Tom Duebendorfer - Professional Wetland Scientist,
Biologist

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REGULATORY DIVISION
COEUR D'ALENE

June 16, 2007

Beth Reinhart
US Army Corps of Engineers
ID Panhandle National Forest Building
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene ID 83815

Re: Sudnikovich Property, Nordman Area, Bonner Co, ID
Sackett Wetland Issues

Dear Beth:

I was asked to examine the site where fill from a property owned by Chantell Sackett was deposited. Please review the enclosed documents. I do not believe the site used as a "dumpsite" for wetland soils is wetland.

If you have any further questions or concerns, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank you,

Tom Duebendorfer

Tom Duebendorfer, PWS

c: Wetland Letter Report; Figures, Data Sheets, Photographs

PO Box 167, Elmira, ID 83865 tdueb@wildblue.net (208) 290-5992

Tom Duebendorfer - Professional Wetland Scientist (#000157), Biologist

June 15, 2007

Mike and Chantell Sackett
PO Box 425
Nordman, Idaho 83848
443-2297
Exemption 6 - Personal Privacy

Re: Sudnikovich Property, Nordman area, Bonner County, ID
Assessment of Wetland Potential at "dumpsite"

Dear Chantell:

Per your request, on June 15, 2007, I investigated the Sudnikovich property to assess the potential that fill may have been placed in a regulated "Water of the US". The material originated from your "wetland" property on Kalispell Bay Road. The underlying material on that lot was not suitable for the construction of a building pad and home—thus the Sudnikovich property was chosen as the depository for the wetland soils prior to deposition of gravel on that lot (Tax #107, 12-60N-5W).

The Sudnikovich property is a privately owned parcel located in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 61 North, Range 5 West, B.M., just west of where Kalispell Road leaves State Route 57 near Milepost 34. I investigated the area surrounding the recently placed material to determine if the material could have been placed on an existing wetland. I used the US Army Corps of Engineers 1987 Methodology to determine if the area adjacent the fill could be identified as jurisdictional wetland using that methodology, completed three formal Data Plots, and took photographs of the area surrounding the placed material (see accompanying figures).

Existing Conditions

The area surrounding the recently placed material consists of a benched area south of, and topographically above the Kalispell Creek channel. Evidently there was some fill placed (and possibly formed a portion of the bench) in the 1960's by the Idaho Transportation Department during re-alignment of State Route 57 at the junction of Kalispell Creek Road and SR 57. Thus vegetatively, the benched area would be considered "disturbed". There is a roadside ditch along the north side of Kalispell Creek Road from a short entrance road into the property, which shunts the Hager Lake watershed runoff to the west where it connects with another ditch running roughly north to discharge into Kalispell Creek (see attached figures).

Near the road, the topography gradually drops toward the creek area where the bench becomes the creek "top-of-bank" (roughly three feet higher than present water level). The overall drop in slope of the bench is shallow, but probably approaches 8 feet from the road to the top-of-bank over a distance of roughly 200 feet.

A short length of silt fence was placed approximately 8 feet from the top-of-bank of Kalispell Creek near the northern edge of the fill. The fill is about 15 feet back from the silt fence. The area of fill is roughly 75 feet by 108 feet (ca. 8,100 square feet in extent) and ranges from 1 foot to about 4 feet higher than the surrounding ground.

Kalispell Creek flows roughly east to southeast and was about 3 to 5 feet wide and less than one foot deep during the mid-June site investigation. The top-of-bank was about 3 feet plus higher than the observed water level on that date. The bank is dominated by spiraea, snowberry, serviceberry, and scattered patchy willow and alder.

Results of Site Investigation

Vegetation in the relatively flat bench consists primarily of quackgrass (FAC-), tansy (NI), Kentucky bluegrass (FAC), Canada thistle (FACU), with lesser amounts of patchy canarygrass (FACW) nearer the north-trending ditch, and scattered patches of *Carex microptera* (FAC), red fescue (FAC), and cow parsnip (FAC). Overall, the vegetation is not hydrophytic though some small areas are dominated by FAC species.

Soils were investigated at three formal Data Plots. The upper horizon is a 10YR 3/2 silt loam with few, fine, faint 7.5YR 4/4 and 4/5 redoximorphic features from about 14" and below. The second horizon is a fine to medium-textured light-colored sand ranging in depth from about 9" closest to the creek (at Data Plot 1) to 16" (at Data Plot 3). Strong hydric indicators were not observed.

Hydrology (free water or even moist soils) were not noted in any of the soil pits. There was one small (20' by 25') area near the southwest edge of the filled material that appeared to have evidence of short-term early spring ponding (at Data Plot 3; see Figure 3 and the Photographs). Otherwise I did not see any indication of surface ponding near the edge of fill out to more than 75 feet from the edge of fill. It appears extremely unlikely that high flows from Kalispell Creek would enter and saturate the bench area: it does not appear to be an active floodplain.

Conclusion

Based on the three data plots and time spent walking the entire area surrounding the recently placed material, it is my professional opinion that except for a very small (2' wide by 10' long) area of the upper terminus of the roadside ditch, the fill was not placed on a wetland, and the immediately surrounding area (out to about 75 feet or more from the edge of fill to the west) would not be considered jurisdictional wetland per the 1987 Corps Wetland Delineation Manual. The north edge of the recently placed material lies about 23 feet from the top-of-bank of Kalispell Creek where I would draw the wetland/upland boundary in that area.

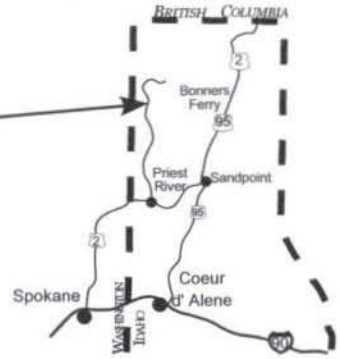
Thus my interpretation of the site conditions as they exist today is that the fill was not placed in a wetland.

Should you have any questions concerning this letter report, please call me at (208) 290-5992.

Sincerely,

Tom Duebendorfer, PWS

encls: Figure 1 - Vicinity Map
Figure 2 - Aerial Photograph and Overview Location Map
Figure 3 - Aerial Photograph, Fill, Data Plot, and Photograph Location Map
Photograph Sheets (2)
Data Forms (3)



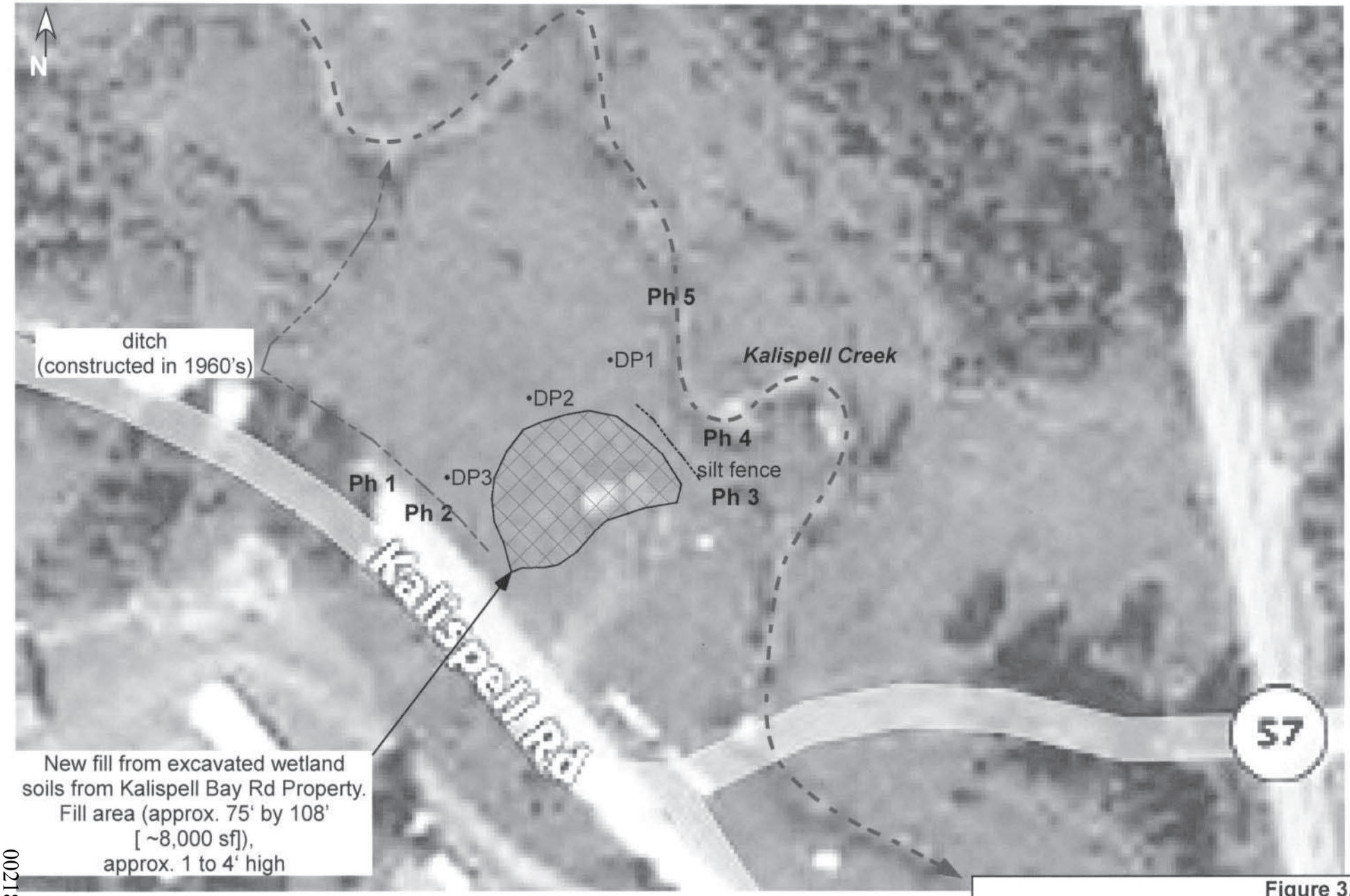
continue north on SR 57 to Milepost 34

to Priest River

no scale:
source: De Lorme

FIGURE 1
VICINITY MAP
SUDNIKOVICH PROPERTY

Figure 2.
Aerial photograph and Fill area Overview
Sudnikovich Property
Sackett "dumpsite"



100'

Data Plot detail in Data Sheets
Photographs shown and described in Photosheet
Fill is largely wetland mucky soil, moved here because of unsuitability for use at proposed building pad on Kalispell Creek Rd site

Figure 3.
Aerial photograph, Fill area, Data Plot and Photograph Locations
Sudnikovich Property
Sackett "dumpsite"

Photograph Sheet #1
(6/15/07)

Photo-montage 1: View west -> north -> east from Kalispell Rd. View across "meadow". Dominant vegetation is quackgrass and tansy, with lesser amounts or thistle, bluegrass, and canarygrass. Blue lines are ditches excavated (probably) in mid-1960's when original area was filled (by ITD) as main road was moved east to present location.

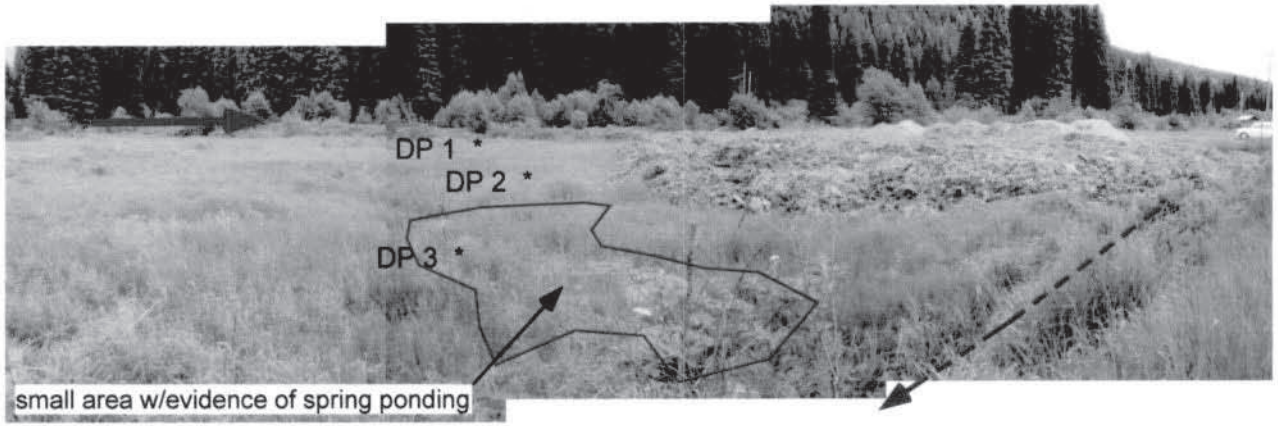


Photo-montage 2: View north from Kalispell Rd. View across "meadow". Kalispell Creek in background at red arrow (spiraea and willows). Dominant vegetation in meadow is quackgrass and tansy, with lesser amounts of thistle, bluegrass, and canarygrass. Closed blue line indicates only area noted with some evidence of short-term seasonal ponding (possibly to 6"?). Vegetation at Data Plot 3 is quackgrass and tansy. Soils were 10YR 3/2 to a sand layer at 16". Very slight to no mottling.

Photograph Sheet #2
(6/15/07)

Photomontage #3: View from north end of fill, view west. Creek at right (red arrow). Silt fence at black arrow. Silt fence is 15' north of edge of fill. Top-of-bank of creek is 8' north of silt fence. Wetland edge is at top-of-bank.

Photomontage #4: View west from creek near top-of-bank of creek. Comments as in Photo #3. Only vegetation at top-of-bank is wetland.

Photomontage #5: View from northwest end of fill, view south and west. Creek at right (red arrow). Data Plots shown. This vegetation is disturbed, heavy v tansy and quackgrass; few cow parsnip, and (possibly) remnant sedge (less than 3% overall in "meadow"). Other grasses include Kentucky bluegra orchardgrass, canarygrass (few patches) and fescue. Overall, the vegetation is not hydrophytic, though some hydrophytes are present in small cover amounts. Soils at the Data Plots all similar - 10YR 3/2 with few, fine, faint mottling (7.5YR 4/4) with a sand layer at 9" (DP 1), 14" (DP 2); and 16" (DP 3). No strong hy indicators, nor was there evidence of ponding in majority of meadow. No hydrology in soils, nor were the soils moist at 16".

DATA FORM
WETLAND DETERMINATION

Project/Site:	Sudnikovich Property			Date:	6/15/07
Applicant/Owner:	Sudnikovich (dumpsite of dredged material by Sackett)			County:	Bonner
Investigator:	Tom Duebendorfer, PWS			State:	ID
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site?	Yes X	No		Community ID:	
Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation):	Yes	No X		Transect ID:	
Is the area a potential Problem Area?	Yes	No X		Plot ID:	1

VEGETATION

Species	Indicator Status	Areal Cover (%)	Cover Class	Cover Class Midpoint	Rank
Herbs:					
Elytrigia repens	FAC-	70	5	63.0	1
Tanacetum vulgare	NI	50	4	38.0	1
Phalaris arundinacea	FACW	10	2	10.5	2
Shrubs:					
Saplings:					
Trees:					

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC, excluding FAC-: 0%

Remarks:

Vegetation is not hydrophytic; less than 50% of observed dominants are considered hydrophyte

Cover class midpoints: T<1% (none): 1 = 1-5% (3.0); 2 = 6-15% (10.5); 3 = 16-25% (20.5); 4 = 26-50% (38.0); 5 = 51-75% (63.0); 6 = 76-95% (85.5); 7 = 96-100% (98.0).

To determine the dominant species, first rank the species by the midpoints of their cover classes. Then, cumulatively sum the midpoints of the ranked species until 50% of the total for all species' midpoints (for each layer) is immediately exceeded. All species contributing to that cumulative total plus any additional species having 20% of the total midpoint value should be considered dominants, and marked with an asterisk.

SOILS

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase):	unmapped by the USDA	Drainage Class:	unknown
Taxonomic Classification:	unknown	On hydric soils list?	unknown

Soil Profile Description

Depth	Horizon	Matrix Color	Mottle Color	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0 - 9"	A	10YR 4/3		none	silt loam
9" +	B	light		few, fine, faint	fine sand

Hydric Soil Indicators: **NONE**

- Histosol
- Histic Epipedon
- Sulfidic Odor
- Aquic Moisture Regime
- Reducing Conditions
- Gleyed or Low Chroma Colors
- Concretions
- High Organic Content in Surface Layer in Sandy Soils
- Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils
- Listed on Local Hydric Soils List
- Listed on National Hydric Soils List
- Other (explain in remarks)

Remarks: Hydric indicators not observed

HYDROLOGY

none Recorded Data (describe in remarks)

- Stream, Lake, or Tidal Gage
- Aerial Photographs
- Other (explain in remarks)
- No recorded Data available

Field Observations:

Depth of Surface Water:	**>>16"**	inches
Depth to Free Water in Pit:	**>>16"**	inches
Depth to Saturated Soil:	**>>16"**	inches

Wetland Hydrology Indicators: **none**

Primary Indicators:

- Inundated
- Saturated in Upper 12 Inches
- Water Marks
- Sediment Deposits
- Drainage Patterns in Wetlands

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required):

- Oxidized Root Channels in upper 12"
- Water-Stained Leaves
- Local Soil Survey Data
- FAC-Neutral Test
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Remarks: Hydrology or indicators thereof not observed

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	**NO**		
Hydric Soils Present?	**NO**	Is this Data Plot within a wetland?	**NO**
Wetland Hydrology Present?	**NO**		

Rationale: None of the three required parameters observed nor indicated

DATA FORM
WETLAND DETERMINATION

Project/Site:	Sudnikovich Property			Date:	6/15/07
Applicant/Owner:	Sudnikovich (dumpsite of dredged material by Sackett)			County:	Bonner
Investigator:	Tom Duebendorfer, PWS			State:	ID
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site?	Yes X	No		Community ID:	
Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation):	Yes	No X		Transect ID:	
Is the area a potential Problem Area?	Yes	No X		Plot ID:	2

VEGETATION

Species	Indicator Status	Areal Cover (%)	Cover Class	Cover Class Midpoint	Rank
Herbs:					
Poa pratensis	FAC	40	4	38.0	1
Tanacetum vulgare	NI	50	4	38.0	1
Cirsium arvense	FACU	25	3	20.5	2
Carex microptera	FAC	5	1	3.0	3
Shrubs:					
Saplings:					
Trees:					

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC, excluding FAC-: 50%

Remarks:

Vegetation is not hydrophytic; **greater** than 50% of observed dominants must be hydrophytes

Cover class midpoints: T<1% (none): 1 = 1-5% (3.0); 2 = 6-15% (10.5); 3 = 16-25% (20.5); 4 = 26-50% (38.0); 5 = 51-75% (63.0); 6 = 76-95% (85.5); 7 = 96-100% (98.0).

To determine the dominant species, first rank the species by the midpoints of their cover classes. Then, cumulatively sum the midpoints of the ranked species until 50% of the total for all species' midpoints (for each layer) is immediately exceeded. All species contributing to that cumulative total plus any additional species having 20% of the total midpoint value should be considered dominants, and marked with an asterisk.

SOILS

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase):	unmapped by the USDA	Drainage Class:	unknown
Taxonomic Classification:	unknown	On hydric soils list?	unknown

Soil Profile Description

Depth	Horizon	Matrix Color	Mottle Color	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0 - 12"	A	10YR 4/3		none	silt loam
12-14"	A2	10YR 3/2	7.5YR 4/4	few, fine, faint	silt loam
14" +	B	light		none	fine sand

Hydric Soil Indicators: **NONE**

- Histosol
- Histic Epipedon
- Sulfidic Odor
- Aquic Moisture Regime
- Reducing Conditions
- Gleyed or Low Chroma Colors
- Concretions
- High Organic Content in Surface Layer in Sandy Soils
- Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils
- Listed on Local Hydric Soils List
- Listed on National Hydric Soils List
- Other (explain in remarks)

Remarks: Hydric indicators extremely marginal

HYDROLOGY

none Recorded Data (describe in remarks)

- Stream, Lake, or Tidal Gage
- Aerial Photographs
- Other (explain in remarks)
- No recorded Data available

Field Observations:

Depth of Surface Water:	**>>16"**	inches
Depth to Free Water in Pit:	**>>16"**	inches
Depth to Saturated Soil:	**>>16"**	inches

Wetland Hydrology Indicators: **none**

Primary Indicators:

- Inundated
- Saturated in Upper 12 Inches
- Water Marks
- Sediment Deposits
- Drainage Patterns in Wetlands

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required):

- Oxidized Root Channels in upper 12"
- Water-Stained Leaves
- Local Soil Survey Data
- FAC-Neutral Test
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Remarks: Hydrology or indicators thereof not observed

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	**NO***		
Hydric Soils Present?	**NO**	Is this Data Plot within a wetland?	**NO**
Wetland Hydrology Present?	**NO**		

Rationale: None of the three required parameters observed nor indicated; though the dominant vegetation is about 50% (between two non-native species)

DATA FORM
WETLAND DETERMINATION

Project/Site:	Sudnikovich Property			Date:	6/15/07
Applicant/Owner:	Sudnikovich (dumpsite of dredged material by Sackett)			County:	Bonner
Investigator:	Tom Duebendorfer, PWS			State:	ID
Do Normal Circumstances exist on the site?	Yes X	No		Community ID:	
Is the site significantly disturbed (Atypical Situation):	Yes	No X		Transect ID:	
Is the area a potential Problem Area?	Yes	No X		Plot ID:	3

VEGETATION

Species	Indicator Status	Areal Cover (%)	Cover Class	Cover Class Midpoint	Rank
Herbs:					
Elytrigia repens	FAC-	70	5	63.0	1
Tanacetum vulgare	NI	50	4	38.0	1
Heracleum lanatum	FAC	10	2	10.5	2
Shrubs:					
Saplings:					
Trees:					

Percent of Dominant Species that are OBL, FACW, or FAC, excluding FAC-: 0%

Remarks:
Vegetation is not hydrophytic; less than 50% of observed dominants are considered hydrophytes

Cover class midpoints: T<1% (none): 1 = 1-5% (3.0); 2 = 6-15% (10.5); 3 = 16-25% (20.5); 4 = 26-50% (38.0); 5 = 51-75% (63.0); 6 = 76-95% (85.5); 7 = 96-100% (98.0).

To determine the dominant species, first rank the species by the midpoints of their cover classes. Then, cumulatively sum the midpoints of the ranked species until 50% of the total for all species' midpoints (for each layer) is immediately exceeded. All species contributing to that cumulative total plus any additional species having 20% of the total midpoint value should be considered dominants, and marked with an asterisk.

SOILS

Map Unit Name (Series and Phase):	unmapped by the USDA	Drainage Class:	unknown
Taxonomic Classification:	unknown	On hydric soils list?	unknown

Soil Profile Description

Depth	Horizon	Matrix Color	Mottle Color	Mottle Abundance/Contrast	Texture, Concretions, Structure, etc.
0 - 16"	A	10YR 3/2		none	silt loam
16"+	B	light		none	fine sand

Hydric Soil Indicators: **NONE**

- Histosol
- Histic Epipedon
- Sulfidic Odor
- Aquic Moisture Regime
- Reducing Conditions
- Gleyed or Low Chroma Colors
- Concretions
- High Organic Content in Surface Layer in Sandy Soils
- Organic Streaking in Sandy Soils
- Listed on Local Hydric Soils List
- Listed on National Hydric Soils List
- Other (explain in remarks)

Remarks: Hydric indicators lacking nor indicated; although area appears to pond early in the season

HYDROLOGY

none Recorded Data (describe in remarks)

- Stream, Lake, or Tidal Gage
- Aerial Photographs
- Other (explain in remarks)
- No recorded Data available

Field Observations:

Depth of Surface Water:	**>>16"**	inches
Depth to Free Water in Pit:	**>>16"**	inches
Depth to Saturated Soil:	**>>16"**	inches

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators:
- Inundated
- Saturated in Upper 12 Inches
- Water Marks
- Sediment Deposits
- X Drainage Patterns in Wetlands

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required):
- Oxidized Root Channels in upper 12"
- Water-Stained Leaves
- Local Soil Survey Data
- FAC-Neutral Test
- Other (Explain in Remarks)

Remarks: Indications of short-term ponding evident because of retarded plant inflorescence emergence and surface features

WETLAND DETERMINATION

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	**NO***	Is this Data Plot within a wetland?	**NO**
Hydric Soils Present?	**NO**		
Wetland Hydrology Present?	**YES**		

Rationale: Surface features and late plant emergence suggest short-term wetland hydrology may be present at this 20' x 25' depression (slightly topographically lower than surrounding). Vegetation not hydrophytic nor do the soils show any significant hydric indicators—however soils could be considered hydric due to ponding (Criterion 2B2) but duration is unknown.