

# Model Mitigation Plan Checklist & NRC Mitigation Guidelines

Mitigation Stakeholders Forum

September 20-22, 2004

Tampa, FL



# Outline

- 2003 – Model Mitigation Plan Checklist
- 2003 – Incorporating the NRC Mitigation Guidelines into the Section 404 Program
- Status – Corps District Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines



# Model Mitigation Plan Checklist

- Called for in the Mitigation Action Plan
- Purpose:
  - Facilitate submission of required information by permit applicants early in the process
  - Allow more effective participation and project review during public notice
  - Minimize delays in the permit decision-making process



# Components of Checklist:

1. Mitigation Goals and Objectives
2. Baseline Information for Impact Site and Proposed Mitigation Site
3. Mitigation Site Selection and Justification
4. Mitigation Work Plan



# Components of Checklist:

5. Performance Standards
6. Site Protection and Maintenance
7. Monitoring Plan
8. Adaptive Management Plan
9. Financial Assurance



# Adapt NRC Mitigation Guidelines

1. Consider the hydrogeomorphic, ecological landscape, and climate.
2. Adopt a dynamic landscape perspective.
3. Restore/develop a naturally variable hydrological conditions.
4. Choose wetland restoration over creation.
5. Avoid over-engineered structures.
6. Attention to appropriate planting elevation, depth, soil type, and seasonal timing.
7. Provide heterogeneous topography.
8. Attention to subsurface conditions:
9. Consider complications with working in degraded or disturbed sites.
10. Conduct monitoring as part of adaptive management.



# Adapt NRC Mitigation Guidelines

- Organized the 10 guidelines into two categories:
  - Basic requirements for Success
  - Mitigation Site Selection
- Added supplementary text to aid regulators in interpreting and implementing guidelines
- Goal: Integrate into Section 404 Program



# District Mitigation Guidelines

- Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines in all 38 Corps Districts
  - Public Notices December 2003
  - Finalize by June 2004
- Provided 15 examples for Districts to use as models
- District Guidelines include completed MAP work products:
  - Model Mitigation Plan Checklist [2003]
  - Adaptation of NRC Guidelines to CWA Section 404 Program [2003]





# Status of District Web Postings

To date:

- 24 Districts Posted Checklists and Guidance
- 2 States (Texas and Arkansas) given extensions to complete consolidated checklists with the states
- 12 not yet posted

