



Wetlands and their Importance

Wetlands are areas that are periodically or permanently inundated by surface or groundwater and support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil. Wetlands include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Wetlands are a significant resource that supports food chain production, creates nesting, spawning, rearing, and resting habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, provides protection from wave action and erosion, acts as storage areas for storm and flood waters, operates as natural recharge areas where ground and surface water are interconnected, and provides natural filtration and purification functions.

Hillsdale County, Mich.



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Marquette County, Mich.



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Detroit District



Oceana County, Mich.

BUILDING STRONG®

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Regulatory Role

The Regulatory Program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) covers a wide variety of aquatic resources, including wetlands, rivers, streams, lakes, and oceans. The thorough permit evaluation process is designed to result in permit decisions that balance the need for proposed development with protection of the Nation's aquatic environment. The extent of the Corps' evaluation is commensurate with the extent of potential environmental impacts, aquatic functions, and values involved. In accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972, the Corps follows an evaluation process that requires avoiding, minimizing, and compensating for the unavoidable loss of aquatic functions and values.



Gray Tree Frog
Hyla versicolor

When do I need a permit?

There are generally two types of activities which require a permit from the Corps. Activities within navigable waters of the U.S., such as dredging, construction and removal of structures, and placement of shoreline protection require review under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 regulates activities in wetlands and waters of the U.S. that involve the discharge of dredge and/or fill material. In reaching these decisions, the Corps uses its 1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual and appropriate regional supplements. All permit decisions are subject to other federal laws applicable to federal actions, such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Regulatory Mission Statement

The mission of the Corps' Regulatory Program is to protect the nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible, and balanced permit decisions.

The Corps' Regulatory Enforcement Program serves to ensure compliance with issued permits, restore jurisdictional sites affected by unauthorized work, and deter any future unpermitted or noncompliant activities in Corps' jurisdictional areas.



Presque Isle County, Mich



Sundew
Drosera intermedia

