California Rapid Assessment Method
Results from the 2011 National Wetland Condition Assessment

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May 2, 2012
National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference
The Course Ahead

• California’s NWCA sites
• CRAM Structure
• Preliminary Results
• Highlights of the Survey
• Issues and Next Steps
California Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands and Riparian Areas (CRAM)
What is CRAM?

- Expert “walk and talk” diagnostic tool for all wetlands in California
- Less than 3 hrs field time, team of 2-3
- Required expertise comparable to jurisdictional delineation
- It’s simple, but not easy
CRAM Design: Attributes

- CRAM recognizes four attributes of wetland condition
- Each attribute is represented by 2-3 metrics, some of which have sub-metrics.
CRAM Design: Metrics

- **Wetland Condition**
  - **Landscape Context**
    - Landscape Connectivity
    - Buffer
  - **Hydrology**
  - **Physical Structure**
  - **Biotic Structure**
Depressional Wetland Cumulative Frequency Distribution (CFD)
Estuarine CFD

[Graph showing cumulative percentage against CRAM Score]
Metric Scores for Depressional and Estuarine Wetlands

The diagram compares the scores of various wetland metrics between Depressional (blue line) and Estuarine (green line) wetlands. The metrics include:
- Landscape Connectivity
- Vertical Biotic Structure
- Interspersion
- Plant Community
- Topographic Complexity
- Structural Patch Richness
- Buffer
- Water Source
- Hydroperiod
- Hydrologic Connectivity

The scores range from 0 to 100, with Depressional wetlands generally showing lower scores across most metrics compared to Estuarine wetlands.
Field Highlights
Thunder and Lighting
Puzzles
Successes
Not so Fun Times
Challenging Conditions
Beautiful Wetlands
USA RAM: Percent with Buffer

- Every single site had 100% buffer
- Most sites in large wetland complexes
- Very little variability for analysis
USA RAM: Buffer Width
Issues and Next Steps

- Lack of access to detailed wetland maps resulted in clustered site selection
- CA is developing a Status and Trends program that will include intensive mapping
- Integrate new maps into sample frame for 2016 NWCA
Thank you
Questions?