



Minnesota Wetland Professional Certification Program Professional & Professional In-Training Practice Exam

Instructions: Carefully read each of the following questions and record the best answer on the answer sheet. Each question contains only one answer that is considered to be the “best” answer.

Please note that the Wetland Conservation Act will be referred to as both the WCA and the Rule throughout the exam. Other acronyms and abbreviations that will be used include Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Local Government Unit (LGU), and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

Also note that the questions found on this practice exam are typical of both the Professional and Professional In-Training Exam whereas some questions will be fundamental (typical of the In-Training Exam) while others will apply fundamental concepts such as those questions found on the Professional Exam.

The answer key can be found on the last page.

1. Using offsite resources without a site inspection to make a wetland boundary determination is which of the following?
 - a) Not allowed under the 87 Manual
 - b) An example of a Routine Level 2 delineation
 - c) An example of a Routine Level 1 delineation
 - d) An example of a Routine Level 3 delineation

2. The Wetland Conservation Act was bi-partisan legislation that was passed in:
 - a) 1972
 - b) 1987
 - c) 1991
 - d) 1977



3. A project is impacting wetlands and does not qualify for a no-loss or exemption. Which of the following is true?

- a) The project needs to evaluate at least one alternative to minimize impacts to proceed.
- b) The applicant must first get a sequencing approval from the LGU.
- c) The applicant must change the project to qualify for an exemption or no-loss.
- d) An applicant must apply for and have an approved replacement plan to proceed.

4. An area that is dominated by white pine (*Pinus strobus* – FACU) with hydric soils and wetland hydrology indicators is likely an example of:

- a) A problem area.
- b) An atypical situation.
- c) A managed plant community.
- d) A FAC-Neutral situation.

5. The WCA provides standards for establishing a wetland bank. The resulting wetland banking system, administered by the BWSR, is a:

- a) Property tax credit program
- b) Market-based structure
- c) Government subsidy program
- d) Nongovernmental organization

6. For hydrophytic vegetation determination, the abundance of each plant species is usually determined by?

- a) Counting stems
- b) Estimating basal area
- c) Estimating areal cover
- d) Point-intercept sampling



7. MN Statute 15.99 requires LGUs:

- a) Waive jurisdiction to the State for large projects.
- b) Notify an applicant that an application is incomplete within 60 days.
- c) To make a decision within 15 days of receiving a complete application.
- d) Follow an agency action deadline of 60 days to make a decision on a complete application.

8. The following plant species are found in a sampling plot in the same strata with the following percent areal coverage:

White Panicked aster – 10%, Giant goldenrod – 20%,
Stinging nettle – 40%, Reed Canary grass- 70%

How many dominant plant species are in the sample plot?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) Cannot be determined because coverage exceeds 100%

9. After an initial wetland bank credit release, the remaining credits are eligible for deposit:

- a) Only when the LGU approves them to be released.
- b) Based only on the credit release schedule.
- c) When the first complete monitoring report is submitted.
- d) Based on the credit release schedule and when performance standards are being met.

10. For the soil color descriptor “7.5YR 3/1”, what does the “3” represent?

- a) The value - degree of lightness to darkness.
- b) The hue - degree of yellow and red.
- c) The chroma – degree of color purity.
- d) The degree of reduction.



11. An applicant in a greater than 80% area proposes to impact a sloped forested wetland that is not located in a shoreland. What is the maximum de minimis for this activity?

- a) 2,175 square feet
- b) 10,890 square feet
- c) 5% of landowner's portion down to a minimum of 400 square feet
- d) 4,500 square feet

12. The enforcement authority who issues a WCA Restoration Order is the:

- a) BWSR
- b) DNR
- c) SWCD
- d) LGU

13. Consider a matrix color of 7.5YR 6/1 found in the subsoil. This soil color would most likely characterize which of the following soil features?

- a) Gleyed soil.
- b) A depleted matrix.
- c) An iron-based redox concentration.
- d) An iron-based redox depletion.

14. For projects impacting both WCA wetlands and public waters, what regulatory programs may have jurisdiction?

- a) WCA only
- b) Section 404 of Clean Water Act
- c) DNR Public Waters and WCA only
- d) Section 404, DNR Public Waters, WCA



15. When assessing wetland hydrology on cropland utilizing aerial imagery, what does the term “normal years” refer to?

- a) The three years prior to the date of the imagery being evaluated.
- b) Years when antecedent precipitation conditions were normal.
- c) Years when crop production was unaffected by wetland hydrology.
- d) Years when the area being evaluated was in normal crop production.

16. With the intent of governing pollution control of the Nation's waterways, this Federal Law regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into wetlands:

- A) Wetland Conservation Act
- b) Swampbuster provisions of the Food Security Act
- c) Public Waters Work Permit Program
- d) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

17. A shallow monitoring well is designed to measure:

- a) The depth to the top of the capillary fringe.
- b) The hydrostatic potential at a depth of 36 inches.
- c) The thickness of the unsaturated zone.
- d) The depth to the water table.

18. Which of the following would be considered a wetland impact under the WCA:

- a) Maintaining a roadside wet ditch that is surround by upland by excavating sediment.
- b) Multiple acres of excavation in a permanently flooded area of a wetland.
- c) Cows grazing in a wetland within a pasture that does not have any ditches or drain tile.
- d) Cutting vegetation and leaving it in the wetland in a place that does not impede water flow.



19. A delineator in the Midwest digs a soil boring to 30 inches on July 30 and allows the water level to equilibrate for 30 minutes. The delineator observes soil saturation at 23 inches. No water table is observed in the borehole. Does this meet the saturation (A3) hydrology indicator?

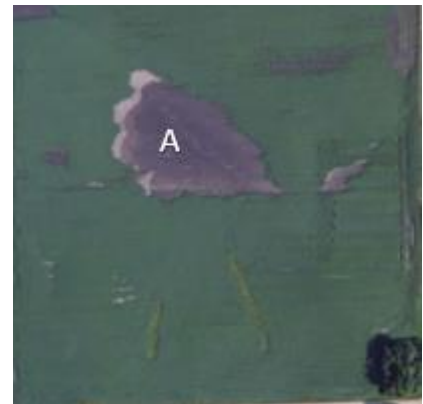
- a) Yes, soil saturation is observed in the bore hole.
- b) Yes, this meets the dry season water table indicator.
- c) No, there is no water observed with the soil saturation.
- d) No, July 30 is not considered the dry season in the Midwest.

20. Which of the following is not used in identifying Hydric Soil Indicators:

- a) Land Resource Region
- b) Soil textures
- c) Soil colors
- d) Flood frequency >25%

21. When using the "Guidance for Offsite Hydrology", Area A shows what wetland signature?

- a) Altered Pattern (AP)
- b) Upland (UP)
- c) Normal vegetative cover (NSS)
- d) Drowned out (DO)



22. A primary function-based goal of a wetland restoration project should include:

- a) Build structures to impound water to create ponding.
- b) Reestablish a plant community that will thrive no matter the conditions.
- c) Create open water habitat.
- d) Restore the site to the natural hydrology.



23. Which of the following HGM class has open contours, dominant hydrology input is groundwater and horizontal, uni-directional hydraulics?

- a) Lacustrine Fringe
- b) Sloped
- c) Depression
- d) Organic Flat

24. What agents are most responsible for soil color?

- a) Redoximorphic concentrations
- b) Iron and Organic matter
- c) Water and Organic matter
- d) Water and Iron

25. A landowner proposes to drain a wetland area that is labeled on a NRCS Certified Wetland Determination as PC/NW. In reviewing the application, the LGU notices the area has been wooded since the earliest aerial imagery available in the 1930s and shows no cropping history. Does this qualify for the Agricultural Exemption under WCA?

- a) Yes, the area is labeled PC/NW and qualifies.
- b) Yes, the area it qualifies for the drainage provision of the agricultural exemption.
- c) No, the area has been wooded since 1985.
- d) No, the site has not been cropped 8 of the last 10 years.



Answer Key

1 C

2 C

3 D

4 A

5 B

6 C

7 D

8 B

9 D

10 A

11 B

12 B

13 B

14 D

15 B

16 D

17 D

18 B

19 C

20 D

21 D

22 D

23 B

24 B

25 C