

# CONSERVATION CROSSFEED

Notes from AFCEE/ECS

July 2002

**NEW REPORT**

An important and interesting report titled, "**Native American Sacred Sites and the Department of Defense**" was published in 1998. The noted Indian writer, Vine Deloria, Jr and Richard W. Stoffle edited the report. **Chapter 1** includes an Overview of Native American issues, Legal Basis for Interactions Regarding Cultural Resources, and a Summary of Major Findings. **Chapter 2**, titled Sacredness Among Native Americans, includes descriptions of religious contexts for sacred places in North America and Hawaii. **Chapter 3**, Kinds of Sacred Sites, includes discussions of various categories of sacred sites and brief examples of why specific locations are sacred. **Chapter 4**, Sacred Sites and Military Lands/Activities, discusses kinds of sites sacred to tribes located near military installations or operating areas in 23 states. **Chapter 5**, A Consultation Model, describes ideal methods for consultations between DOD installations and Indian tribes. **Chapter 6**, National Picture: DOD Interactions with Native American Groups, describes results of surveys on DOD consultations, access issues, and other interactions with American Indian groups. **Chapter 7** is a Case Study of (the) Exemplary Cultural Resource Program at Fort Hood, Texas. **Chapter 8**, The Consultation Process in the DOD, discusses cultural affiliation, contacting tribes, orientation meetings, consultation, policies, monitoring, terminating relations, and recommends ways to minimize problems created by personnel turnover on military installations. The report was, which was funded by the Legacy Resource Management Program, was published about the same time as the DOD American Indian and Alaska Native Policy. It anticipates the DOD policy and will help installations understand sacred sites issues and proper and appropriate consultation required under the policy. Find the report at the Denix website:

<<https://osiris.cso.uiuc.edu/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Legacy/Sacred/toc.html>>

For more information or technical assistance, please contact Dr. Jim Wilde (DSN 240-6546).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2002

Aug 4-9: Society of Ecological Restoration (SER) and Ecological Society of America (ESA) Joint Conference. Tucson AZ. Details: <http://www.esa.org/Tucson/> or <http://www.ser.org/>

Aug 12-16: Wildland Shrub Symposium XII: Seed and Soil Dynamics in Shrubland Ecosystems. Laramie, WY. Meeting website: <http://uwadmnweb.uwyo.edu/renewableresources> or contact the Symposium Chair, Dr. Ann Hild, University of Wyoming at (307)766-5471 or <mailto:AnnHild@uwyo.edu>.

Planning for '02 training

Need information on what/who/where/when? Go to the ECS web page "Management Training Courses"

(<http://www.afcee.brooks.af.mil/ec/cnr/training.htm>)

Or give one of us in ECS a call.



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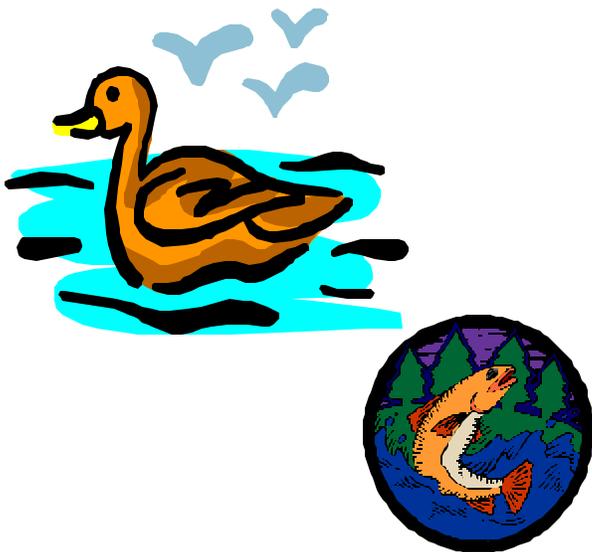
## ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED WETLANDS DESCRIBED IN NEW REPORT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a report on the ecology and extent of geographically isolated wetlands of the United States. The report is the first in a planned series of ecological reports, with maps, about important types of wetlands.

Isolated wetlands, which the report defines, are "wetlands with no apparent surface water connection to perennial rivers and streams, estuaries, or the ocean," have no surface water outlet. Because they are completely surrounded by uplands, they are vulnerable to changes in surrounding land use practices.

The report describes 19 types of isolated wetlands, such as the Nebraska Sandhills wetlands, Delmarva potholes, and Carolina Bay wetlands, and provides ecological profiles of their fish and wildlife conservation values. A series of computer-generated maps in the report depict the potential extent of geographically isolated wetlands in each of 72 selected study areas, designed to provide a cross-section of national conditions. The report indicates that geographically isolated wetlands appeared to be most extensive and abundant in subhumid to arid regions of the country where precipitation averages less than 24 inches a year, and in Florida's karst topography. More than half of the identified wetland acreage in eight of the 72 study areas - located in Nevada, Washington, Texas, Indiana, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Nebraska - was designated as isolated.

The report does not address the regulation of isolated wetlands and the maps do not depict isolated wetlands for jurisdictional purposes. The report and maps are available on the Internet at <http://wetlands.fws.gov/>



What is an "isolated" wetland? What functions do "isolated" wetlands perform? The Association of State Wetland Managers has put together this list of literature to assist you in your efforts to answer these questions. Please let us know of any other studies related to this topic so that we may include them. Note that this bibliography is quite extensive. Some of these citations may have only a passing relevance to isolated wetlands, as a relatively small portion of these documents were reviewed before this posting. In an effort to aid your research we have broken the citations into cross-referenced subtopics.

**From:** [Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc](http://aswm.org/index.htm)  
(<http://aswm.org/index.htm>)

If you have questions about isolated wetlands or wetlands in general, please call Mary Anderson (DSN 240-3808) or <mailto:Mary.Anderson@brooks.af.mil>.