



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Special Public Notice

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**SUBJECT: Operational Draft Regional Guidebook for the Rapid Assessment of Wetlands in the North Slope Region of Alaska**

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**REFERENCE NUMBER: SPN-2017-484**

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this public notice is to distribute the document titled Operational Draft Regional Guidebook for the Rapid Assessment of Wetlands in the North Slope Region of Alaska (ERDC/EL TR-17-14).

This guidebook describes a rapid approach to assessing wetlands within the Arctic Foothills and Arctic Coastal Plain (North Slope) region of Alaska. This report utilized established approaches to (1) characterize regional wetlands, (2) provide the rationale used to determine assessment scores, (3) describe assessment variables utilized, (4) outline the developed assessment equations, and (5) provide a step-by-step protocol for applying results. The region's remote nature and short growing season limits the time period during which on-site data can be collected. As a result, the developed method allows for a tiered approach utilizing (1) an assessment based upon off-site data (desktop resources) only or (2) an assessment using a combination of on-site (field data collection) and off-site data collection.

The Corps has published the: Operational Draft Regional Guidebook for the Rapid Assessment of Wetlands in the North Slope Region of Alaska (North Slope Rapid Assessment) available at:

[https://ribits.usace.army.mil/ribits\\_apex/f?p=107:27:3140757463731::no:rp:p27\\_button\\_key:20](https://ribits.usace.army.mil/ribits_apex/f?p=107:27:3140757463731::no:rp:p27_button_key:20).

This rapid assessment is now available for use by all permit applicants proposing projects within the Arctic Foothills and Arctic Coastal Plain (North Slope) region of Alaska. Use of the North Slope Rapid Assessment eliminates the need for North Slope region permit applicants to

develop independent methodologies for the assessment of project impacts greatly reducing the cost to applicants. The North Slope Rapid Assessment was designed to be used with the Alaska District's Credit Debit Methodology (CDM). The CDM allows permit applicants to calculate debits from project impacts as well as credits for proposed mitigation. The North Slope Rapid Assessment and the CDM further the Alaska District's goals to be transparent in our decision making process and create a more certain regulatory environment for permit applicants.

**Questions:** Questions pertaining to the Operational Draft Regional Guidebook for the Rapid Assessment of Wetlands in the North Slope Region of Alaska should be directed to the attention of Sheila Newman, who can be contacted at the above address, by calling (907) 753-5556, or by email at [Sheila.M.Newman@usace.army.mil](mailto:Sheila.M.Newman@usace.army.mil).

District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers