
FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance and Instruction
WETLANDS

1. **Purpose and Scope:**

Provide general information and guidance on Fort Campbell's water resources and familiarize EQO's on federal laws and regulations regarding wetlands for installation compliance with applicable legislation..

2. **References:**

- a. AR 200-3, "Natural Resources - Land, Forest and Wildlife Management," February 1995.
- b. EPA Regulations pertaining to wetlands are contained in Title 40 CFR Part 230, Subpart E, Section 230.41 outlines the potential impacts of dredge and fill material on special aquatic sites, specifically wetlands. The regulatory program for USACE is contained in Title 33 CFR through 330, Part 222.
- c. Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual, 1987.
- d. DoD Directive 4700.1 through 4700.4, "Natural Resources Management Program," January 1989.

3. **Definitions:**

- a. Wetland: Collective term for lakes, rivers, streams, swamps, marshes, and similar areas that develop between open water and dry land.
- b. Pollutant: any foreign material (liquid or solid), soil disturbances, or other substance that are displaced into a wetland area.
- c. Impact: any activity that directly or indirectly influences changes to an area.

4. **General:**

- a. Fort Campbell's water resources occur as surface and ground water. Surface water appears as numerous intermittent and permanent streams, all part of the Cumberland River drainage, meandering throughout the reservation. Surface streams often flow into sinkholes, underground channels, and sinking streams; seeps often appear along stream beds and limestone outcrops. Two small impoundments (Lake Kyle and Lake Taal), each containing more than 1 hectare in surface area, are present, as are numerous small ponds, marshy lowlands, and beaver swamps.
- b. Ground water, water which flows beneath the surface through fractured limestone, is the water reserve which provides For Campbell's drinking water. Fort Campbell's quality of life is directly related to the quality and wise use of the resource.
- c. Many poorly drained and low lying areas hold water for most of the year. These sites are a valuable natural resource that help improve water quality, reduce flood and storm damage, provide wildlife habitat, support hunting and fishing activities, and provide educational and aesthetic promise. The majority of federal and state listed threatened and endangered species inhabit these unique areas.
- d. The federal Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Tennessee Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the pollution of water resources. Any impact or disturbance to a wetland is categorized as a pollutant.

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e. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with state and local governments, is responsible for protecting wetland resources. Federal wetland regulations are jointly administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the EPA. The CWA established a permit program to regulate activities within designated wetland areas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) have advisory roles in the permit review process. The EPA provides overall program leadership.

f. Any introduction of foreign material, either solid or liquid, degrades water and habitat quality. Any activities that impact or disturb a wetland area will eventually damage the water resource if left unchecked or reclaimed. Soil disturbances, including compaction can and do alter water resources.

g. Wetlands are protected areas and are currently identified on the PWBC GIS system. Any project or training activity which requires filling or disturbing a low area or depression should be referred to PWBC Conservation Branch for analysis to determine if the activity can be carried out legally and , if so, whether a permit is required.

5. Responsibilities:

a. The Commander/Director is responsible for ensuring guidance and EQO instructions are followed during his/her tenure.

b. The EQO is responsible for initiating a unit program to disseminate water resource information, and information acquired during the Bi-monthly EQO meeting.

6. Instruction:

a. Avoid activities in and around wetland areas that will produce extended soil compaction, excess runoff (erosion), or vehicular traffic through a suspected site. Police wetland areas for trash or other field residue to reduce degradation of aesthetic value and wildlife habitat.

b. All personnel assigned to Fort Campbell, both military and civilian, are environmental stewards for the installation and are an integral part in protecting the water resources.

7. Additional Guidance:

a. For additional guidance, information, and answers to your questions, contact Gene Zirkle, PWBC Environmental Division, Conservation Branch, 798- 2616.

b. For future reference, place this document behind *Tab Number 12* in your Fort Campbell Environmental Handbook.