

## New Wetland Assessment Method

It's been four years in development, but the **Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP)** is now ready for use! ORWAP will be used primarily for assessing wetlands and developing compensatory mitigation plans for state Removal-Fill Law and federal Section 404 permit applications. However, ORWAP is designed to be used for multiple purposes by multiple agencies, including assessing all wetlands within a city or watershed and evaluating success of voluntary restoration projects.

The Oregon Department of State Lands initiated ORWAP development with funding assistance from EPA Region 10. This has been an interagency effort wetland specialists with EPA, the Portland District Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service and other agencies participated throughout the development process to ensure that ORWAP will meet their program needs. Dr. Paul Adamus (Adamus Resource Assessment, Inc.) developed ORWAP with help from more than 100 individuals private sector and public who participated on technical advisory committees, assisted with field testing in over 220 wetlands statewide, provided expert knowledge about regional wetlands, developed supporting information, or provided peer review.

ORWAP is a standardized protocol for rapidly assessing wetlands of any type anywhere in Oregon. It will fill the gap in areas where an HGM Guidebook is not available (HGM guidebooks have been developed for tidal wetlands and for two wetland subclasses in the Willamette Valley).

ORWAP generates scores intended to reflect a wetland's relative ability to support the following functions: Water Storage & Delay, Sediment Retention & Stabilization, Phosphorus Retention, Nitrate Removal & Retention, Thermoregulation, Carbon Sequestration, Organic Matter Export, Pollinator Habitat, Aquatic Invertebrate Habitat, Anadromous and Resident Fish Habitat, Amphibian & Turtle Habitat, Waterbird Feeding & Nesting Habitat, Songbird & Mammal Habitat, and Native Plant Habitat. Separate scores are given for function and value. In addition, wetland Condition (Integrity), Provisioning Services, Public Use and Recognition, Sensitivity, and Stressors are scored.

For more information and to download ORWAP, go to:  
[http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND/or\\_wet\\_prot.shtml](http://oregonstatelands.us/DSL/WETLAND/or_wet_prot.shtml)

[Back to Home Page](#)