

# National Wetland Mitigation Forum July 29, 03

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# Mitigation Highlights

- **Creation** more successful than anticipated
- **Enhancement** is problematic
  - Different actions provide different levels of ecological lift
  - Vegetative manipulation not sufficient
  - Enhancement activities generally overvalued
  - Greater credit for process restoration



# Mitigation Policy Issues

- **No net loss of area &/or function?**
- **Cross-resource tradeoffs**
- **Urban vs. Rural**



# Implementing a Watershed Approach

## Challenges

- Regulatory/Legal
- Technical



# Implementing a Watershed Approach

## **Challenges: Regulatory**

1. Guidance on Mitigation Requirements  
**Environmentally preferable**
2. Role of Preservation
3. Split mitigation requirements
4. Nexus with impacted functions



# Regulatory challenges

## **Out of kind mitigation :**

Using non-wetland restoration as mitigation needs to have clearly articulated nexus between functions lost and functions provided by the buffer, riparian or upland habitat mitigation. Environmentally preferable alone is not sufficient.



# Implementing a Watershed Approach

## Challenges: Technical

1. Guidance on selecting mitigation alternatives
2. Tools for evaluating landscape context
  - a. **Landscape tool**
  - b. **WSDOT Watershed Characterization**
3. Exceeding the capacity of the site



# Principles of Wetland Planning

A Tool for Evaluating Wetland Projects

- About this tool...  
[Introduction](#)
- Go to the...  
[Guidance](#)
- Go directly to the  
[Questionnaire](#)

Through an interactive questionnaire, this tool can be used to evaluate how well a wetland project incorporates current ecological principles.

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This is a draft tool that is still under development. Comments are appreciated and can be emailed from the "Comments" button at the top of each page.





# Websites

- Landscape Tool

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wet-tool/INTRO/TITLE.htm>

- WSDOT watershed characterization method

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/streamlineact/watershed.htm>

- Ecology wetland mitigation studies

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/mit-study/index.html>

- Wetland Guidance updates

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wet-updatedocs.htm>

