

**Wetland Monitoring and Assessment
in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountains
(EPA Region VIII State and Tribal Wetland Work Group Meeting)**

**October 26-28, 2005
Denver Marriott West Hotel
Golden, Colorado**

The goal of this workshop is to assist states and tribes that are interested in developing new programs or improving existing programs for monitoring and assessing the biological integrity of wetlands in the Northern Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions. Together, we can help build the technical capacity of our states and tribes by sharing information about wetland monitoring and assessment methods, study designs, and implementation approaches currently in use in the region and in the US.

Wednesday, October 26, 2005

- 1:30 pm Welcoming comments and review of agenda**
Mike Ell, North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Water Quality
Jill Minter, EPA Region VIII, Denver, CO
- 1:45 Elements of a State and Tribal Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program**
Chris Faulkner, EPA Wetlands Division, Washington, D.C.
- 2:15 Application of a Three-Level Approach for Wetland Monitoring and Assessment: An Example from the Juniata River Watershed of Pennsylvania**
Dr. Mary Kentula, PhD, EPA, Corvallis, OR
- 3:15 Break**
- 3:30 A Three-Level Approach for Wetland Monitoring and Assessment**
Rich Sumner, EPA, Corvallis, OR
- 4:00 Overview of “Level 1, 2 and 3” sessions and their desired outcomes**
Sue Ball, Confederated Salish and Kootenia Tribes
Randy Apfelbeck, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, MT
Jill Minter, EPA Region VIII
- 4:30 pm Adjourn**

Thursday, October 27, 2005

“LEVEL 1” LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT SESSION – Sue Ball, Moderator”

- 8:30 am An Evaluation of Landscape Structure and the Index of Plant Community Integrity for Seasonal and Temporary Wetlands**
Dath Mita, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, North Dakota State University,
Fargo, ND
- 9:00 From Prairie Potholes to Gallery Forests: Watershed Assessment in Big Sky Country**
Dr. Greg Kudray, PhD, Senior Ecology, Montana Natural Heritage Program, Helena, MT
- 9:30 Identification and Mapping of Water Permanence Classes Using Models Derived from Satellite Imagery between 2002 and 2005**
Ofer Beeri, Assistant Research Professor, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND
and Dr. Rebecca Phillips, PhD, Northern Great Plains Research Laboratory, USDA-ARS,
Mandan, ND
- 10:00 “Level 1” Panel Discussion (e.g., opportunities for cross State/Tribe collaboration)**
- 10:30 Break**

“LEVEL 2” RAPID ASSESSMENT SESSION – Randy Apfelbeck, Moderator”

- 11:00** **Validation and Sensitivity Analysis for a Rapid Wetland Assessment Using Comprehensive Wetland Assessment Data**
Amy Jacobs, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (invited)
- 12:00 noon** **Lunch (on your own)**
- 1:00** **Ecological Integrity Scorecards: A Condition-Based Assessment for Southern Rocky Mountain Wetlands**
Joe Rocchio, Wetland Ecologist, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO
- 1:30** **Development of a Wetland Rapid Assessment Protocol for Montana**
Randy Apfelbeck, Water Quality Specialist, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Helena, Montana
- 2:00** **“Level 2” Panel Discussion**
- 2:30** **Break**

“LEVEL 3” INTENSIVE ASSESSMENT SESSION – Jill Minter, Moderator”

- 3:00** **A Vegetation Index of Biotic Integrity for Small-order Streams in Southwest Montana**
Marc Jones, Ecologist
- 3:30** **A Comparison between a State Level Scale Index of Plant Community Integrity and a Regional Scale Index of Plant Community Integrity**
Dr. Edward “Shawn” Dekeyser, PhD, Department of Animal and Range Sciences, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND
- 4:00** **Use of HGM relative to Wetland Conservation Provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act**
David Dewald, Biologist, USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bismarck, ND
- 4:30** **“Level 3” Panel Discussion**
- 5:00 pm** **Adjourn**

Friday, October 28, 2005

- 8:30 am** **Panel Session -- Development of a Reference Wetland Network**
Rich Sumner, Moderator
- 10:00** **Break**
- 10:30** **Roundtable discussion on the objectives of wetland monitoring and assessment**
Each participating Tribe/State will highlight the objectives of their program and the stage of their program development and/or implementation
Mike Ell, Facilitator
- 11:30** **Wrap-up and scheduling of work group activity**
- 12:00 noon** **Adjourn**