



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SEATTLE DISTRICT
4735 EAST MARGINAL WAY, SOUTH BLDG 1202
SEATTLE, WA 98134-2388

CENWS-Seattle District

8 May 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023) ,¹ NWS-2025-350²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the 2023 Rule as amended,

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, the territorial seas, or interstate water that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

CENWS

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), NWS-2025-350

as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).
 - i. Wetland C, non-jurisdictional
 - ii. Swale 1, non-jurisdictional

2. REFERENCES.

- a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")
- b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023)
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)
- d. "Memorandum To The Field Between The U.S. Department Of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers And The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Concerning The Proper Implementation Of 'Continuous Surface Connection' Under The Definition Of 'Waters Of The United States' Under The Clean Water Act" (March 12, 2025)

3. REVIEW AREA. The 0.18 acre review area is located at Blaine, Whatcom County Washington (48.988793, -122.728225). The review area consists of a mowed area located adjacent to industrial development. One swale and one wetland were identified within the review area. The review area is bounded by development to the west, north and east and an undeveloped field to the south.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. Semiahmoo Bay, approximately 1.5 miles downstream and 1.4 miles northwest of the review area. Semiahmoo Bay is a part of the Puget Sound which is

CENWS

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), NWS-2025-350

listed as navigable waterway on the Navigable Waters of the United States in Washington State list dated December 31, 2008.⁶

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. Swale 1 flows south to a stormwater inlet that drains to underground stormwater pipes that drain approximate 0.15 miles southwest to a stormwater pond. This stormwater pond outlets west to a forested depressional wetland adjacent to a ditch that flows west into Cain Creek. Cain Creek flows northwest approximately 1.3 miles into Semiahmoo Bay.
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁷: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁸ N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the 2023 Rule as amended, consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the 2023 Rule as amended. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
 - a. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A

⁶ This MFR should not be used to complete a new stand-alone TNW determination. A stand-alone TNW determination for a water that is not subject to Section 9 or 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) is completed independently of a request for an AJD. A stand-alone TNW determination is conducted for a specific segment of river or stream or other type of waterbody, such as a lake, where upstream or downstream limits or lake borders are established.

⁷ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁸ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

- b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A
- c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A
- e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A
- f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A
- g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁹ N/A
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

Swale 1: Swale 1 is approximately 175 feet long in the western portion of the review area. Swale 1 drains south to stormwater infrastructure as documented above. Swale is lined with gravel and does not have a defined bed and bank. No water or indicators of frequent or permanent flow were observed in Swale 1 during a site visit on 1 May 2025. Although Swale 1 connects downstream to a TNW, it does not meet the relatively permanent standard and therefore is not a water of the U.S.

Wetland C: Wetland C is an approximately 0.06 of an acre emergent depressional wetland. Wetland C drains to Swale 1, which is not considered a relatively permanent tributary as documented above. Swale 1 flows south to a stormwater inlet that drains to underground stormwater pipes that drain

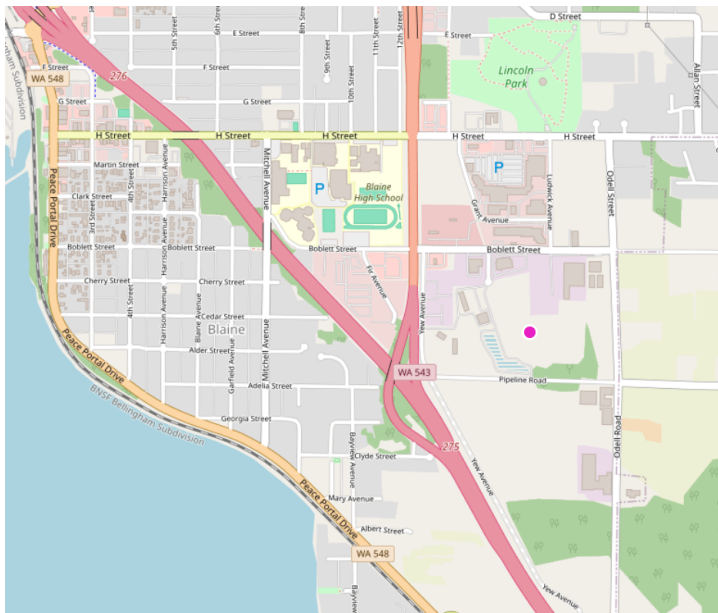
⁹ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

CENWS

SUBJECT: 2023 Rule, as amended, Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), NWS-2025-350

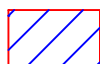
approximate 0.15 miles southwest to a stormwater pond. This stormwater pond outlets west to a forested depressional wetland adjacent to a ditch that flows west into Cain Creek, a tributary to Semiahmoo Bay. This physically remote hydrologic connection does not establish a continuous surface connection between Wetland C and Cain Creek per the memo to the field dated 12 March 2025 referenced above. Wetland C does not abut an (a)(1), (a)(2) or (a)(3) water. Therefore, Wetland C does not have a continuous surface connection to an (a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) waters and is not a water of the U.S.

9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. Site visit on 1 May 2025
 - b. "Wetland Packet" provided by Aqua-Terr Systems Incorporated on 14 April 2025
 - c. Washington State Fish Passage Map accessed on 5/6/25 at <https://geodataservices.wdfw.wa.gov/hp/fishpassage/index.html>
 - d. Washington State Department of Natural Resources LiDAR Portal accessed on 5/6/25 at <https://lidarportal.dnr.wa.gov/>
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A
11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

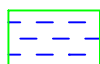


Existing Conditions Map - Aerial

Legend

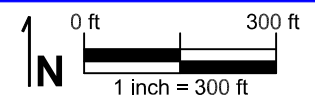


Wetland



Buffer

TC Trading-Boblette
Parcel # 4001065034060000,
4001065384260000,
4001065453820000
Blaine, WA
S06 T40N R01E WM
October 2024

[illegible]

Note: Base aerial provided by Google Earth (24 March 2024). Wetland points delineated and located by ATSI unless otherwise noted. Wetlands E and J rating not included as functionally isolated by Pipeline Rd and the stormwater pond, respectively. Wetland I not rated as functionally isolated by O'Dell St. Map does not constitute a legal land survey.

NWS-2025-350
5/6/25