

Canadian National Wetland Inventory - BC

Executive Summary

Current version: v13 (published on 2026-03-15)

The [Canadian National Wetland Inventory BC \(CNWI BC\)](#) content was created in collaboration between Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) under two Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) between 2022-2024 and 2024-2026.

The products produced under these MOAs support the CNWI national initiative to compile, process, and publish best available wetland mapping and field validation data throughout Canada. The CNWI National spatial product, and the CNWI National User Manual are available for download on the Government of [Canada's Open Data Portal](#).

The guidance, standards, and methodology developed under these MOAs are for the purposes of collecting and compiling data under the CNWI / CNWI BC initiative.

Note: Wetland boundaries in the CNWI-BC are presented based on the scientific definitions of classification as defined by the Canadian Wetland Classification System and clarified in the CNWI-BC V13 PDF report. CNWI-BC wetland boundaries not intended to be used directly as a boundary or edge of a wetland for regulatory, policy, or development applications. Further field inspections and analysis are likely required.

CNWI-BC Data Package contains:

1. CNWI BC Report (pdf)

This document provides an overview of the CNWI-BC project including definitions classification concepts, data inventory standards, field validation methods, as well as mapping and cross-walking standards, and procedures. All users of CNWI-BC data and collectors/submitters of data to the CNWI-BC should review this document.

2. Spatial

- **Wetland Inventory** (gdb)- This spatial dataset is the amalgamated product that includes all CNWI national data within BC as well as additional BC-specific fields and domains to capture unique attributes and categories as described in various BC classification systems and to ensure integration with provincial datasets.
- **Metadata** (xls)- Additional information on each project including source methodologies, partners, imagery mapping specifications, etc.
- **Template** (gdb)- This is a geodatabase template for data intended for loading into the CNWI BC dataset.

3. Field Package

- **Field Form Template** (xlsx form) - This template can be used to create standardized digital forms for field data collection (e.g., ESRI Survey123 and FieldMaps).
- **CNWI-BC Field Guide** (pdf) - This document provides clarification of field protocols, definitions and attributes when classifying wetlands in the field. It is written in plain English with visuals to help conceptualize wetland concepts and definitions. It also

includes pdf paper forms for recording soil and vegetation measurements. Photographs of completed soil and veg datasheets are to be attached to the digital CNWI Field Form where appropriate.

4. Resources

- **BC Wetland Delineation Guidance and associated Wetland Plant Indicator List**
Additional resources on delineation guidance and the accompanying plant list are available here:
 - https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/esd/distdata/ecosystems/Wetland_Delineation/
This resource is currently undergoing review and feedback on rankings should be directed to wetlands@gov.bc.ca.
- **Mapping Wetlands from Imagery in BC** (pdf) – This document details the standards for imagery interpretation of wetland boundaries for the purposes of the CNWI in BC. Image standards (type, resolution, date, etc.) are provided as well as GIS mapping specification and examples of various CNWI-BC wetland classes and definitions. This resource is intended to inform wetland boundary designation for classification and mapping purposes only and should not be used for wetland delineation for development or regulatory, policy or development purposes.
- **Cross walking Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification Wetland Data to the Canadian Wetland Classification System** (pdf) – This report describes the methods for cross walking British Columbia Terrestrial Ecosystem Information System (TEIS) ecological datasets that contain wetland data using the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) system to the Canadian Wetland Classification System and the version 12 (v12) schema.

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