

NH Method Revision - December 2015

The 2015 update to the NH Method focused on:

- Rewording some questions and clarifying some instructions to reduce inter-observer variability in wetland evaluations.
- Adding additional and updated information, resources and updated hyperlinks

Specific revisions are described in the table below:

Section/Function	What Changed?
Section 1 – Table of Contents and Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisions dates added to Authors page (primary co-authors) • Table of Contents – Appendices titles and list updated with revised text and Appendices H and I added • Updates to the NH Method text has been revised • Table 1 – What has changed, has been taken out of Section 1. Instead, this is now a standalone document (this one!) on the NH Method website. • Introduction – some text has been revised for clarity. • Limitations of the NH Method – bullet 8 has been added.
Section 2 – How the NH Method Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2A Wetland Functions – clarifying text added to Fish & Aquatic Life and Nutrient Trapping • Completing the Data Sheets - Column 4 Score - clarifying text about different scoring for Functions 7 and 12 has been added. • C. Preparing Wetland Maps – text about GRANTViewII and GRANIT in the side bar has been revised and updated. • Tables 1 & 2 – revisions to text in GIS Users and NH Wetlands Mapper columns • D. Guidelines for Wetland Units – bullet d. has been added. Hydric Soils sidebar, previously alongside Step 3 has been moved to Section 1 of the NH Method. Step 4e includes additional clarification in italics.
Section 3 – Using the NH Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Visit Checklist – 2nd and 3rd bullets have been added. • Steps in the Use of the NH Method – revisions to text in 6 and 7 • Wetland Functions: Edits have been made to all of the Functions – questions and explanatory text has been revised for clarity. See detail provided below.
1 – Ecological Integrity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 4 – web links have been updated • Question 6 – Second paragraph of introductory text has been updated • Question 7 – Reworded question for more consistent answers and revised the text in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Question 10 – clarification in <i>How to Answer the Question</i>
2 – Wetland-Dependent Wildlife Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – clarification about upland islands in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Question 4 – Additional explanatory text about definition of shallow open water added to introductory paragraph. • Question 5 – Clarifying information about deepwater habitats in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Question 6 – Clarifying information about Cowardin wetland classes in <i>How to Answer the Question</i>. 3% changed to 5% to align with information referenced in the Cowardin System. Reference to Appendix F added to side bar (Wetland Vegetation Classes) • Question 10 – Clarifying information about invasive species added to paragraph 2 of the introduction.

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3 – Fish & Aquatic Life Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 4 – Clarifying information about deepwater habitats in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Question 5 – Rewording in question to clarify • Question 6 – Last paragraph under <i>How to Answer the Question</i> replaced with text that clarifies “recent” and provides improved instructions • Question 7 – Clarifying text added to the question and introductory paragraph, and a new paragraph added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i> (A few tips) to better explain substrate • Question 8 – Clarifying text added to the question, introductory text and <i>How to Answer the Question</i> to better explain cover objects. • Question 10 – Additional clarifying text about artificial barriers added to the question and <i>How to Answer the Question</i>. A second (new) paragraph added to the introduction to better explain artificial barriers to aquatic life, along with new photo (perched culvert) to illustrate this. • Question 11 – clarifying text added to question and introductory text regarding wildlife that are rare, threatened, endangered or Species of Greatest Conservation Need. Reptiles and amphibians added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i>. Web links have been updated.
4 – Scenic Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Scenic Quality – paragraph 2 has been added. • Question 1 – Clarifying text about wetland classification added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Question 3 – In introductory sentence, landforms is replaced with landscape which will result in more consistent answers • Question 5 – In the question, landforms is replaced with landscape as per Question 3 above. • Question 6 has been deleted from the NH Method – this was the source of much variability and difficulty answering. • Question 7 – has now been renumbered as question 6 (see above)
5 – Educational Potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Educational Potential – paragraph added below first two bullets • Question 6 – Clarifying information about wetland classification was added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i>
6 – Wetland-based Recreation	NO CHANGES
7 – Flood Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 1 – Clarifying information in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> about excluding upland islands from the wetland acreage calculation. • Question 5 – clarifying information in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> about interpreting values in Table 1. • Question 6 – clarifying information in <i>How to Answer the Question</i> about interpreting values in Table 2. • Tables 1 and 2 – Clarification added at asterisk
8 – Groundwater Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 4 – question rephrased for clarity. Clarifying information added <i>How to Answer the Question</i> about soil types. • Table 3: Deerfield Loamy Sand added to soil types and additional column added to record the percent coverage of each soil type found in the wetland to help with answering this question. • Question 5 - question rephrased for clarity. Clarifying information added <i>How to Answer the Question</i>. • Table 4 – Mashpee added to soil types and additional column added to record the percent coverage of each soil type found in the wetland to help with answering this question.
9 – Sediment Trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 3 – the original question 3 and instructions were deleted and replaced with a new question and instructions. The original question resulted in a lot of inconsistency in answering. • Question 4 – Clarification added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i> to include upland islands in the wetland acreage calculation. • Question 5 – Clarification about elevation change added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i>. Added use of Digital Elevation Model data in NH Wetlands

Section/Function	What Changed?
	<p>Mapper to determine elevation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 6 – reference to Appendix F added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i>.
10 – Nutrient Retention/Removal/Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 4 – Clarifying information added to <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Description of Hydroperiods in sidebar expanded to include the full range of water regime modifiers (codes A – H) used in the Cowardin System of Wetland Classification.
11 – Shoreline Anchoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 2 – Clarifying information added to introductory paragraph and <i>How to Answer the Question</i> • Question 4 – Information to clarify substrate added to the question and <i>How to Answer the Question</i>
12 - Noteworthiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 4 – Clarifying text added to question (known elements) and <i>How to Answer the Question</i> (local/professional knowledge and known occurrences)
Section 4 – NH Method Data Sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions and multiple choice answers have been revised as per the edits described in Section 3 above, as follows: • 1 – Ecological Integrity: Question 7 and Answer a. for Question 8 • 2 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat: Question 7 (reference to Appendix F) and Answer a. • 3 – Fish & Aquatic Life Habitat: Question 5; Question 7; Question 8 and Answers a. and b.; Question 10 and Answer a.; Question 11 • 4 – Scenic Quality: Viewing site description/location line added; Question 1 (reference to Appendix F); Question 5; Question 6 eliminated; old Question 7 renumbered as Question 6 • 5 – Educational Potential: Educational Site description/location line added; Question 6 (reference to Appendix F) • 6 – Wetland-Based Recreation: No changes • 7 – Flood Storage: Clarifying text added to Question 1; clarifying information added to Tables 1 and 2 (asterisk). • 8 – Groundwater: Question 4 and Answers a., b. and c. (distance changed to 100 ft); Question 5; Tables 3 – last column added; Table 4 - Title • 9 – Sediment Trapping: Question 3 and Answers have been completely replaced; Question 6 (reference to Appendix F) • 10 – Nutrient Removal: Question 4 – Answers b and c. • 11 – Shoreline Anchoring: Question 2 Answers a., b. and c.; Question 4 and Answers a., b. and c. • 12 – Noteworthiness: clarifying instructions for scoring added
Section 5 – Analyzing Results	NO CHANGES
Appendix A – Wetland Resources and References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All references and hyperlinks have been updated. Outdated or inaccessible references have been removed.
Appendix B – Using NH Wetlands Mapper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated as per the edits in Sections 3 and 4
Appendix C – Using GIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated as per the edits in Sections 3 and 4
Appendix D – Hydric Soils Tables	NO CHANGES
Appendix E – Sample Application of NH Method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample wetland evaluation updated as per edits in Sections 3 and 4 (includes updated maps and excel spreadsheet). Appendix is now in 3 subsections for easier reference (sample evaluation, maps and Appendix B)
Appendix F – Wetland Classification and NWI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page 2 - Clarifying note on the Use of the Cowardin System of Wetland Classification at the bottom of the page
Appendix G –Topographic Maps and Watershed Boundaries	NO CHANGES
Appendix H – NHM Questions for Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW! Appendix added in 2015
Appendix I – Questions to Answer in the Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEW! Appendix added in 2015