

California Rapid Assessment Method for Wetlands (CRAM)

Quality Assurance



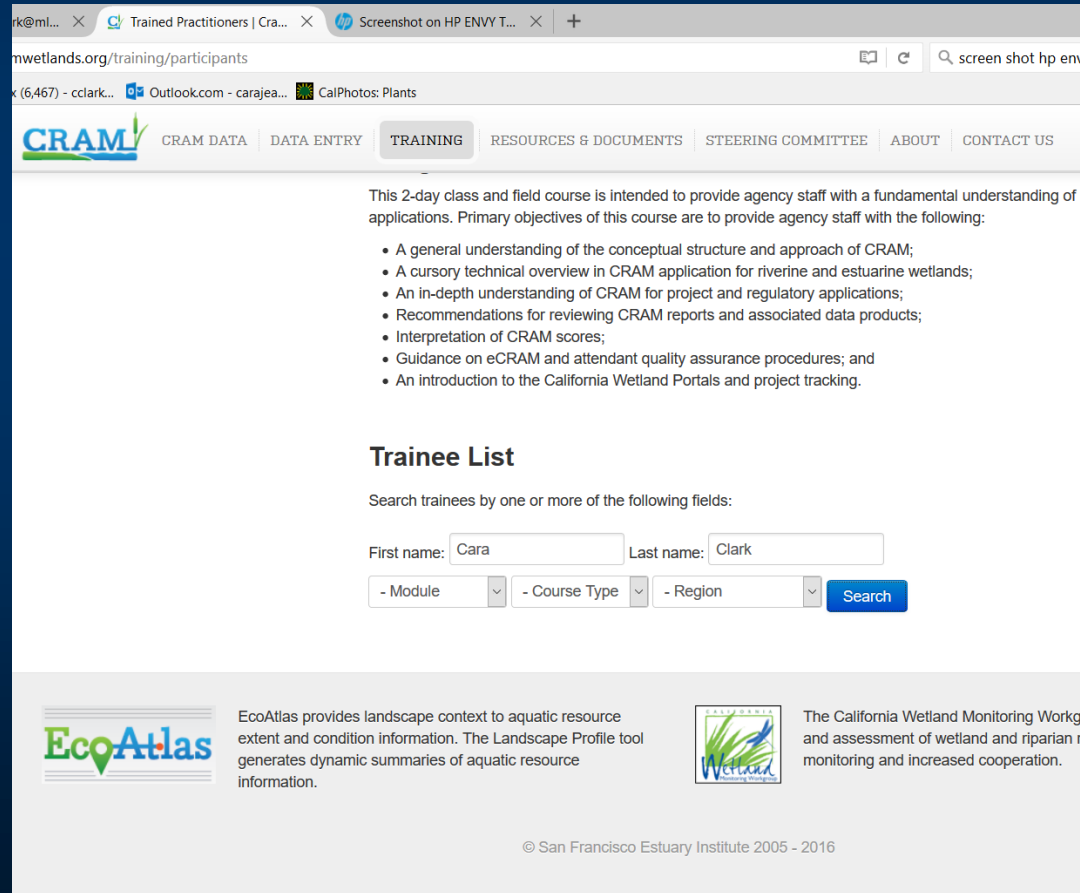
Desktop Review

- Red flags that can be identified from a desktop review
- Online reconnaissance



Assessment Teams

- At least one member of the assessment team should be trained in CRAM: practitioners who have been trained are listed on the website
- At least two team members (no one-person CRAMs)



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL mwetlands.org/training/participants. The page features a navigation bar with links: CRAM DATA, DATA ENTRY, TRAINING (highlighted), RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS, STEERING COMMITTEE, ABOUT, and CONTACT US. The main content area describes a 2-day class and field course, listing its primary objectives:

- A general understanding of the conceptual structure and approach of CRAM;
- A cursory technical overview in CRAM application for riverine and estuarine wetlands;
- An in-depth understanding of CRAM for project and regulatory applications;
- Recommendations for reviewing CRAM reports and associated data products;
- Interpretation of CRAM scores;
- Guidance on eCRAM and attendant quality assurance procedures; and
- An introduction to the California Wetland Portals and project tracking.

Below the objectives is a section titled "Trainee List" with a search prompt: "Search trainees by one or more of the following fields:". The search form includes input fields for "First name:" (containing "Cara") and "Last name:" (containing "Clark"). Below these are three dropdown menus labeled "- Module", "- Course Type", and "- Region", followed by a blue "Search" button.

At the bottom of the page, there are two logos: "EcoAtlas" and "The California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup". The EcoAtlas logo is accompanied by text: "EcoAtlas provides landscape context to aquatic resource extent and condition information. The Landscape Profile tool generates dynamic summaries of aquatic resource information." The Wetland Monitoring Workgroup logo is accompanied by text: "The California Wetland Monitoring Workgroup provides monitoring and increased cooperation." The footer of the page states: "© San Francisco Estuary Institute 2005 - 2016".

Timing of Assessments

- Not more than 3 CRAMs per day (some exceptions)
- The optimal time of year is during the growing season of annual plants:
 - NOT December to February
 - May vary with different wetland types

Gestalt of Wetland Quality

- The “laugh test”
- Does the score match your BPJ of overall condition/quality/health
- Examples:
 - Score >80 at a site surrounded by development
 - Score <60 at a site in open space

This is probably not a 92



This is probably not a 42



Size and Shape of AA

- Size: not bigger than maximum size or smaller than minimum size
 - Stream reach > 200 m or < 100 m
 - Estuarine AA > 1 Hectare
- Not extending more than 5 m into upland
 - Riverine terraces
- Not including more than one wetland/wetland type

Stream Corridor Continuity

- Measurements can be checked from the desktop
- Did they miss breaks in continuity?

Buffer Measurements

- Lines should not cross
- Should not be < 5 m or > 250 m
- Misidentification of buffer land types:
 - Lines going through buildings or sports fields
 - Lines truncated at areas that should be buffer: trails or infrequently used dirt roads

Plant Community

- Number of co-dominant plants: should not be >12 or <3
 - Special circumstances may be an exception
- Usually not all layers are present
 - Consistently awarding all layers could be a red flag

Data Availability

- Scores should be entered in eCRAM
- Can be checked online
 - If public, anyone can view
 - If private, practitioner can provide an eCRAM ID to show that data has been entered



Thank you