

WETLAND DETERMINATION VERSUS DELINEATION

Wetland determination and delineation are distinct processes, both aimed at identifying wetlands, but with different purposes. Wetland determination establishes the presence or absence of wetlands on a property, while delineation focuses on marking the precise boundaries of those wetlands. Delineation is a more detailed process that is often necessary for permits and project planning, as it provides accurate mapping of wetland areas.

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Wetland Determination: (Also known as Wetland Identification program)

- Purpose: To identify whether wetlands exist on a property.
- Scope: Broad assessment of potential wetland areas.
- Methods: May involve desktop research, aerial imagery, and field observations.
- Example: Determining if a site has areas that meet the definition of a wetland.
 - [Wetland ID FAQ](#)

Wetland Delineation:

- Purpose: To define the exact boundaries of wetlands.
- Scope: Detailed field work and mapping of wetland areas.
- Methods: Uses tools like GPS, stakes, and aerial drones to precisely mark the perimeter of wetlands.
- Example: Mapping the precise edge of a wetland for a project permit.
 - [2025 Assured Delineators list](#)

Key Differences:

- Accuracy: Delineation provides more precise boundaries than determination.
- Purpose: Determination is often an initial step, while delineation is for detailed planning and permitting.
- Methods: Determination involves a broader assessment, while delineation requires more precise fieldwork and mapping.