

**1 – SELECT PLOT LOCATION** Consult CNWI BC Field Guide (2026) for more information

- Complete CNWI BC Field Form in a reasonably uniform 30 m circular plot when you suspect an area is a wetland.
- Aim for one plot to contain one wetland class and one surface cover.
- Ensure plot center and GPS point are  $\geq 15$  m from edge of the wetland.
- If recording from a distance (binoculars, drone, helicopter); use ESRI Field Maps “offline maps” to record accurate plot location.

**2 – GENERAL SITE INFORMATION**

Date/Time*		Plot Type*	Quantitative (soil/veg datasheets required)
Weather*			Qualitative Ground (boots or binoculars)
Organization/Surveyors*			Qualitative Air (drone-view or helicopter)
Project Area*			
Plot Number*			
Plot Location (lat/long)*			
Plot Size*	Standard 30 m circular plot	<30 m circular plot (unique wetland surrounded by non-wetland)	Long and narrow feature (<30m one direction & >30m in other) (e.g. strip around lake)
Site Comments E.g., site history, disturbance, wildlife, size.			

**3 – PHOTOS**

List of Photos* For example: 4-D(NESW), inflow, outflow, aerial, soil core, plants, datasheets, etc.	
--	--

**4 – VEGETATION** Quantitative plot → Complete Veg Datasheet, take photos of datasheet and any notable plants. Then complete questions below.

Qualitative plot → Proceed immediately to questions below.

Species List*									
Woody Veg*	Yes	No	Woody Veg Type*	>75% Conifer	Woody Veg Height* (m)	<2	Woody Canopy Cover* (%)	1-10	
Herbaceous*	Yes	No		>75% Broadleaf		2-5		10-25	
Bryophytes*	Yes	No		Mixed		5-10		25-50	
						10-25		50-75	
Type of Herb*	Forbs >50%		Graminoids >50%		Aquatic >50%	Ferns >50%		Mixed	
Type of Bryo*	Moss >50%			Lichens >50%			Mixed		
						25+		75-100	

**5 – SOIL** Quantitative plot → Complete Soil Datasheet, take photos of datasheet and soil core on white background. Then complete questions below.

Qualitative plot → Quick visual check of soils with auger if possible. Or assign soil type on professional judgement and on knowledge of site.

Describe soil* Saturation, texture, colour, VonPost, redox, salt, odour, etc.		
Soil Type* Circle one	Peatland	>40 cm organic topsoil; mostly fibric/mesic texture (Von Post 1-6)
	Organic humic	>40 cm organic topsoil; mostly humic texture (Von Post 7-10)
	Mineral wetland soil	Mineral soil shows hydric signs in the upper 40 cm (Hydric signs: mottles (rust), depleted matrix (light/med grey), gleying (blue/green), rotten egg smell.) Organic topsoil horizon can be present but is <40cm
	Young mineral wetland soil	Mineral soil shows poor hydric signs in the upper 40-cm. E.g., sandy soil, gravel bars, recently restored areas, landslide areas, etc. <b>Must show obvious signs of wetland hydrology &amp; wetland vegetation to be a wetland.</b>
	Organic on bedrock	~40 cm organic topsoil; underlain by bedrock (typically coastal bogs)
	Organic on water	>40 cm organic topsoil; underlain by water layer (typically 'floating' fens)
	Non-wetland soil/substrate	Does not meet any of the definitions above (e.g., bedrock, forest soil, etc.)
	Not reported	Not comfortable assigning type based on professional judgement.

**6 – WATER** If quantitative plot, record measurement.

Water on surface?* (i.e., in pond or puddle)	Yes	Depth of water? (cm)	
	No		



**Check Point ! At this point you should have enough data to determine whether wetland: yes / no.**

Use all available information to determine if the area is a wetland.

- Water/saturated soil must be present within the top 40cm during the growing season for the area to be a wetland.
- If plants are present but soil is not (or soil is recently deposited and does not show clear hydric signs), predominant wetland vegetation (OBL/FACW species) must be present (e.g., gravel bars, very sandy soils, landslides, restored sites)
- If soil is present but plants are not, obvious signs of saturation or hydric soil must be present (e.g., intertidal mudflat, vernal pool, pond, etc.)
- If both soil and plants are present – both should be considered for a positive wetland identification.

If uncertain, consult the [BC Wetland Identification and Delineation Manual \(2025\)](#) for detailed guidance and methods.

## 7 – WETLAND CHARACTERIZATION

<b>Surface Cover*</b> <i>See Key in CNWI BC Field Guide.</i>	Tree >25%	<b>Hydrological System*</b> <i>See Key in CNWI BC Field Guide.</i>	Marine
	Shrub >25%		Estuary
	Woody >25%		Riverine (flowing)
	Herbaceous >25%		Lacustrine (lake/stagnant)
	Bryophytes >25%		Palustrine (basin)
	Aquatic veg >25%		Non-wetland
	Eelgrass >1shoot/m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Hydroperiod*</b> <i>See Key in CNWI BC Field Guide.</i>	Ephemeral
	Macro algae >25%		Temporary
	Sediment >25%		Seasonal
	Bedrock >25%		Semi-Permanent
	Water >25%		Permanent
	Snow/Ice >25%		Non-wetland
<b>Tidal*</b>	Anthropogenic	<b>Salinity</b>	Fresh
	Yes		Brackish
	No		Saline

## 8 – WETLAND CLASS

<b>Wetland Class*</b> <i>See Key in CNWI BC Field Guide.</i>	Bog	<b>Confidence in Classification</b>	High
	Fen		Medium
	Swamp		Low
	Marsh	<b>Comments</b>	
	Shallow Open Water		
	Non-Wetland		

## 9 – HUMAN IMPACT AND DISTURBANCE

<b>Is the area impacted and/or disturbed?*</b>	Yes	No
<b>Comments</b> <i>For example: invasive species, ditches, berms, dams, linear infrastructure, fire, etc.</i>		

## 10 – ADDITIONAL CHARACTERIZATION

Nutrient regime	Rich (>5.5 pH)	Slope	No slope
	Poor (<5.5 pH)		Shallow (0-3%)
pH reading			Gentle (4-9%)
BC Plant Association (E.g., Wm05, Wb01, etc.)			Moderate (10-15%)
Rare Ecosystem in BC (E.g., Red/Blue listed)	Yes		Steep slope (16%+)
	No		
Permafrost	Present	Absent	