US Army Corps of Engineers

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

AGREEMENT TO THE USE OF THE NATIONAL WETLAND PLANT LIST BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE AND THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Purpose: To endorse the use of the National Wetland Plant List (NWPL) by the above Federal agencies as the sole reference source for the hydrophytic vegetation parameter for wetland delineation purposes as required by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985.

History: In 2006, the four Federal agencies agreed to transfer lead responsibility for updating the "National List of Vascular Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands" from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The list had not been updated since 1988. Scientists at the Corps Cold Regions Research and Engineering Lab (CRREL) were designated to lead the effort. Experts from all four Federal agencies are involved in all aspects of producing the final and draft lists at both the national and regional levels.

Use of the NWPL: Through this agreement, the four Federal agencies agree to utilize this and future updated lists for CWA and FSA wetland delineation purposes. Further, the agencies agree to continue to provide staff in the updating process which will occur periodically due to botanical name changes, challenges to the existing indicator statuses from the public and private sectors and new plants species.

This agreement is consistent with Executive Order 13352, Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)/Corps Partnership Agreement which encourage collaboration and reducing redundancy among Federal agencies with overlapping or synergistic missions.

Implementation: We commit to achieve our goals by fostering a spirit of teamwork between our organizations at all levels.

Effective Date: This agreement is effective when signed by all parties and should be reviewed annually to renew our commitment and consider needed changes.

SIGNATORS:

Jo-Ellen Darcy 4/24/2012
(Date)
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(Civil Works)

Dave White 5-2-12
(Date)
Dave White
Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Dan Ashe
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