



Town of Hilton Head Island
 Community Development Department
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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
Date Received:	_____
Accepted by:	_____
Associated Application Number:	_____

Applicant/Agent Name: _____ Company: _____
 Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

**WETLAND EVALUATION FORM
 PERMANENT/INTERMITTENT FLOODING**

Location of property with subject/wetlands (SW) : _____
 Number of wetlands on property. _____
 Total Wetland Area in acres. _____
 Delineation of wetland approved by the Army Corps? YES _____ NO _____ Date: _____

Note on scoring: All “Yes” answers (Y) equal 10 points; all “No” answers equal 0 points, unless otherwise indicated. Multiple lists are scored per directions following each question.

I. GEOGRAPHY

1. Landscape position of SW:

1. Covered by marine waters
2. Fringe to marine waters
3. Open tidal marsh
4. Upper tidal marsh boundary seaward of SCCC Critical Line
5. Fringe to tidal marsh landward of SCCC Critical line
6. Fringe to flowing fresh water or drainage course leading to a larger surface water body
7. Isolated basin
5. Isolated depression between dune ridges

Scoring: 1-4 = 15; 5-6=10; 7-8=5

2. Topography of SW and adjacent lands: List by %

- (1) over 8% (2) 2-8% (3) 0-2%
Scoring: (1) = 15; (2) = 10; (3) = 5

3. Other wetlands present within 500 feet from the edge of the SWs: Y ____ N ____

4. If “Yes” to # 3, list the landscape position of other wetlands within 500 feet from the edge of the SW. Attach the appropriate scoring.

5. Is the SW within ½ mile of tidal waters? Y ____ N ____
6. Is the SW a “unique heritage” system with rare landscape position on Hilton Head Island?
Y ____ N ____
7. Is the SW part of a cluster of wetlands within 500 feet of the edge of the SW?
Y ____ N ____
8. Green links: Is the SW connected to other wetlands within 550 feet by vegetated or surface water corridors? Y ____ N ____

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION I: 95 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

II VEGETATION

1. Do normal environmental conditions exist in the vegetative community in the SW?
Y ____ N ____
2. Is vegetation disturbed in the SW? Y ____ N ____ “Y” = 0; “N” = 10

Circle the vegetation disturbances, including but not limited to filling, dredging, draining, flooding, shadowing by structures, clear cutting, burning, dumping, compaction, vehicular traffic or other:

3. Is the SW “man-induced” from spoil disposal, farming, impounding, excavation, creation as mitigation or other human activities? Y ____ N ____ “Y”=0; “N”=10
4. List the Prevalence Index for the SW: _____. Is the Prevalence Index:
 ____ 1.0 – 1.9 (15 Points)
 ____ 2.0 – 2.5 (10 Points)
 ____ >2.5 (5 Points)
5. Categorize the vegetation diversity:
 ____ 66 – 100% (15 Points)
 ____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
 ____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)
6. Categorize the edge irregularity:
 ____ 66 – 100% (15 Points)
 ____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
 ____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)
7. Do unusual or rare vegetation species inhabit the SW? Y ____ N ____ Name them.

8. Do morphological adaptations exist in plants in the SW and/or the nonwetland perimeter?
 Y ____ N ____ (within ____ feet of SW)

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION II: 95 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

III SOILS

1. SCS Soil Series of SW (per the delineation data sheets):

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| (1) Capers | (4) Polawana | (7) Fripp-Baratari |
| (2) Bohicket | (5) Rhosedhu | (8) Sewee |
| (3) Coastal Beach | (6) Baratari | (9) Williman |

Scoring: (1)-(3) = 15; (4)-(6) = 10; (7)-(9) = 5

2. Categorize the primary source of sediment:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| _____ Water column | (15 Points) |
| _____ Overland runoff | (10 Points) |
| _____ Detritus | (5 Points) |

3. Physical soil disturbance observed: Y _____ N _____ “Y”=0; “N”=10.

Indicators: Tilling; filling; grading; dumping; excavation; berming; impoundment(s); vehicular travel causing compaction and/or rutting; sedimentation; substrate erosion; ditching; trenching; other (list): _____

Circle the appropriate indicator.

4. High nutrient concentration observed: Y _____ N _____ “Y”=0; “N”=10.

Factors to consider: Algal bloom, eutrophication, reclaimed water (advanced-treated effluent) disposal; sewage (not advanced-treated effluent) input; other (list): _____

Circle the appropriate factors.

5. Contamination sources observed or reported: Y _____ N _____. “Y”=0; “N”=10.

List date of observation or report: _____. Evidence of waterborne or sedimentary contaminants: sewage outfalls; landfills; leaking subsurface tanks; pesticide treated area; oil runoff; heavily traveled highways; other (list): _____

Circle the appropriate factors.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION III: 60 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

IV HYDROLOGY

1. Categorize the flooding duration of the SW (per SCS Soil Survey, Table 18 and observations):

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| _____ Very long/long | (10 Points) |
| _____ Long | (5 Points) |
| _____ None | (0 Points) |

2. **Categorize the high water table (below surface) of the SW (per SCS Soil Survey, Table 18 and observations):**
 _____ +1.0 – 1.0 ft. (15 Points)
 _____ 1.0 – 1.5 ft. (10 Points)
 _____ >1.5 ft. (5 Points)
3. **What percentage is SW permanently saturated at surface?**
 _____ > or equal to 67% (15 Points)
 _____ 33 – 66% (10 Points)
 _____ 0 – 33% (5 Points)
4. **Is the SW's existence dependent upon a water control device, either upstream or downstream?**
 Y _____ N _____ "Y"=0; "N"=10
5. **Are there any disturbances to hydrology in the SW?** Y _____ N _____ "Y"=0; "N"=10
 Disturbances include: Turbidity from runoff; groundwater withdrawal; diversion/alteration of runoff into or out of the SW; alteration of runoff through SW; unstable, transitional channels; reduction of flood storage; flooding with reclaimed water; impoundments artificially maintaining water levels above natural hydroperiod; other (list): _____
 Circle the appropriate answer.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION IV: 60 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

V HABITAT VALUE

1. **Is protective cover for fish prevalent?** Y _____ N _____ Circle the type of cover: Moderately dense aquatic vegetation; submerged logs/stumps; tree roots; rocks; overhanging vegetation; crevices; undercut banks; other (list): _____
2. **Is waterfowl habitat:** >50% of SW ____ (10 Points);
 < 50% of SW ____ (5 Points)
3. **Is dissolved oxygen known to be limiting for fish populations?** Y _____ N _____
 "Y"=0; "N"=10
4. **Categorize the SW's productivity for water-dependent birds.**
 _____ Food, cover & surface water (15 Points)
 _____ Cover & surface water (10 Points)
 _____ Either food only; cover only; surface water only (5 Points)
 _____ No food, cover and/or surface water (0 Points)
5. **Is the SW habitat for listed (Fed./SC) rare, threatened or endangered species or species of special concern?** Y _____ N _____
6. **Does SW have basking sites available for reptiles?** Y _____ N _____

7. **Is there evidence of disturbance to wildlife (including hunting, trapping, baiting, etc.) or evidence of dead animals on site?** Y _____ N _____ “Y”=0; “N”=10
8. **Are hollow trees for denning/nesting/roosting sites:**
 _____ Plentiful (15 Points)
 _____ Occasional (10 Points)
 _____ Rare (5 Points)
9. **Does SW serve as drinking water source for wildlife?**
 _____ Year-round (15 Points)
 _____ Seasonal (10 Points)
 _____ Temporary (5 Points)
10. **Categorize the community interspersion (varying, mixed edge):**
 _____ High = > 66% (15 Points)
 _____ Moderate = 33-66% (10 Points)
 _____ Low = 0-33% (5 Points)
11. **Categorize the habitat diversity:**
 _____ High (15 Points) Includes:
 • Bottomland hardwood;
 • Large, vegetatively diverse wetland >5 acres;
 • Moderately-sized wetlands (1-5 acres) that are oases or part of a cluster with moderate to high community interspersion.
 _____ Moderate (10 Points) Includes any blending of high and low value habitat diversity.
 _____ Low (5 Points) Includes:
 • Forested, scrub-shrub or moss wetland(s) not connected to adjoining forests by vegetated or water corridors;
 • Small (< 1 acre) wetlands with potential toxic inputs; estuarine or marine wetlands exposed to waves, or without vegetation; and/or
 • Palustrine or lacustrine wetlands that (1) have low vegetation diversity; or (2) are surrounded with urban development and have no connecting corridors; or (3) small wetlands with low vegetation diversity, low edge irregularity, no open water and are not part of an oases or cluster.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION V: 135 Points

ACTUAL SCORE: _____

VI SOCIAL VALUE

1. **Is the SW in a rapid wetland loss area?** Y _____ N _____
2. **Does on-going recreation take place in the SW?** Y _____ N _____
 Circle the activities: Hiking, birding, organized photography, sailing, power boating, non-power small boating, water skiing, horseback riding, other (list): _____

3. **Is the SW used for education?** Y _____ N _____
Circle the activities: Research, monitoring, educational field trips, outdoor overlooks, interpretive displays, other (list): _____
4. **Is the SW owned by an organized conservation group or public agency for the primary purpose of preservation, ecological enhancement and/or low-intensity recreation?** Y _____ N _____
5. **Have substantial public and/or private funds been provided to preserve the SW?**
Y _____ N _____ A "Y" answer may be made to any one or more of the following (circle the appropriate answer): Property purchase; conservation easement; access improvement; fisheries improvement; water quality improvement; buffer conservation; seeding/plant installation; grade improvement; hydrology improvement; wildlife habitat enhancement; fencing; other (list): _____
6. **Does the SW represent all or most (>50%) of this wetland system on Hilton Head Island?**
Y _____ N _____
7. **Are there any point sources of pollution in nearby areas that might be impacted by the disturbance of this wetland?** Y _____ N _____ Describe: _____

8. **Are there any features of economic value in the SW or within 500 feet of the SW that might be impacted by the disturbance of this wetland?** Y _____ N _____
Describe: _____
9. **Is the SW used for consumptive activities?** Y _____ N _____ Circle the activities:
Aquaculture, commercial/sport fishing, hunting, plant nursery, silviculture, water supply, other (list):

10. **Does the SW exist in an area where flood water storage is important?**
Y _____ N _____ SW is in Flood Zone _____.

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTION VI: 100 Points
ACTUAL SCORE: _____

TOTAL POSSIBLE SCORE, SECTIONS I – VI: 545 Points

ACTUAL SCORE, SECTIONS I – VI: _____

SCORING KEY

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 360 – 545 Points | NO ALTERATION IS PERMITTED |
| 359 – and below | Some alteration may be permitted depending on section scoring (see wetland ordinance for details). |



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DEFINITIONS FOR THE WETLAND EVALUATION FORMS

Density: Number of individuals per unit area.

Distribution: The geographic occurrence or range of a species. In this report, distribution is quantified only along transects.

Dominance: A description of vegetation that is related to the standing crop of a species in an area, usually measured by areal cover, height or basal area (for trees).

Draining: The reduction or elimination of ground or surface water by artificial means. Activities in this category include, but are not limited to, dewatering, pumping, ditching, or otherwise altering waterflow patterns.

Duration (of inundation or saturation): The length of time water stands above the soil surface (inundation), or that water fills most soil pores near the soils surface during the growing season.

Edge Irregularity: A condition by which the boundaries between wetland and upland are not uniform and/or linear. Indicators of irregularity include, but are not limited to, peninsulas, coves, natural drainage inlets or outlets and prior disturbances to the edge.

Emergent Plant: A rooted, herbaceous plant species that has parts extending above a water surface.

Enhanced: An existing natural system (such as a wetland) where some activity of man increases one or more values, often with the accompanying decline in other values.

Facultative Plant: A plant that occurs in both wetlands and uplands (>33-66% of the time).

Facultative Wetland Plant: A plant that usually occurs in wetlands (>66-99% of the time).

Fill Material: Any material placed in an area to increase surface elevation.

Flooding: A condition in which the surface of non-inundated soil is temporarily or permanently covered with water or where the water levels of already inundated soil is increased. Examples of activities in this category include, but are not limited to, the discharge of treated effluent, diversion of storm water, diversion or channelization of an existing stream, and impoundment.

Fringe Wetland: Those wetlands which either cumulatively (both sides) occupy less than 3 times the width of an adjacent channel on any line perpendicular to flow; or cumulatively occupy less than one-third the surface of a standing body of water at the time of highest annual water.

Growing Season: The portion of the year when soil temperatures at 19.7 inches below soil surface are higher than biologic zero (5° C).

Habitat: The environment occupied by individuals of a particular species, population, or community.

Headwaters: The point on a non-tidal stream above which the average annual flow is less than 5 cubic feet per second.

Hydrologic Regime: The distribution and circulation of water in an area on average during a given period including normal fluctuations and periodicity.

Hydrology: The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water both on the surface and under the earth.

Interspersion: The degree of intermingling of different cover types, regardless of the number of types or their relative proportions.

Lacustrine System: Wetlands and deepwater habitats with all of the following characteristics: (1) situated in a topographic depression or dammed river channel; (2) lacking trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens with greater than 30% areal coverage; and (3) total area exceeds 20 acres, or if less than 20 acres, a wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature makes up all or part of the boundary, or if the water depth in the deepest part of the basin exceeds 6.6 feet at low water.

Morphological Adaptations: Structural modifications that most often provide a plant with increased buoyancy or support in aquatic conditions. In some cases, the adaptation involves the uptake of nutrients and/or gases.

Nonwetland: An area that has sufficiently dry conditions that indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and/or wetland hydrology are lacking.

Normal Environmental Conditions: Normal seasonal or annual variations in environmental conditions that result from causes other than human activities or catastrophic natural events.

Obligate Plant: A plant that nearly always occurs in wetlands (>99% of the time).

Prevalence Index: A weighted average measure of the sum of the frequency of all species along a single transect, or as calculated for a plant community by averaging the prevalence index of all sample transects through a community.

Restored Wetland: A wetland returned from a disturbed or altered condition to a previously existing natural or altered condition by some action of man (i.e., fill removal).

Slope: A piece of ground that is not flat or level.

Soil: The collection of natural bodies on the earth's surface containing living matter and supporting or capable of supporting plants out-of-doors. Places modified or even made by man of earthy materials are included. The upper limit of soil is air or shallow water and at its margins it grades to differ from parent materials as a result of interaction, over time, of climate, living organisms, parent materials and relief.

Success: Achieving established goals of a mitigation plan. Wetland mitigation success ideally requires that the criteria, preferable measurable as quantitative values, be established prior to commencement of these activities.

Swamp Forest: A mixed forest system found in poorly-drained lowlands. In this document, swamp forests are not associated with streams.