

### **Tom's Baker's Dozen Take Home messages**

You are ground-truthing to tell us how accurate our maps are. You're also helping us build a database of Verified Ephemeral Ponds (VEPs) for future studies. We mapped over 8,000 Potential Ephemeral Ponds (PEPs) in the project area. We don't need to visit every PEP to get a reasonable accuracy estimate, but we want to check as many as possible to add to our inventory of VEPs. So our goal for this season is to ask you for less data, but allow you to be more focused on getting the data we need most. You're not in this alone, we are again getting the assistance of several counties to do field checks.

1. We want you to visit a minimum of 3 sites. Doing more than that is great! Don't monitor VEPs. This year is all about adding new sites and checking "not sure" sites from last year.
2. Visiting sites repeatedly is key to this monitoring effort. Shoot for once per month.
3. Be sure you get landowner/land manager permission to visit a site. If you're on public land its good to let the land manager know you'll be visiting over the spring and summer. For private land give the owner your name and a phone number and let them know you're coming before each visit if you can.
4. Use one field sheet for each visit. Always include the date and PEP ID number. The back of the sheet is for an optional sketch, any comments and listing photos. Use a mechanical pencil.
5. Fill out the sheet based on conditions that day. If unsure about what to answer, don't agonize, it may become clear next time. Multiple site visits will help you and us.
6. The two most important things we want to know are: is there a ponded basin and what is the water depth. An estimate is better than no data on depth.
7. A rough estimate of basin dimensions is important, but only needs to be done once.
8. Your comments are valuable to us, especially if they clarify your choice in box 10.
9. Taking photos is a great idea. Be sure to list them on the back of the form using the naming convention in the Instructions, always include the PEP number and date. If you don't label your photos the way we ask, we may not be able to use them.
10. You do not need to give us GPS coordinates, unless you discover a pond we haven't mapped. If you have any doubt you're in the right place and you have a GPS, take a set of coordinates, and send them to your Partner to check.
11. Turn in your data sheets and your time/mileage log to your Partner when your ponds have all dried out or you've determined their status. It's ok to continue to monitor them if you want, since some ponds will fill back up again if there is sufficient rainfall. Just let your Partner know what you're up to and send in the extra data.
12. It's OK not to know! If you don't know something, don't be afraid to ask. Partners, program coordinators / resource people are all available to help you. Their contact information is in your folders. Go to your Partner first, they can refer you to resource personnel.
13. Fill in the data sheet as completely as possible. Double check before you leave the field! Always, Always include PEP ID and date.