



Stream Assessment/ Mitigation Protocol Compendium

September 20, 2004
Stakeholder Forum on
Federal Wetland Mitigation
Tampa, Florida



Background Information

- Wetlands and streams are fundamentally different ecosystems
- Limited guidance to field staff
- MAP: clarify considerations for mitigating impacts to streams

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide shows a stream with a weeping tree on the left bank. The tree has long, thin branches that hang down towards the water. The water is calm and reflects the sky. There are some green plants and grasses along the bank.

Compendium Objectives

- Compile and review extant stream assessment protocols
- Identify:
 - Target Scale
 - Geographic Applicability
 - Level of Effort
 - Training Requirements
 - Potential Utility in Regulatory Program



Compendium Methods

- Two Components
 - Collection, Inventory, and Review of methods and protocols
 - Custom Questionnaire delivered to Federal, State, and local agencies; private and NGO practitioners nationwide



Review of Stream Assessment and Mitigation Protocols

- Programmatic attributes of protocols
 - target resource type; geographic applicability; need for reference conditions
- Technical attributes of protocols
 - assess potential utility in Section 404 program
 - qualitative/quantitative data; documented geomorphological and habitat characteristics; required effort and expertise; precision



Compendium Questionnaire

- Comprised of 28 questions
 - General programmatic uses of assessment methods
 - Technologies
 - Data reduction and synthesis
 - Future needs
- Sent to 11 Federal Agencies, all States
- Received response from 9 Feds, 20 States, and 1 municipality



Recommendations

- Tailor protocols to address regional variability
- Characteristics of all protocols:
 - Classification
 - Objectivity
 - Quantitative Methods
 - Fluvial Geomorphological Emphasis
 - Data Management



National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

Main

Background

**Mitigation
Action Plan**

**Status of
Action Items**

**Stakeholder
Coordination**

Fact Sheet

Related Links

**Agency
Contacts**

Site Map

Welcome to the Home of the National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan. In response to independent critiques of the effectiveness of wetland compensatory mitigation for authorized losses of wetlands and other waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior, and Transportation released the National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan on December 26, 2002. The Plan includes 17 tasks that the agencies will complete by 2005 to improve the ecological performance and results of compensatory mitigation.



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