

What is a wetland

Wetland systems have been called many names: bogs, marshes, swamps, ponds, prairie potholes, sloughs, fens, wet meadows, bottomlands and more. Wetlands such as swamps and marshes are often obvious, but some wetlands are not easily recognized, often because they are dry during part of the year or "they just don't look very wet" from the roadside. Wetlands are areas that are covered by water or have waterlogged soils for long periods of time during the growing season. Plants growing in wetlands are capable of living in saturated soil conditions for at least part of the growing season. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency define wetlands as the following:

Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

So remember, not all wetlands are exactly the same, not all wetlands are "wet", and not all "wet" areas are wetlands.

[Why are Wetlands Important?](#)

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