

Muntanyans II - How do we know it is wetland?

What are the characteristics of a wetland and does this site have those characteristics?
(Wetlands are wet at least some of the time - they can be flooded or have water at or near the surface for at least part of the year. Wetlands also have unique soils - hydric soils. Hydric soils do not hold much oxygen and are saturated with water most of the year.)

What kind of soil does this site have?

Collect soil samples from two sites - disturbed and undisturbed. Is the soil dark brown or black? Does the soil have a lot of decayed organic material? What does it smell like? Is it dry or wet? What is its pH value?

Do we see a lot of water standing on the ground? Collect a water sample and test the salinity.

Wetland Habitat Determination Worksheet

1. Name two species of dominant vegetation:

Organic material present? Yes No

Smell _____

Is standing water visible? Yes No

Is the soil saturated with water? Yes No

2. Wetland Type Determination

Is the wetland woody (trees present) or herbaceous (grasses with no trees present)?

If the vegetation is herbaceous, name the dominant species:

What is the salinity of the water? (Circle the correct range)

1-2 ppt: freshwater

3-9 ppt: intermediate water

10-19 ppt: brackish water

20-35 ppt: salt water

3. What are the human impacts affecting this wetland?

4. Wetland Value Determination

How well do you think this wetland can provide flood protection?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------

How well do you think this wetland can filter and absorb pollutants and nutrients from water entering the wetland?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------

How valuable is this wetland as a wildlife habitat?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------

How valuable do you think this wetland is to people seeking recreational opportunities?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------

How would you rate the aesthetics, or beauty, of this wetland?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------

How valuable is this wetland for educational activities?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------

Does the area provide economic benefits from non-renewable resources?

Low Value	Medium Value	High Value
-----------	--------------	------------