

Wrap-Up and Synthesis

Mitigation Stakeholder Forum

September 20-22, 2004

Tampa, Florida

Kudos:

- Participants
- Environmental Law Institute
- Local Partners
 - FL DEP, SWFWMD, Tampa Bay NEP, EPA R4
- Mitigation Bankers
- Stetson University

We Heard You

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Federal Highways Administration

Major Themes and Issues:

- Preservation – Buy Now, Restore Later
- How the individual guidance documents relate to each other and existing Guidance
- How the individual guidance documents will fit together with the watershed approach guidance
- Avoid mitigation credit for regulatory requirements of other programs
- More information on and attention to the special/different conditions of wetlands and streams in the arid west
- Ecosystem vs. watershed

Major Themes and Issues:

- Don't undercut sequencing requirements
- Clarify long-term management issues, stewardship endowments, site protection mechanisms
- Allow for regulators to adapt guidance to the regional context (e.g., watershed/ecoregion scale)
- Incorporate our efforts in mitigation with existing programs (NPS and Stormwater) to achieve our common water quality goals
- More stream mitigation assessments and guidance
- Need "regional" MAP teams for region-specific guidance

Major Themes and Issues:

- Criteria used for classifying special resources and crediting practices should be clear and publicly available (examples: DTR, determining buffer widths and mitigation ratios for preservation)
- Other agencies (fed and state) are interested in the information in ORM
- ORM needs to be linked up to other data management programs (Corps, other agencies and states)
- Information management and data entry is something the regulated community (homebuilders) is willing to help with
- Timing limitations/constraints of permit application review process

I. Compensatory Mitigation

I. 2002 Corps Mitigation RGL 02-2

II. 2003 Model Mitigation Plan Checklist

III. 2005 Watershed Approach Guidance

I. 2004 Site/Kind

II. 2004 Preservation

III. 2004 Buffer

IV. 2004 DTR

IV. 2005 Performance Standards Guidance

V. Specialized Guidance

I. Third Party Mitigation

I. 1995 Banking Guidance

II. 2000 ILF Guidance

II. Stream Mitigation

I. 2004 Stream Mitigation Protocol Compendium

III. Impact-Specific Guidance

I. TEA-21 Banking Guidance (Fed-Aid Highways)

II. 2003 FAA MOA (Airports)

Follow Up

- Written comments on drafts
- Suggestions for 2005 tasks
- Indicate interest in future involvement
- Copy of forum report