

Wetlands

Will your proposed project result in impacts to wetlands?

A wetland is a landscape feature transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface of the land or is covered by shallow water. The presence of surface inundation or saturation in a wetland results in a prevalence of wetland vegetation and specific characteristics developing in the soil. Wetlands may also be referred to as swamps, bogs, sloughs, nuisance wet spots, low ground and others.

There are eight types of wetlands in Minnesota:

Type 1 – Seasonally flooded basins or flats. Soil is covered with water or waterlogged during seasonal periods, but is usually well drained during the growing season.

Type 2 – Wet meadows. Soil is usually without standing water most of the growing season but is waterlogged within a few inches of the surface.

Type 3 – Shallow marshes. Soils, which are usually waterlogged during the growing season and are often covered with up to 6 inches of water. Many have cattails and bulrushes and small open water areas.

Type 4 – Deep marshes. Soils, which are usually covered with 6 inches to 3 feet of water during the growing season. Many have cattails and bulrushes and small open water areas.

Type 5 – Open water wetlands. Shallow water ponds and reservoirs with water 3 to 10 feet deep.

Type 6 – Shrub swamps. Soil is usually waterlogged during the growing season and is often covered with as much as 6 inches of water.

Type 7 – Wooded swamps. Soil is waterlogged at least to within a few inches of the surface during the growing season with as much as one foot of water. Occur mostly along sluggish streams and flood plains.

Type 8 – Bogs. Soil is usually waterlogged and supports a spongy covering of mosses.

Kandiyohi County Environmental Services reminds you that State and Federal Law prohibits the draining or filling of wetlands, unless specifically approved or exempted by the appropriate authorities.

Kandiyohi County Environmental Services administers the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers administers Section 404 of the Clean Waters Act.

Filling or draining a wetland in violation of the Minnesota WCA or the Clean Waters Act can result in criminal penalties and fines. If a violation exists on a property, a restoration order may be issued that requires the property owner to restore the impacted wetland to its former condition, (this may include the removal of buildings and all fill material in the impact area).

As the applicant for this permit or project, you are responsible for determining whether any wetlands will be affected by this proposed project. If you believe there is a potential for wetland impacts associated with your project, you are advised to contact Kandiyohi County Environmental Services before commencing any such work.