

## **WETLAND CLASSIFICATION ROUGH DRAFT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Wetlands can be classified according to structure, function and quality. Traditionally, wetland structure took precedence and was based on vegetation, soils and hydrology.

Traditionally...types....jurisdiction/state line....layers

State and federal systems

Note that individual classification systems may be superseded in time....

Encourage coordination of wetland classification field work among EPC and SWFWMD and US Army Corps of Engineers.

### **CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS BASED ON STRUCTURE**

NWI (Cowardin et al. 1979)

FLUCCS (FDOT ....)

FOR THE THREE CLASSIFICATION CATEGORIES BELOW, WE NEED TO ADD REFERENCES.....

### **CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS BASED ON FUNCTION**

Qualify water quality parameters, flooding values, wildlife values are captured by:

WRAP

UMAM

### **CLASSIFICATION OF WETLANDS BASED ON VALUES**

Economic and aesthetic characterization of wetland functions. A value system

position within the landscape

**WETLANDS OF REGIONAL CONCERN: ACCOUNTING FOR RARE WETLAND  
TYPES**

Rare types within county regardless of status broadly with state. Tampa Bay Estuary Program Restoring the Balance book.

Position within landscape considered

Prepare a list of rare types in county including, but not limited to, vernal pools, prairie ponds, bay swamps, fern marshes, headwater systems, seepage slope wetlands, freshwater tidal systems, cypress strands.

Recommendation for EPC to identify rare wetland types within the county by watershed.

VALUE OF CREATED WETLANDS add citations

Some created wetlands, especially marshes, develop the structure of “natural” wetlands usually within two years of formation and full wetland function within five or six years, given conducive hydrology and maintenance of nuscience and invasive species. Forested wetlands may take longer to reach stability of structure and function. The question should not be how the wetland was formed, rather the desired structure and function within the landscape. Thus, created wetlands should not be regarded ultimately as less valuable as natural wetlands, particularly if the created wetland served as mitigation for previous wetland impacts.

TIMING OF WETLAND CLASSIFICATION AS PART OF THE PERMIT PROCESS

Early in the permitting process, the applicant should arrange for preliminary evaluation of any constraints and opportunities for any wetlands on the property in question prior to development of detailed site plans. It is recommended that all available wetland classification information should be considered as part of this process.