

WI/MN Wetland Rapid Assessment Optional Printable Field Form

Instructions: Users may print this form for field-use if a phone or tablet is not feasible or available for use in answering the in-field wetland functional questions. Some sections below will need to be completed first within the Wetland Assessment Tool Excel document and then transcribed here for confirmation in the field. Once the field component is completed, all results from this form must be entered back into the Wetland Assessment Tool Excel document. See the WI/MN Wetland Rapid Assessment Method User Guide for further instructions, definitions, and clarifications on how to answer each question.

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

1. Site Name: _____
2. Assessor Name: _____
3. Date of Desktop Assessment: _____
4. Date of Field Assessment: _____
5. If delineated, file reference number (if known): _____

LOCATION DETAILS

6. Nearest Town: _____
7. County: _____
8. State: _____
9. Latitude (decimal degrees): _____
10. Longitude (decimal degrees): _____
11. PLSS, QQ, Section or tax lot(s) for reference: _____
12. Size of the AA (acres): _____
13. Size of the catchment area draining into the AA (acres): _____
14. What percent of the catchment area is occupied by the AA (i.e. AA divided by catchment area multiplied by 100)?
Calculated in Excel RAM Tool.
15. What is the dominant HGM class of the AA? *Select one:*

<input type="checkbox"/> Depressional	<input type="checkbox"/> Depressional – Floodplain
<input type="checkbox"/> Riverine – Upper Perennial	<input type="checkbox"/> Riverine – Lower Perennial
<input type="checkbox"/> Lacustrine Fringe	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Soil Flat
<input type="checkbox"/> Organic Soil Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Slope – Surface Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Slope – Groundwater	

LANDCOVER AND CONNECTIVITY

16. Use the *Summarize My Area* tool in EnviroAtlas or a GIS software program with the latest National Land Cover Database map later to determine the following land cover percentages:

Land cover questions	Percentage
Percent of the catchment area (excluding the AA) that is developed and agricultural cover classes combined.	<input type="checkbox"/> <25% <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50% <input type="checkbox"/> 50-75% <input type="checkbox"/> >75%
Percent of the catchment area (excluding the AA) that is natural cover classes (deciduous, evergreen and mixed forest; shrub/scrub; grassland/herbaceous; and emergent herbaceous wetlands).	<input type="checkbox"/> <33% <input type="checkbox"/> 33-50% <input type="checkbox"/> >50%
Percent of the land area within 0.1 miles (0.161km) from the edge of the AA (excluding the AA) that is natural cover classes (deciduous, evergreen and mixed forest; shrub/scrub; grassland/herbaceous; and emergent herbaceous wetlands).	<input type="checkbox"/> <33% <input type="checkbox"/> 33-50% <input type="checkbox"/> >50%

17. To assess landscape scale habitat and connectivity of the AA (Q17 & Q18), use the *MSPA connectivity with water as foreground and 30-meter edge width for the conterminous United States* map in EnviroAtlas. Is the AA in a core (green symbol) area?

Yes No

18. **SKIP IF:** Answer to Q17 is No.

What is the coverage of core (green) area within a 2 mi / 3.2 km buffer of the AA boundary. If the core (green) containing the AA is connected to other core areas by a bridge (red), include all connected cores in the estimate.

< 25%
 25 – 75%
 > 75%

WATERSHED CATCHMENT AREA

19. What is the slope across the AA's catchment area?

0 – 2%
 2 – 6%
 > 6%

20. Is the AA situated in elevation closer to the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC12) watershed's local high or the local low for topography?

Local high
 Local low
 In between local high and local low
 In a flat landscape without a local high and low

HYDROLOGY

21. What is the percent of the AA with each water regime listed below? Total cover must equal 100%.

Water Regime	Percent Cover
Seasonally saturated (B)	
Temporarily flooded (A)	
Continuously saturated (D)	
Seasonally flooded (C)	
Seasonally saturated - flooded (E)	
Semi-permanently flooded (F)	
Intermittently exposed (G)	
Permanently flooded (H)	

22. Is the AA located in an area of notable groundwater importance?

- Yes No

23. Are there springs or seeps in the AA or within 2 miles of the outer boundaries of the AA?

- Yes No

24. Does the AA have a surface water outlet to another waterbody? *Select one:*

- No, Isolated
 Yes, wetland
 Yes, river, stream, or ditch
 Yes, lake

25. What is the primary source of surface water input into the AA? *Select one:*

- Overland flow from surrounding upland/wetland.
 Flooding from stream or lake.
 Stream input (e.g. a stream into a depressional basin).
 Directed input from constructed conveyances (e.g., ditches, human-made swales, overflows from stormwater ponds, tile outlets).

26. What is the predominant surface water flow within the AA. *Select one:*

- Natural overland flow across the soil surface. There are no constructed channels, ditches, or streams that significantly facilitate flow.
 AA predominantly standing open water.
 Natural channels or streams facilitate flow.
 Constructed ditches, channels, or straitened stream facilitate flow.

27. What is the average, overall density of live or dead, rooted vegetation material capable of intercepting surface water flowing through the AA?

- High stem density, stems occupy >75% of the soil surface.
 Moderate stem density, stems occupy 50-75% of the soil surface.
 Low stem density, stems occupy <50% of the soil surface.

28. **SKIP IF:** Answer to Q24 is No, Isolated

What is the predominant outflow of surface water from the AA? *Select one:*

- Surface water outlet is highly restricted.
- Surface water outlet is moderately restricted.
- No restriction of outflowing surface water.
- Surface water leaving the AA is expedited via ditching.

29. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q24 is Yes, River, Stream, or Ditch

What is the stream order of the stream receiving surface water from the AA?

- 1st or 2nd order
- 3rd order
- 4th order or greater

30. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q24 is Yes, River, Stream, or Ditch OR Yes, Lake

For AAs that are contiguous with or that discharge to another waterbody, what percent of the active shoreline (bank) is bare ground?

- < 30% or hard armored
- 30 - 59%
- 60 – 90%
- > 90%

31. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q24 is Yes, River, Stream, or Ditch OR Yes, Lake

What is the slope in degrees of the active shoreline as defined in Q30 above?

- 0 – 20°
- 21 - 60°
- 61 - 80°
- 81-90°
- > 90°

32. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q24 is Yes, Wetland OR Yes, Lake

What is the approximate size in acres of the lake or wetland that has a surface water connection to the AA? _____

33. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q24 is Yes, Wetland OR Yes, Lake

What is the ratio of AA area to the wetland or lake area with a surface water connection to the AA?
Calculated in Excel

34. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q15 is Riverine – Upper Perennial OR Riverine – Lower Perennial

Which of these best describes the overall composition and structure of floodplain vegetation in the AA?
Select one:

- Emergent
- Tall shrub
- Spaced trees, open understory, large woody debris
- Mature trees, shrub understory, large woody debris

35. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q15 is Riverine – Upper Perennial OR Riverine – Lower Perennial

Is any portion of the AA located in a mapped floodplain?

- Yes
- No

SOILS

36. Use the NRCS Web Soil Survey to determine the average organic matter (OM) content of the upper soils surface within the AA. Do not enter any mapped soil units less than 1% of the AOI.

Values generated in NRCS Web Soil Survey and entered into Excel.

Map Unit	Rating (percent of OM in soil)	Percent AOI
Average mapped soil organic matter content by weight $\Sigma(\text{rating} \times \text{percent AOI})$		

37. Use the NRCS Web Soil Survey to determine the predominate soil texture (0-18 inches) within the AA. Select the general texture class corresponding to the Web Soil Survey texture class per the crosswalk. Enter the corresponding percent of AOI for each Map Unit.

Values generated in NRCS Web Soil Survey and entered into Excel. Confirm the mapped soil textures in the field and modify, as needed.

Map Unit	General Texture Class	Percent AOI
Predominant surface soil texture:		

VEGETATION

38. Use field reconnaissance and aerial imagery to map and estimate the percent of the AA occupied by each vegetation structural type. *Total cover must equal 100%.*

Vegetation Structural Type	Percent of AA
Forested	
Scrub/Shrub	
Emergent	
Aquatic Bed or Unconsolidated Bottom	
Moss-Lichen	
Total	100%

39. What is the floristic quality condition category of the AA? Assess the wetland using the Rapid FQA methodology (Minnesota or Wisconsin, as applicable).

- Exceptional/Exceptional
- Good/High
- Fair/Medium
- Poor/Low
- Absent

40. What is the average level of interspersions of wetland vegetation structural types in the AA.

- High
- Moderate
- Low

41. What is the areal coverage of standing and downed dead trees in the AA?

- < 1%
- 1 – 10%
- > 10%

42. What is the percent cover of sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.) in the AA?

- Not present
- < 50%
- 50-75%
- > 75%

FISH HABITAT

43. Does the AA have a permanent, semi-permanent, or seasonal surface water connection to a lake or perennial stream reach?

- Yes
- No

44. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q43 is Yes

For all areas of the AA with permanently, semi-permanently, and seasonally-flooded water regimes, what percent of those areas are unvegetated (i.e., open water lacking emergent/submergent vegetation)?

- < 20%
- 20 – 50%
- > 50%

45. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q43 is Yes

For all areas of the AA with permanently, semi-permanently, or seasonally-flooded water regimes, what percent of those areas have woody debris?

- < 20%
- 20 – 50%
- > 50%

46. **ANSWER IF:** Answer to Q43 is Yes

Which of these best describes the extent of natural and artificial barriers to fish movement between the AA and a connected lake or stream?

- No barriers
- Some barriers but movement possible
- Significant barriers

CULTURAL, HISTORIC, COMMERCIAL, RECREATIONAL VALUES

47. Is any portion of the AA part of an identified historic, archaeological or culturally important resource or property?
 Yes No
48. Is any portion of the AA part of an identified educational or scientific research property (e.g. school property, nature center, research station, scientific natural area, etc.)?
 Yes No
49. Is any portion of the AA part of an identified public recreational/use area (e.g. park, wildlife management area, public access land, state forest land, etc.)
 Yes No
50. Does any portion of the AA contain or is a part of an area that contains public recreation-oriented infrastructure such as designated parking lot/area, signage (interpretative, trail map, etc.), constructed trails, boardwalks, or other infrastructure that supports and facilitates public recreation use?
 Yes No
51. Is a significant portion of the AA viewable by the public from a public road, trail, stream, lake, etc.?
 Yes No
52. Is the public viewable portion of the AA free of structures, trash, debris, and other materials that detract from the natural character of the wetland?
 Yes No
53. Are there viewing platforms, benches, and/or other infrastructure accessible to the public that promotes viewing some or all of the AA?
 Yes No
54. Is any portion of the AA used for a wetland-dependent commercial activity?
 Yes No
55. Is the AA within two miles of a wetland-dependent commercial activity?
 Yes No
56. "Is any portion of the AA owned by an entity that operates a wetland-dependent commercial activity in the area?"
 Yes No
57. Does the AA have similar characteristics (landscape setting, hydrology, vegetative structure, soils, etc.) as other wetlands being used for wetland-dependent commercial activities in the immediate area?
 Yes No