

Field Crew Team Members:

Leader: _____ Assistants: _____

Photographer: _____ Photos of Site: __ AA Centrum out: _N_E_S_W __ Buffer in: _N_E_S_W; Add'l: Y / N

AA Shape: Circle, Rectangle, Square, Polygon FQA Shape: Circle, Rectangle, Square, Polygon Bearing: _____

AA Dimensions: 40m radius or ____ m wide x ____ m long FQA Dimensions: 18m radius or ____ m wide x ____ m long

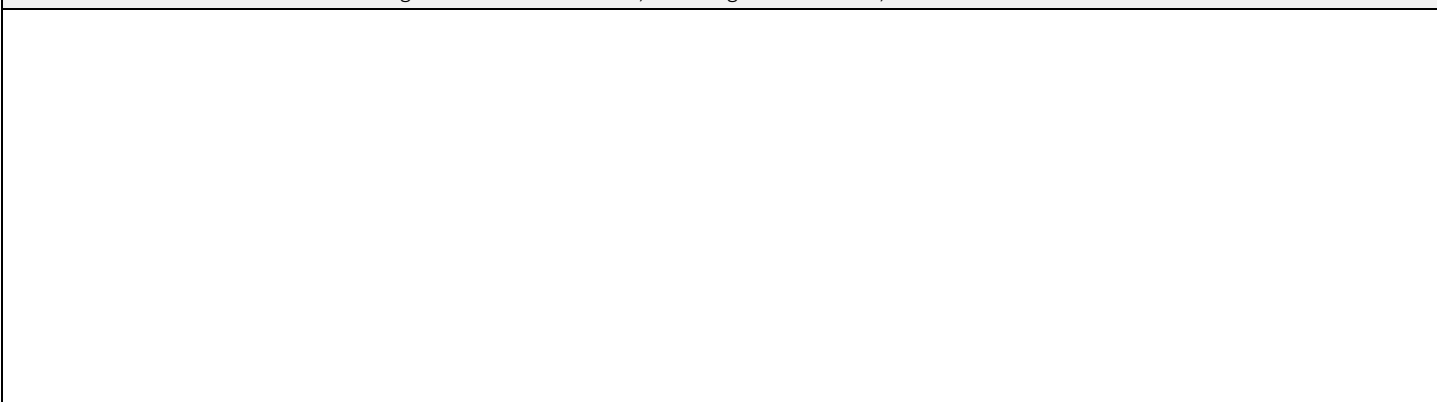
Watershed: _____ County: _____ Twp: _____ Quad: _____

Landowner/MA Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Permit Required? ___ Locked Gate? ___ Access Difficulties? ___ (describe) _____

SITE DESCRIPTION:

GENERAL DRAWING Provide a drawing of the assessment area, including its boundaries, either aerial view or transect view.



LOCATION: GRTS AA CENTRUM (check one) ___ ORIGINAL ___ MOVED (why? how far?)

GPS Unit Make/Model:

UTM Zone: 18N	Datum: NAD83 or WGS84	Accuracy: _____ m / ft	PDOP:	# of Sat's:
LAT: dec deg (e.g. 40.654321)	GRTS Original:	Field:	Post-processed:	
LONG: dec deg (e.g.- 74.123456)				

Classification

HGM Class & subclass (Brooks): **1) Flat** - mineral, organic, **2) Slope** – topographic, stratigraphic, **3) Depression** – temporary, seasonal, perennial, human impounded excavated beaver impounded, **4) Lacustrine Fringe** – permanently, semi-permanently, intermittently or artificially flooded, **5) Riverine** – intermittent, headwater complex, upper perennial, lower perennial, floodplain complex, beaver-impounded, human-impounded, **6) Estuarine Tidal Fringe** - estuarine lunar intertidal, wind intertidal, subtidal, impounded

Cowardin Wetland Type: PFO PSS PEM E2EM PEMO (freshwater tidal marsh) PAB (Aquatic Bed)

USNVC Formation: 1) Flooded & Swamp Forest, 2) Freshwater Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland; 3) Bog & Fen, 4) Salt Marsh 5) Aquatic

USNVC Macrogroup: _____

USNVC Group: _____

USNVC Alliance or Association: _____

Classification Comments:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF LANDSCAPE, BUFFER, and AA

LANDSCAPE AND BUFFER COMMENTS [on-site evaluation as check to office assessment]

SUMMARY OF SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE FEATURES (100-500m):

BUFFER (Inner Landscape 0-100m) CONDITION: What's your impression of the **condition/integrity of the BUFFER?**

Circle one: **Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor** **COMMENTS:**

ASSESSMENT AREA (AA) 40m radius or Polygon ON-SITE COMMENTS [overall description of the community/ecosystem]

VEGETATED STRATA HISTOGRAM: Shade horizontal blocks by % cover per strata

UNVEGETATED SURFACE: (does not need to add to 100%; mentally remove plant layers; ignore below water):

- _____ % Surface Water
- _____ % Litter, duff, wood < 10 cm dbh
- _____ % Wood >10 cm dbh
- _____ % Rock
- _____ % Bare surface
- _____ % Other (describe):

STRATA HISTO DIAGRAM

Tm																				
Ts																				
Te																				
S1																				
S2																				
VL																				
H																				
A1																				
A2																				
NV																				
% cover	< 10	10 →	20 →	30 →	40 →	50 →	60 →	70 →	80 →	90 →	100 →									

AA VEGETATION Description (structure, regeneration, composition):

VEGETATION SPATIAL PROFILE

Structural Stage: Estimate the **% aerial cover of all trees in each structural stage to nearest 10%.** Evaluate only the **top canopy layer** (canopy might be sapling layer or trees in shrub/herb types). **Total should add to 100%.** Typically for forest, woodland, or open savanna vegetation.

- _____ % woody stages absent or seedlings (e.g., stems < 2m)
- _____ % Pole: stems 10-30 cm (4-12") dbh
- _____ % Sapling: stems < 10 cm (< 4") dbh
- _____ % Large: stems 30-50 cm (12-20") dbh
- _____ % Very Large: stems >50 cm (20") dbh

Structural Stage Comments: describe the existing dominant stand appearance or physiognomy. Circle one of the following structural stages: **SPARSE, NON-VASCULAR, AQUATIC** (Floating, Submerged), **HERB** (grassland, forb, fern), **SHRUB:** Tall, Short, Dwarf, **TREE:** Pole/Sapling, Young Forest, Mature Forest, Old Forest. **SERAL Stage** of 2° Successional (early, mid, late). **COMMENTS:** (e.g., SPB infestation, Fire, Storm gaps, effects on life-form layer):

Standing Snags Comments: Describe presence & abundance of snags **> 30 cm (12") dbh & at least 1.37m tall**
 Number of standing snags: _____ Convert to snags/ha (AA=0.5ha x 2 = per ha): _____ **Comments:** (e.g., snags recently dead):

Dead Fallen Logs (Coarse Woody Debris = CWD): Comment on the presence and characteristics of **CWD greater than 10 cm (4") dbh.** Describe the range of stem sizes and their degree of decay. OR describe **LITTER:**

AA HYDROLOGY Description (water source, hydroperiod, hydrologic connectivity, evidence of disturbance)

AA SOILS Description (soil type, soil condition, evidence of disturbance)

AA ASSOCIATED FAUNA (species noted in AA)

AA RARE PLANT SPECIES (species noted in AA)

What's your impression of the **CONDITION/INTEGRITY of the on-site wetland community?** Circle one: **Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Poor.**
Comments:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROFILE

Topo Position: colluvial lowslope, alluvial toeslope, low level terrace, narrow channel bed, basin floor/depression
Elevation (topo map): _____m/_____ft
Slope: Clinometer *degrees or %*
 flat 0° 0%
 gentle 0-5° 1-9%
 moderate 6-14° 10-25%
 somewhat steep 15-24° 26-49%
 steep 25-44° 50-99%
 very steep 45-69° 100-274%
 abrupt 70-100° 275-300%
 overhanging >100° >300%
Aspect (compass) downslope: _____ or variable

Landform Comment [circle one]:

ALLUVIAL PLAIN	MARSH
BACKSWAMP	MUDFLAT
BASIN	OXBOW
BOG	PINGO/POND
BOTTOMLANDS	RAVINE
COASTAL PLAIN	SALT MARSH
FEN	SINKHOLE (doline)
FLAT	SWALE
FLOOD PLAIN	SWAMP
ESTUARY	TERRACE
KETTLE	TIDAL FLAT
LAGOON	OTHER:

SOIL DESCRIPTION: Record Organic and Mineral Layers separately, do not exceed 100 cm total.
Soil Classification (NRCS) check one:
 ___ **ORGANIC** (>40cm in upper 80cm)
 (Histosol - true organic soil)
 ___ **MINERAL** (<40cm organic and/or mineral)
 (Histic Epipedon, Clayey/Loamy or Sandy)
 _____ **Depth of Organic Layer**
 ___ Muck, Sapric (von Post H7-10)
 ___ Peat, Hemic (von Post H4-6)
 ___ Peat, Fibric (von Post H1-3)
 _____ **Depth of Mineral Layer**
 ___ Histic Epipedon (<40cm Org over Min)
 ___ Clayey/Loamy (incl. sandy loam)
 ___ Sandy (sands and loamy sands)

HYDROLOGIC REGIME:
 [WT=water table; GS=growing season]
 ___ **Saturated:** saturated to surface for extended periods during GS; surface water seldom present, isolated pools may be present.
 ___ **Seasonally saturated:** saturated to surface but absent by end of most GS
 ___ **Permanently flooded:** water covers surface throughout year in all years
 ___ **Semi-permanently flooded:** water covers surface and persists throughout GS in most years (excl. droughts); when absent, WT usually at/very near surface
 ___ **Seasonally flooded:** water covers surface and is present early in GS, but absent end of season in most years; when absent, WT often near surface
 ___ **Temporarily flooded:** water covers surface for brief periods in GS, but WT usually well below surface for most of season; upland & wetland plants present
 ___ **Intermittently flooded:** flooded for variable periods w/out detectable seasonal periodicity; months or years may occur between floods
 ___ **Tidally flooded:** flooded by the alternate rise and fall of the surface of oceans and seas, and the bays, rivers, etc. connected to them
 ___ **Artificially flooded:** flooding by pumps, siphons etc., not "altered natural."
 ___ **Never inundated**
 ___ **Unknown**

HYDROLOGICAL Conditions:
Depth to saturated soil (+/-cm): _____
Depth to water table (+/-cm): _____
Depth of Surface Water deepest point: _____
Estimated High Water Depth: _____
Evidence of high water: _____
Stage of Tide: High ___ Low ___
 Incoming ___ Outgoing ___ Slack Tide ___
Salinity (Refractometer): _____

WATER SOURCE:
 Pick one primary (write "1"), up to two others ("2")
 ___ **Direct precipitation**
 ___ **Surface/overland flow:** run-off
 ___ **Groundwater**
 ___ **Discharge:** released into wetland
 ___ **Saturation:** wetland near WT surface
 ___ **Water body inundation:** surface water from marsh/swamp due to adjacent river/lake
 ___ **Overbank flow:** flooding river/stream
 ___ **Inbank flow:** contained within river channel
 ___ **Anthropogenic**
 ___ **Direct input:** irrigation, pumped
 ___ **Overland flow - urban**
 ___ **Overland flow - rural**
 ___ **Tidal**
 ___ Lunar tides
 ___ Atmospheric (Wind) tides
 ___ **Other** (describe): _____

SOIL DRAINAGE:
 ___ **Rapidly Drained:** no gleying in entire profile; typically coarse textured or on steep slope
 ___ **Well Drained:** usually free of mottling in upper 3'; B red, brown, or yellowish
 ___ **Moderately Well Drained:** commonly mottled in lower B and C or below 2'
 ___ **Somewhat Poorly Drained:** soil moisture in excess of field capacity remains in horizon for moderately long periods during year; commonly mottled in B and C
 ___ **Poorly Drained:** soil moisture in excess of field capacity in all horizons for large part of year; soils usually very strongly gleyed
 ___ **Very Poorly Drained:** free water remains at/within 12" of surface most of year; strongly gleyed

HGM CLASS:
 Pick one primary (write "1"); if needed, pick a secondary (write "2")
 ___ **Riverine** (intermittent, headwater complex, floodplain complex, perennial - upper, - lower, Impounded - human, - beaver)
 ___ **Slope** (topographic, stratigraphic)
 ___ **Sliverine** (slope/riverine headwater seep)
 ___ **Depression** (seasonal, perennial, impounded)
 ___ **Flats - Mineral** Soil Flats
 ___ **Flats - Organic** Soil Flats
 ___ **Estuarine Fringe** (lunar intertidal, wind intertidal, subtidal, impounded)
 ___ **Lacustrine Fringe** (permanently, semi-perm, intermittently flooded)
HGM Class Comments: _____

Environmental Comments: (other characteristics worth noting, e.g., stoniness, hardpans, drainage, water flow): _____

SOIL PROFILE 0-60cm (24") or deeper if possible to 1m

Horizon	Depth (cm)	Matrix	Mottles	Texture	pH	Comments (Hydric Indicators)
O						
A						

VEGETATION METRICS (circle one: 0.1ha FQA or 0.5 AA or wetland polygon)

VEG1. Native Plant Species Cover (Relative) (use worksheet and score metrics)

Metric Rating	Native Plant Species Cover	Submetric: Tree Stratum	Submetric: Shrub / Herb Stratum	Comments
Excellent (A) >99%				
Very Good (B) 95-99%				
Good (C) 85-94%				
Fair (C-) 60-84%				
Poor (D) <60%				

Worksheet for Native Plant Species Cover Metric

Strata	Native Cover	Non-native Cover	Total Cover	Relative Cover of Native Plants (native cover / native + nonnative cover) * 100
Trees: Tall/Mature Tree >5m; Sapling/Medium Tree (2-5m)				
Shrub/Herbaceous Tall Shrub (>2m); Shrub/Dwarf Shrub (<2m); Vine/Liana; Herbaceous; Floating and Submerged Aquatic				
Totals				

VEG2. Invasive Nonnative Plant Species Cover (Absolute)

<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT (A) <1%	<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD (B) 1-3%	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR (C) 4-10%	<input type="checkbox"/> FAIRLY POOR (C-) 10-30%	<input type="checkbox"/> POOR (D) >30%
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List invasive nonnative species:

VEG3. Native Plant Species Composition

Metric Rating	Native Plant Species Composition	Submetric: Diagnostic Species	Submetric: Weedy or Ruderal Species	Submetric: Native 'Increasers' (CoC= 1,2)	Submetric: Native 'Decreasers' (CoC=8,9,10)	Comments
Excellent (A)						
Good (B)						
Fair (C)						
Poor (D)						

VEG4. Vegetation Structure

Metric Rating	Vegetation Structure	V1. Flooded & Swamp Forest	V3,4,6 Freshwater Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland (V3); Salt Marsh (Salt/Brackish Marsh & Shrubland) (V4); Aquatic Vegetation (V6)	V5 Bog & Fen	Comments
Excellent (A)					
Good (B)					
Fair (C)					
Poor (D)					

VEG5. Woody Regeneration (opt)

VEG6. Coarse Woody Debris (opt)

VEG6. CWD/Litter (opt)

Metric Rating	Forest and Shrubland	Comments	Metric Rating	V1 Flooded & Swamp Forest	Metric Rating	V2 Freshwater Marsh, Wet Meadow & Shrubland, Bog & Fen, Salt Marsh	Comments
Excellent (A)			Excellent / Good (A/B)		Excellent (A)		
Good (B)			Fair (C)		Good (B)		
Fair (C)			Poor (D)		Fair (C)		
Poor (D)					Poor (D)		

HYDROLOGY METRICS

HYD1. Water Source (water coming into the wetland)

Metric Rating	V1. Riverine (non-tidal)	V2. Depression, Lacustrine, Slope	V3. Organic Soils Flats, Mineral Soil Flats	V4. Estuarine Fringe	Comments
Excellent (A)					
Good (B)					
Fair (C)					
Poor (D)					

HYD2. Hydroperiod (water patterns within the wetland, regardless of source)

Metric Rating	V1. Riverine (non-tidal)	V2. Depression, Lacustrine, Slope	V3. Organic Soils Flats, Mineral Soil Flats	V4. Estuarine Fringe	Comments
Excellent (A)					
Good (B)					
Fair (C)					
Poor (D)					

HYD3. Hydrologic Connectivity (water exchange between wetlands and surrounding systems, regardless of patterns within the wetland)

Metric Rating	V1. Riverine (non-tidal)	V2. Depression, Lacustrine, Slope	V3. Organic Soils Flats, Mineral Soil Flats	V4. Estuarine Fringe	Comments
Excellent (A)					
Good (B)					
Fair (C)					
Poor (D)					

SOIL METRICS with Optional Surface Water and Algae Growth (Physio-Chemical Metrics)

SO1. Soil Condition (indirect measure of disturbance based on stressors that increase the potential for erosion or sedimentation, assessed by evaluating intensity of human and other impacts to soils on the site (e.g., trampling, compaction, excavation, erosion))

Metric Rating	V1. All Freshwater Non-tidal Wetlands (FLOODED & SWAMP FOREST, FRESHWATER MARSH, WET MEADOW & SHRUBLAND, BOG & FEN, AQUATIC VEGETATION)	V2. Estuarine Wetlands (SALT MARSH, and tidal variants of FRESHWATER MARSH, WET MEADOW & SHRUBLAND)	Comments
Excellent (A)			
Good (B)			
Fair (C)			
Poor (D)			

SO12. Surface Water (Turbidity/Pollutants) (opt) (Visual evidence of milky/muddy/cloudy water, unnatural continuous oil sheen)

Metric Rating	All Wetlands Containing Open Water	Comments
NA		
Excellent (A)		
Good (B)		
Fair (C)		
Poor (D)		

SO13. Algal/Macrophyte Growth (opt) (Extensive algal mats or water with greenish tint)

Metric Rating	All Wetlands Containing Open Water	Comments
NA		
Excellent (A)		
Good (B)		
Fair (C)		
Poor (D)		

SIZE METRICS (use only for polygon or EO plot-based assessments; not GRTS points with standard size AA's)

SIZ1. Comparative Size (Patch Type): A measure of the current absolute size of the entire wetland type polygon or patch. This metric is assessed with respect to a comparison of patch-type sizes for the type across its range. This size metric applies to ALL WETLANDS.

Metric Rating	<i>COMPARATIVE SIZE BY PATCH TYPE in hectares (acres), kilometers (miles)</i>						
Spatial Pattern Type	MATRIX	LARGE PATCH			SMALL PATCH		LINEAR
	Matrix in ha (ac)	Large Patch - high in ha (ac)	Large Patch - typic in ha (ac)	Large Patch - low in ha (ac)	Small Patch - typic in ha (ac)	Small Patch - low in ha (ac)	Linear length in km (mi)
EXCELLENT (A)	>5,000 ha (>12,500 ac)	>500 ha (>1,250 ac)	>125 ha (>300 ac)	>50 ha (>125 ac)	>10 ha (>25 ac)	>2 ha (>5 ac)	>5 km (>3 mi)
GOOD (B)	500–5,000 ha (1,250–12,500 ac)	100–500 ha (250-1,250 ac)	25–125 ha (60-300 ac)	10– 50 ha (25-125 ac)	2–10 ha (5-25 ac)	0.5–2 ha (1-5 ac)	1–5 km (0.6-3 mi)
FAIR (C)	100–500 ha (250–1,250 ac)	20–100 ha (50-250 ac)	5–25 ha (12-60 ac)	2–10 ha (5-25 ac)	0.5–2 ha (1-5 ac)	0.1–0.5 ha (0.25-1.25 ac)	0.1–1 km (0.06-0.6 mi)
POOR (D)	<100 ha (<250 ac)	<20 ha (<50 ac)	<5 ha (<12 ac)	<2 ha (<5 ac)	0.5 ha (1 ac)	0.1 ha (0.25 ac)	<0.1 km (<0.06 mi)

SIZ2. Change in Size [Optional]: A measure of the current size of the wetland (ha or acres) divided by the historical wetland size (within most recent period of intensive settlement or 200 years), multiplied by 100. Complete only if change in size is known.

Metric Rating (<i>change in rating of Comparative Size</i>)	<i>Change in Size: ALL WETLANDS (Required for small AAs of large-patch/matrix ecosystems; optional for all other small AAs)</i>
EXCELLENT (A) <i>No change to Comparative Size rating</i>	Occurrence has not been artificially reduced (0%) or increased from its original, natural extent; any detectable change in size is due to natural fluctuations. <i>See note¹ below for interpretation of "reduction."</i> No change in scoring of Comparative Size (SIZ1)
GOOD (B) <i>-1/3 letter grade</i>	Occurrence is minimally reduced (1–5%) or increased from its original natural extent. Lower the Comparative Size (SIZ1) rating by one-third (e.g., B+ to B).
FAIR (C) <i>-2/3 letter grade</i>	Occurrence is moderately reduced (5–30%) or increased from its original, natural extent. Lower the Comparative Size (SIZ1) rating by two-thirds (e.g., B+ to B-).
POOR (D) <i>-1 letter grade</i>	Occurrence is substantially reduced (>30%) or increased from its original, natural extent. Lower the Comparative Size (SIZ1) rating by one (e.g., B+ to C+)."

¹Note: Reduction in size for metric ratings A-D can include conversion or disturbance (e.g., changes in hydrology due to roads, impoundments, development, human-induced drainage; or changes caused by recent cutting). Assigning a metric rating depends on the degree of reduction in size.

Change in Size COMMENTS:

EIA LANDSCAPE & BUFFER RATING

DATE:

Site ID:

LANDSCAPE CONTEXT: LAN2. Land Use Index (LUI) – FIELD CHECK of GIS Inner Landscape (0-100m) (buffer) surrounding the AA

Check for Presence	Surrounding Land Use Categories	Aggregated Land Use Categories	Co-e
	Paved roads / parking lots	Developed – High to Moderate Intensity	0
	Domestic, commercial, or publicly developed buildings and facilities (non-vegetated)	Developed – High to Moderate Intensity	0
	Gravel pit / quarry / open pit / strip mining	Developed – High to Moderate Intensity	0
	Unpaved roads (e.g., driveway, tractor trail, 4-wheel drive, logging roads)	Developed – High to Moderate Intensity	1
	Agriculture: tilled crop production	Agriculture – Cultivated Crop, Annual	2
	Intensively developed vegetation (golf courses, lawns, etc.)	Developed – Low Intensity	2
	Vegetation conversion (chaining, cabling, roto-chopping, clearcut)	Vegetation – Highly Altered	3
	Agriculture: permanent crop (vineyard, orchard, nursery, hayed pasture, etc.)	Agriculture – Cultivated Crop – Perennial	4
	Intense recreation (ATV use / camping / popular fishing spot, etc.)	Vegetation – Highly Altered	4
	Military training areas (armor, mechanized)	Vegetation – Highly Altered	4
	Heavy grazing by livestock on pastures or native rangeland	Vegetation – Highly Altered	4
	Heavy logging or tree removal (50-75% of trees >30 cm dbh removed)	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	5
	Commercial tree plantations / holiday tree farms	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	5
	Recent old fields and other disturbed fallow lands dominated by ruderal and exotic species	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	5
	Vegetated Right-of-Ways (wetland or upland) (NJ only)	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	5
	Dam sites and flood disturbed shorelines around water storage reservoirs and motorized boating	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	5
	Moderate grazing of native grassland	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	6
	Moderate recreation (high-use trail)	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	7
	Mature old fields and other fallow lands with natural composition	Vegetation – Moderately Altered	7
	Selective logging or tree removal (<50% of trees >30 cm dbh removed)	Vegetation – Lightly Altered	8
	Light grazing or haying of native rangeland	Vegetation – Lightly Altered	9
	Light recreation (low-use trail)	Vegetation – Lightly Altered	9
	Natural area / land managed for native vegetation	Vegetation – No/ Minimally Altered	10

BUFFER METRICS

Land Covers INCLUDED in Natural Buffers	Land Covers EXCLUDED from Natural Buffers
Natural upland habitats and plant communities; open water; vegetated levees; old fields; naturally vegetated rights-of-way; rough meadows; natural swales and ditches; native or naturalized rangeland non-intensive plantations	Parking lots; commercial and private developments; roads (all types), intensive agriculture; intensive plantations†; orchards; vineyards; dry-land farming areas; railroads; planted pastures (e.g., from low intensity to high intensity horse paddock, feedlot, or turkey ranch); planted hayfields; lawns; sports fields; traditional golf courses; Conservation Reserve Program pastures.

BUF1. Perimeter with Natural Buffer (mark on attached aerial photo or use GIS)

Metric Rating	Perimeter with Natural Buffer (%)
EXCELLENT (A)	Natural buffer is 100% of perimeter
GOOD (B)	Buffer is >75–99% of perimeter
FAIR (C)	Buffer is 25–75% of perimeter
POOR (D)	Buffer is <25% of perimeter

Land Covers Crossing and Breaking Natural Buffers
bike trails; foot trails; horse trails; dirt, gravel or paved roads; residential areas; bridges; culverts; paved creek fords; railroads; sound walls; fences that interfere with movements of water, sediment, or wildlife species that are critical to the overall functions of the wetland (>5m break in buffer)

BUF2. Width of Natural Buffer

Measuring Width of Natural Buffer		
Line	Cardinal Direction	Buffer Width (m) (max = 100 m)
1	N	
2	NE	
3	E	
4	SE	
5	S	
6	SW	
7	W	
8	NW	
Average Buffer Width (m)		/ 8 =

Adjusting rating of UPSLOPE buffer	
Slope Gradient	Additional Buffer Width Multiplier
5-14%	1.3
15-40%	1.4
>40%	1.5

Metric Ratings	Width of Natural Buffer (m)
EXCELLENT (A)	Average buffer width is ≥100 m, adjusted for slope.
GOOD (B)	Average buffer width is 75 -99 m, after adjusting for slope.
FAIR (C)	Average buffer width is 25 -74 m, after adjusting for slope.
POOR (D)	Average buffer width is <25 m, after adjusting for slope.

BUF3. Condition of Natural Buffer

Metric Ratings	Natural Buffer Condition
EXCELLENT (A)	Buffer is characterized by abundant (>95%) cover of native vegetation, with intact soils, no evidence of loss in water quality and little or no trash or refuse.
GOOD (B)	Buffer is characterized by substantial (75–95%) cover of native vegetation, intact or moderately disrupted soils, minor evidence of loss in water quality, moderate or lesser amounts of trash or refuse, and minor intensity of human visitation or recreation.
FAIR (C)	Buffer is characterized by a low to moderate (25–74%) cover of native vegetation, barren ground and moderately to highly compacted or otherwise disrupted soils, moderate to strong evidence of loss in water quality, with moderate or greater amounts of trash or refuse, and moderate or greater intensity of human visitation or recreation.
POOR (D)	Very low (<25%) cover of native plants, dominant (>75%) cover of nonnative plants, extensive barren ground and highly compacted or otherwise disrupted soils, moderate to great amounts of trash, moderate or greater intensity of human visitation or recreation, OR no buffer at all.

BUF4. Contiguous or Percent Natural Buffer [alternate] Contiguous Natural Buffer evaluation based on percent natural vegetation that is directly connected to the AA within the inner sub-zone (0-100 m). This can be calculated using GIS, aerial imager analysis, or assessed by walking throughout the buffer.

Metric Rating	Contiguous Natural Buffer Cover: ALL WETLANDS	Percent Natural Buffer Cover: ALL WETLANDS
EXCELLENT (A)	Intact: Embedded in 90–100% natural habitat around AA.	Intact: Embedded in 90–100% natural habitat around AA.
GOOD (B)	Variiegated: Embedded in 60–90% natural habitat.	Variiegated: Embedded in 60–90% natural habitat.
FAIR (C)	Fragmented: Embedded in 20–60% natural habitat.	Fragmented: Embedded in 20–60% natural habitat.
POOR (D)	Relictual: Embedded in <20% natural habitat.	Relictual: Embedded in <20% natural habitat.

Buffer Comments:

SITE MAP/ILLUSTRATION

Show landscape and site vegetation patterns, topographic cross-section showing changes in vegetation. Show N arrow and scale!