



SOIL AND PLANT SCIENCE DIVISION

Technical Soil Services

Northeast Soil Survey Region

Northeast Soil Survey Region, Special Projects Region, and NRCS Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island

NRCS Scientists Provide Technical Instruction for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory IV Wetland Training

Purpose

NRCS Soil Scientists Donald Parizek (Special Projects Region), Jacob Isleib (NRCS-CT), Jim Turenne (NRCS-RI), Josh Gaimaro (NRCS-NH), and NRCS Ecologist Nels Barrett (Northeast Soil Survey Region) as well as staff from other federal agencies recently served as instructors during the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New England Interagency Federal Wetland ID and Delineation (Regulatory IV) course held in Concord, Massachusetts.

Background

This interagency course on wetland delineation was offered by the USACE in accordance with the current "Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (Version 2.0)." The course provides students with the knowledge to identify and delineate wetlands from a basic understanding of the interaction of vegetation, soils, and hydrology. This 5-day intensive course was a mix of indoor lectures, hands-on activities, and field exercises designed to cover the identification and documentation of wetlands while focusing on the three-factor approach using vegetation, soils, and hydrology. The four field sites included a forested site, a sloped grassland site, an agricultural site, and a problem site. Each site provided the class with a different opportunity to exercise field skills used in data collection and interpretation, specified on the Northcentral and Northeast Region's Wetland Determination Form. The data collection and interpretation related to general landscape observations as well as specific criteria and field indicators of hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology (fig. 1).



Figure 1.—Students delineating a wetland boundary through an open meadow at USACE wetland training held in Concord, Massachusetts.

Key Outcomes

Approximately 30 participants from the USACE, NRCS, and other federal agencies participated in the wetland training. The weather was great, and the field events went off without a hitch. The week-long training provided a great opportunity for NRCS soils staff to provide technical soils information transfer to USACE and other public agency partners.