



## ***Minnesota Wetland Professional Certification Program Professional & Professional In-Training Practice Exam***

**Instructions:** Carefully read each of the following questions and record the best answer on the answer sheet. Each question contains only one answer that is considered to be the “best” answer.

Please note that the Wetland Conservation Act will be referred to as both the WCA and the Rule throughout the exam. Other acronyms and abbreviations that will be used include Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Local Government Unit (LGU), and Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

Also note that the questions found on this practice exam are typical of both the Professional and Professional In-Training Exam whereas some questions will be fundamental (typical of the In-Training Exam) while others will apply fundamental concepts such as those questions found on the Professional Exam.

The answer key can be found on the last page.

1. Using offsite resources without a site inspection to make a wetland boundary determination is which of the following?
  - a) Not allowed under the 87 Manual
  - b) An example of a Routine Level 2 delineation
  - c) An example of a Routine Level 1 delineation
  - d) An example of a Routine Level 3 delineation
  
2. The Wetland Conservation Act was bi-partisan legislation that was passed in:
  - a) 1972
  - b) 1987
  - c) 1991
  - d) 1977



3. A project is impacting wetlands and does not qualify for a no-loss or exemption. Which of the following is true?

- a) The project needs to evaluate at least one alternative to minimize impacts to proceed.
- b) The applicant must first get a sequencing approval from the LGU.
- c) The applicant must change the project to qualify for an exemption or no-loss.
- d) An applicant must apply for and have an approved replacement plan to proceed.

4. An area that is dominated by white pine (*Pinus strobus* – FACU) with hydric soils and wetland hydrology indicators is likely an example of:

- a) A problem area.
- b) An atypical situation.
- c) A managed plant community.
- d) A FAC-Neutral situation.

5. The WCA provides standards for establishing a wetland bank. The resulting wetland banking system, administered by the BWSR, is a:

- a) Property tax credit program
- b) Market-based structure
- c) Government subsidy program
- d) Nongovernmental organization

6. For hydrophytic vegetation determination, the abundance of each plant species is usually determined by?

- a) Counting stems
- b) Estimating basal area
- c) Estimating areal cover
- d) Point-intercept sampling



7. MN Statute 15.99 requires LGUs:

- a) Waive jurisdiction to the State for large projects.
- b) Notify an applicant that an application is incomplete within 60 days.
- c) To make a decision within 15 days of receiving a complete application.
- d) Follow an agency action deadline of 60 days to make a decision on a complete application.

8. The following plant species are found in a sampling plot in the same strata with the following percent areal coverage:

White Panicked aster – 10%, Giant goldenrod – 20%,  
Stinging nettle – 40%, Reed Canary grass- 70%

How many dominant plant species are in the sample plot?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) Cannot be determined because coverage exceeds 100%

9. After an initial wetland bank credit release, the remaining credits are eligible for deposit:

- a) Only when the LGU approves them to be released.
- b) Based only on the credit release schedule.
- c) When the first complete monitoring report is submitted.
- d) Based on the credit release schedule and when performance standards are being met.

10. For the soil color descriptor "7.5YR 3/1", what does the "3" represent?

- a) The value - degree of lightness to darkness.
- b) The hue - degree of yellow and red.
- c) The chroma – degree of color purity.
- d) The degree of reduction.



11. An applicant in a greater than 80% area proposes to impact a three-acre type 7 wetland that is not located in a shoreland. The wetland crosses multiple parcels of land with multiple landowners. What is the de minimis for this activity?

- a) 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>
- b) There is not enough information to answer.
- c) 5% of landowner's portion down to a minimum of 400 ft<sup>2</sup>.
- d) 5,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

12. Which of the following is a key consideration in establishing native vegetation at a restoration site:

- a) Managing invasive species throughout the entire site
- b) Strategic site preparation such as planting elevation, hydrology, soil type
- c) Matching planting plans to natural, native plant communities
- d) All of the above

13. The enforcement authority who issues a WCA Restoration Order is the:

- a) BWSR
- b) DNR
- c) SWCD
- d) LGU

14. Consider a matrix color of 7.5YR 6/1 found in the subsoil. This soil color would most likely characterize which of the following soil features?

- a) Gleyed soil.
- b) A depleted matrix.
- c) An iron-based redox concentration.
- d) An iron-based redox depletion.



15. For projects impacting both WCA wetlands and public waters, what regulatory programs may have jurisdiction?

- a) WCA only
- b) Section 404 of Clean Water Act
- c) DNR Public Waters and WCA only
- d) Section 404, DNR Public Waters, WCA

16. When assessing wetland hydrology on cropland utilizing aerial imagery, what does the term “normal years” refer to?

- a) The three years prior to the date of the imagery being evaluated.
- b) Years when antecedent precipitation conditions were normal.
- c) Years when crop production was unaffected by wetland hydrology.
- d) Years when the area being evaluated was in normal crop production.

17. One purpose of the Wetland Conservation Act:

- a) Not allow any development activity in wetlands in MN.
- b) Achieve a no net loss of existing wetlands.
- c) Require replacement for all wetland impacts.
- d) Regulate impacts to only certain existing wetland types.

18. A wetland good and services which provides monetary or social welfare benefit is known as:

- a) Wetland value
- b) Floristic Quality Assessment
- c) Wetland function
- d) Stormwater retention



19. With the intent of governing pollution control of the Nation's waterways, this Federal Law regulates the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into wetlands:

- A) Wetland Conservation Act
- b) Swampbuster provisions of the Food Security Act
- c) Public Waters Work Permit Program
- d) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

20. A shallow monitoring well is designed to measure:

- a) The depth to the top of the capillary fringe.
- b) The hydrostatic potential at a depth of 36 inches.
- c) The thickness of the unsaturated zone.
- d) The depth to the water table.



**Answer Key**

1 C

2 C

3 D

4 A

5 B

6 C

7 D

8 B

9 D

10 A

11 C

12 D

13 B

14 B

15 D

16 B

17 B

18 A

19 D

20 D

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