

Appendix D: Assessment Unit Guidelines

Criteria for Wetland Complexes

SCENARIO 1 – ENTIRE COMPLEX CONSISTS OF SALTWATER WETLANDS

Salinity of entire complex is ≥ 0.5 ppt during period of low annual flow – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU encompassing entire system (unless system meets other criteria)
- System vegetation is composed of entirely of salt-tolerant species

SCENARIO 2 – ENTIRE COMPLEX CONSISTS OF FRESHWATER WETLANDS

Salinity of entire complex is < 0.5 ppt during period of low annual flow – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU encompassing entire system (unless system meets other criteria)

SCENARIO 3 – COMPLEX CONSISTS OF BOTH FRESHWATER AND SALTWATER WETLANDS

Salinity ranges from < 0.5 ppt to ≥ 0.5 ppt – SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE AUs

- Create separate AUs for area(s) where ocean-derived salts measure 0.5 ppt or higher during the period of average annual low flow

Criteria for Wetlands contiguous with Rivers/Streams

SCENARIO 1 – RIVER/STREAM IS ABUTTING THE SITE

River or stream of any size flows along the border of the site – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU encompassing entire system (unless system meets other criteria)
- AU includes any part of the river/ stream with aquatic vegetation visible during the peak vegetated period (or visible on aerial photography).

SCENARIO 2 – RIVER/STREAM BISECTS THE SITE

Average width of river/stream is $< 3\text{m}$ wide – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU including river/ stream and all abutting wetlands on either side of river/ stream.
- Include the entire stream reach contained between the wetland edges.

Average width of river/stream is $\geq 3\text{m}$ wide – SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE AUs

- Create multiple AUs, one for every non-contiguous wetland on each side
- Each individual AU includes any part of the river/ stream with aquatic vegetation visible during the peak vegetated period (or visible on aerial photography).

Criteria for Wetlands contiguous with Lakes/Ponds

Waterbody is < 4 ha in area – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU including entire waterbody and all abutting wetlands

Waterbody is ≥ 4 ha in area – SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE AUs

- Create multiple AUs, one for each non-contiguous wetland abutting the waterbody
- Each individual AU includes any area of the waterbody with aquatic vegetation visible during the peak vegetated period (or visible on aerial photography).

Criteria for Wetlands bisected by Roads/Railbeds/Berms

SCENARIO 1 – CULVERTS/TIDE GATES ALLOW ADEQUATE HYDROLOGIC EXCHANGE

Any size road, railbed or berm with functioning culverts/tide gates – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU including wetland on both sides of the road, railbed or berm.
- Culverts/tide gates must be sized, located and maintained appropriately such that hydrologic exchange is not prevented or impaired.

SCENARIO 2 – UNPAVED ROAD/RAILBED/BERM WITHOUT CULVERTS/TIDE GATES

Road/railbed/top of berm is ≤ 0.5 m above wetland surface – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU including wetland on both sides of the road, railbed or berm.
- Assumed to be at least somewhat pervious, regardless of width.

Road/railbed/top of berm is > 0.5 m above wetland surface – SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE AUs

- Create multiple AUs, one for every non-contiguous wetland on each side of the road/railbed/berm

SCENARIO 3 – SMALL PAVED ROAD OR SINGLE-TRACK RAILBED

Road/railbed is ≤ 0.25 m above the wetland surface – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU including wetland on both sides of the road or railbed.
- Small paved road = two-lane undivided highway or smaller

Road/railbed is > 0.25 m above the wetland surface – SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE AUs

- Create multiple AUs, one for every non-contiguous wetland on each side of the road or railbed.
- Small paved road = two-lane undivided highway or smaller

SCENARIO 4 – LARGE PAVED ROAD OR MULTI-TRACK RAILWAY

Road/railbed is elevated AND wetland is bridged – DO NOT SPLIT

- Maintain single AU including wetland on both sides of the road or railbed.
- Large paved road = four or more lanes OR any size divided highway

Road/railbed NOT elevated and/or wetland NOT bridged – SPLIT INTO MULTIPLE AUs

- Create multiple AUs, one for every non-contiguous wetland on each side of the road or railbed.
- Large paved road = four or more lanes OR any size divided highway