Dominant Wetland Covers

1. **Open Water**: Refers to wetland with water depths of one to three metres (3 to 10 feet), associated with any of the other wetland classes, but usually with deep / shallow marshes or salt marshes. Submergent and surface vegetation are dominant.
2. **Deep Marsh**: This class applies to wetlands with an average water depth between 10 centimetres and 1 metre (6 inches and 3 feet) during the growing season. Emergent marsh vegetation is usually dominant, with surface and submergent plants present in open areas.
3. **Shallow Marsh**: This class applies to wetlands dominated usually by robust or marsh emergents, with an average water depth less than 15 centimetres (6 inches) during the growing season. Surface water may be absent during the late summer and abnormally dry periods. Floating-leaved plants and submergents are often present in open areas.
4. **Seasonally Flooded Flats:** This class applies to extensive river floodplains where flooding to a depth of 30 centimetres (12 inches) or more occurs annually during late fall, winter and spring. During the summer, the soil is saturated, with a few inches of surface water occurring locally. Dominant vegetation usually is emergent, but shrubs and scattered trees may be present.
5. **Meadow:** This class applies to wetland dominated by meadow emergents with up to 15 centimetres (6 inches) surface water during the late fall, winter and early spring. During the growing season the soil is saturated, and the surface exposed except in shallow depressions and drainage ditches. Meadows occur most commonly on agricultural land where periodic grazing or mowing keeps shrubs from becoming established. The structural differences in meadow vegetation often result from grazing; therefore, meadows have been divided into grazed and ungrazed subclasses (2).
6. **Shrub Swamp:** This class applies to wetlands dominated by shrubs where the soil surface is seasonally or permanently flooded with as much as 30 centimetres (12 inches) of water. Sedges (*Carex* spp.) are often the ground cover under shrubs with meadow emergents occupying wetter areas.
7. **Wooded Swamp:** This class refers to wetlands dominated by trees growing in a muck soil. The soil surface may be seasonally flooded with up to 30 centimetres (12 inches) of water. Several levels of vegetation are usually present including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants. In mature wooded swamps, differences in elevation may result in pronounced micro-habitats (micro topography), where trees and shrubs occupy the drier areas and marsh emergents and ferns may occupy the ephemeral pools of standing water.

8. **Bog:** This class applies to wetlands where the accumulation of *Sphagnum* moss, as peat, determines the nature of the plant community. Young bogs commonly have floating peat mats that creep outward from shore over the surface of open water. *Picea mariana* and *Larix laricina* are typical tree species. *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Kalmia angustifolia*, *Sarracenia purpurea*, and *Eriophorum* spp. are characteristic plants found in bogs throughout the Northeast.
9. **Salt Marsh:** An area with mineral soils, potentially overlain by organics of variable depth, that is periodically inundated with salt or brackish water and supports the growth of salt-tolerant emergent vegetation.