

Wetlands: How do I know if an area is one?

1. There are three characteristics that define wetlands:

Characteristic		Definition
1		
2		
3		

2. Does the proposed wetland site have characteristic 1 (_____)? Please describe what you see. Is it on the surface? How deep is it? Are there marks? Is it stagnant or is it moving in and out?

3. Does the proposed wetland site have characteristic 2 (_____)? Use The Delaware Wetland Plant Guide to key out and determine if the dominant species are wetland related, native or invasive.

4. Does the proposed wetland site have characteristic 3 (_____)? Look at the photo of characteristic 3 and describe key features that would help lead to the conclusion that this site is or is not a wetland.

5. Does the proposed wetland have all three characteristics, therefore is it a wetland?

Yes / No

6. Describe each wetland term, then mark the descriptor(s) that explain what kind of wetland you are in. Note: Wetlands can be described in many ways.

X	Wetland Term	Description
	Marsh	
	Bog	
	Swamp	
	Fen	
	Tidal Wetland	
	Non-tidal Wetland	
	Freshwater Wetland	
	Saltwater/Brackish Wetland	

a. What type of wetland are you in? _____

7. Do you notice any invasive species, areas that look unhealthy, or a structure that may affect the ability of the wetland to perform its natural functions?

8. How are wetlands regulated at the county level, and do all counties have the same regulations for wetlands?

9. Does the State of Delaware regulate this type of wetland?

Yes / No

10. What agency regulates wetlands at the Federal level, and what Acts give this agency jurisdiction?

11. Why is regulation of wetlands necessary? (*hint: marsh metaphors*)