u>	<u>30 - 59</u>	<u>60 - 75</u>	<u>76 - 100</u>
<u>Riverine</u>	<u>Headwater</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>EOLP</u>	<u>0 - 27</u>	<u>28 - 56</u>	<u>57 - 69</u>	<u>70 - 100</u>
			<u>All others</u>	<u>0 - 23</u>	<u>24 - 47</u>	<u>48 - 59</u>	<u>60 - 100</u>
	<u>Mainstem</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>EOLP</u>	<u>0 - 29</u>	<u>30 - 56</u>	<u>57 - 73</u>	<u>74 - 100</u>
			<u>All others</u>	<u>0 - 20</u>	<u>21 - 41</u>	<u>42 - 52</u>	<u>53 - 100</u>
	<u>Headwater or</u> <u>mainstem</u>	<u>Wet meadow (non-</u> <u>slope sedge/grass</u> <u>community)</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 29</u>	<u>30 - 59</u>	<u>60 - 75</u>	<u>76 - 100</u>

<u>HGM class</u>	<u>HGM subclass</u>	<u>Plant community</u>	<u>Ecoregion</u>	<u>LQWLH</u> (category 1)	<u>RWLH</u> (modified category 2)	<u>WLH</u> (category 2)	<u>SWLH</u> (category 3)
<u>Slope</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>Wet meadow (fens), tall shrub fen, forest seep</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 29</u>	<u>30 - 59</u>	<u>60 - 75</u>	<u>76 - 100</u>
<u>Fringing¹</u>	<u>Natural lakes (excluding lacustrine fens) and reservoirs</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>Coastal²</u>	<u>Closed embayment, barrier-protected, river mouth</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 24</u>	<u>25 - 49</u>	<u>50 - 61</u>	<u>62 - 100</u>
	<u>open embayment, diked (managed unmanaged failed)</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>Bog</u>	<u>Weakly ombrotrophic</u>	<u>Tamarack-hardwood bog, tall shrub bog</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 32</u>	<u>33 - 65</u>	<u>66 - 82</u>	<u>83 - 100</u>
	<u>moderate-strongly ombrotrophic</u>	<u>Tamarack forest, leatherleaf/sphagnum bog</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>0 - 23</u>	<u>24 - 47</u>	<u>48 - 59</u>	<u>60 - 100</u>

1. Depending on the circumstances, scoring breaks for depression, impoundment, or riverine may be used.
2. Scoring breaks for coastal embayment, barrier-protected, and river mouth may be usable.

Table 2b. Tiered aquatic life uses based on amphibian index of biotic integrity (IBI) scores.

<u>Aquatic life use</u>	<u>Amphibian IBI score</u>
<u>Limited wetland habitat (LWLH)</u>	<u><10</u>
<u>Restorable wetland habitat (RWLH)</u>	<u>10 - 19</u>
<u>Wetland habitat (WLH)</u>	<u>20 - 39</u>
<u>Superior wetland habitat (SWLH)</u>	<u>40 - 50</u>

Table 3. Special wetland use designations.

<u>Subscript</u>	<u>Special uses</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>Recreation</u>	<u>Wetlands with known recreational uses including hunting, fishing, birdwatching, etc. that are publicly available</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Wetlands with known educational uses, e.g. nature centers, schools, etc.</u>
<u>C</u>	<u>Fish reproduction habitat</u>	<u>Wetlands that provide important reproductive habitat for fish</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>Bird habitat</u>	<u>Wetlands that provide important breeding and nonbreeding habitat for birds</u>
<u>E</u>	<u>Threatened or endangered species habitat</u>	<u>Wetlands that provide habitat for federal or state endangered or threatened species</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Flood storage</u>	<u>Wetlands located in landscape positions such that they have flood retention functions</u>
<u>G</u>	<u>Water quality improvement</u>	<u>Wetlands located in landscape positions such that they can perform water quality improvement functions for streams, lakes, or other wetlands</u>

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