



Oregon Department  
of State Lands



US Army Corps of  
Engineers

# Joint Public Notice

## Notice of Release of the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP)

### For the State of Oregon

**Issue Date: June 2, 2009**

The Oregon Department of State Lands (Department) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District (Corps), jointly announce the publication and release of the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP). ORWAP is a tool for rapidly assessing wetland functions and values (as well as other attributes) in all wetland types throughout Oregon. In a regulatory context, ORWAP also can be used to inform alternatives analysis and the selection, design, and monitoring of compensatory wetland mitigation sites. ORWAP is particularly useful because it allows comparisons between different types of wetlands, unlike some other methods.

ORWAP was developed by the Department with funding assistance from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10 (EPA). Dr. Paul Adamus (principal scientist and author) was contracted by the Department to develop ORWAP. Two technical advisory committees, numerous private consultants, state and federal agency staff and other wetland experts provided guidance, input and testing over the four years of ORWAP development. Draft versions of ORWAP were field tested across Oregon by Dr. Adamus and dozens of agency personnel and private consultants. ORWAP Version 2.0 is the first version released for use.

ORWAP consists of several different components: a Users Manual; two Excel spreadsheets (ORWAP Calculator and ORWAP Supplemental Information); PDF versions of the data forms that users print and fill out; and PDF versions of several of the supplemental information worksheets. The Department, the Corps and EPA have also cooperatively developed a guide for using ORWAP for state and federal permit applications.

You may download all of the ORWAP components and forms and the guidance for using ORWAP for permit applications from the Department's Web site at:

[http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND/or\\_wet\\_prot.shtml](http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND/or_wet_prot.shtml)

### **Agency Requirements Regarding ORWAP**

ORWAP may be used immediately for both state and federal permit purposes. Before using ORWAP for the first time to assess a wetland for a permit application, read the *Guidance for Using the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP) in the State and Federal Permit Programs* (May 2009). This document provides instructions on how to select the assessment area, what to submit to the agencies along with the final scores, how to format the output in a permit application and other important information. The document is available at:

[http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND/docs/orwap\\_guide.pdf](http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND/docs/orwap_guide.pdf)

State Removal-Fill Permits—ORWAP is an approved method for assessing wetlands for purposes of the state Removal-Fill Law. Administrative rules governing wetland functions and values assessment may be found in OAR 141-085-0685. These rules explain what type of wetland assessment method is required or allowed for different types of wetlands and impact levels. For some impacts, the rules state that “. . .the HGM judgmental method, or other assessment method as approved by the Department, shall be used.” In these instances, ORWAP is the approved method and is also the preferred method. (The HGM judgmental method is an option in the Willamette Valley HGM Guidebook that has been used in many areas due to the previous lack of a statewide methodology.)

Federal Clean Water Act (Section 404) Permits—Use of ORWAP is recommended, but not required, by the Portland District Corps of Engineers.

### **ORWAP Training**

The Department is contracting with Dr. Adamus to provide three, two-day training sessions for private consultants who work in Oregon. The trainings will include completion of an ORWAP assessment in the office and the field and generating wetland assessment scores. Because arrangements are in progress, the cost of the ORWAP training has not yet been determined. The agencies will also conduct a half-day training on using ORWAP for state and federal permit applications immediately after the ORWAP training. There will be no additional cost for the ORWAP-for-permitting training, but that training will be limited to those who register for and take the two-day training.

The first training will be in Corvallis on July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the regulatory training on the morning of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The second training will be in the Portland area (location TBD) on August 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, with the regulatory training on the morning of August 7<sup>th</sup>. The third training will be in Salem on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with the regulatory training the morning of August 27<sup>th</sup>.

When the training arrangements and cost are finalized, the Department will post the information on its Web site and will send an e-mail to all consultants on the Department’s consultants e-mail list. Registration will open at that time.

For additional information on ORWAP, contact:

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For additional guidance on using ORWAP for state and federal permits, contact:

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