



US Army Corps of
Engineers



US Environmental
Protection Agency

Joint Public Notice



Oregon Department
of State Lands

Notice of Availability of the Final Streamflow Duration Assessment Method for Oregon

Issue Date: November 7, 2011

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 (EPA), and the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) jointly announce the publication and availability of the final Streamflow Duration Assessment Method for Oregon (dated October 2011). The method is a rapid assessment tool to help distinguish between ephemeral, intermittent, and perennial streams, providing technical guidance for identifying waters that may be subject to regulatory jurisdiction under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Oregon's Removal-Fill Law. The method does not imply or represent a change in the definition of "Waters of the U.S." or "Waters of the State."

The method was developed by experts from federal and state agencies with experience across Oregon, and reflects the technical expertise and critical review of others from relevant academic and professional fields. The interim method was released on March 6, 2009, for a trial implementation period. The method has been field tested by interagency teams of state and federal scientists, and was also the subject of a two-year validation study, in cooperation with EPA's Office of Research and Development, Western Ecology Division, testing the method at more than 170 sites in western and eastern Oregon in both the wet and dry seasons. As a result of that study, the initial 21 field indicators used in the interim version were reduced to just seven reliable indicators in the final version.

Use of the method is recommended whenever there is uncertainty regarding streamflow duration, but is not required. The method provides a scientifically supported, rapid assessment framework to support best professional judgment in a consistent, robust, repeatable and defensible way. Use of the method may result in more timely and predictable jurisdictional determinations. The method may also provide an initial framework to inform other stream-related issues such as stream function and compensatory mitigation, and to incorporate relevant tools and procedures as they develop.

The method and data forms are available on the internet at:

<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/regulatory/home.asp> click "Wetland information", then "Oregon streamflow duration"

<http://www.epa.gov/region10/sdam.html>

<http://oregonstatelands.us/>

For additional information, contact the Corps, the EPA, or the DSL:

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