



In this issue: Corps Ranger recovers from gunshot wound

District employee influences change in the arid southwest

By Kelsey Seeger, Public Affairs



Photo by Bruce Hill, Jr., USACE Public Affairs

Jim Wood, Regulatory Project Manager, receives the Commanders Award for Civilian Service in recognition of his significant contributions toward the development and implementation of the Arid Southwest Regional Wetland Delineation Supplement.

James Wood, a Regulatory Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Albuquerque District, has been working on the Arid Southwest Regional Wetland Delineation

Supplement since November 2003.

If the one-year trial period process that ends in January 2008 goes well, then the supplement will change the face of regula-

tory procedures that affect soil and hydrology throughout the arid southwest.

The Arid Southwest Regional Wetland Delineation Supple-

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ment came into existence when the corps was recommended to regionalize its supplements. The original Wetlands Delineation Manual from 1987 covered the United States as a whole, but was seen as a mistake by many members of the environmental community.

By having one single Wetland Delineation Manual, a “cookie cutter”, for the entire United States, the manual would effectively fail to address region-specific issues like seasonal wetlands that are located along waterways in the arid southwest and wetlands that form in sandy soils.

“The new supplement will be required for use in wetland delineations throughout the southwestern

U.S. and other arid climates,” said Eddie L. Paulsgrove, a Regulatory Project Manager and Special Emphasis Program Manager.

Wood, as part of an interagency team composed of Corps and other state and federal agency representatives who were actively engaged in organizing and putting the straight-forward supplement

together, worked with botanists, hydrologists, and many other people with certain specialties relevant to the arid southwest

with his teambuilding skills, that made the supplement a success.” “My favorite aspect was meeting all the different people involved

in this process,” said Wood. “Hopefully it will allow people to make more accurate delineations of wetlands in the Arid West.”

“In working with Jim, the thing I admire most is his attitude or approach of making it work,” said Kenneth Scheffe, a U.S. Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service State Soil Scientist for New Mexico who also helped review the new manual. He is easy going and an active listener. He makes whoever is speaking or asking questions feel valued.”

The Arid Southwest Region Wetland Delineation Supplement will be the second regional supplement with Alaska having been the first. It is currently undergoing a one-year trial period whereby the public can submit comment and recommendation to the Corps until January 2008. 



Photo by Jim Wood, Regulatory Project Manager

An interagency group, pictured above, physically came together for the first time at Bosque del Apache in New Mexico in the spring of 2005 to test the arid west wetlands supplement at various sites in New Mexico. The group consisted of members from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and New Mexico Environment Department.

from many different other organizations.

“The manual was developed in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other State, Federal and parties with a vested interest,” said Paulsgrove. “Thus, it was due to Jim’s multidisciplinary knowledge, along