

# **EPA Wetland Program Development Grants**

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## **Improving Compensatory Mitigation**

**Mitigation Stakeholder Forum**

**July 29, 2003**

**Portland, Oregon**



# Wetland Program Development Grants

- Grant Program Background
  - Authority
  - Eligibility
- Funding Priorities
- Compensatory Mitigation Examples
- Future Directions



# Grant Program Background

## ■ Purpose

- Provide direct support to S/T/LG to increase their participation in wetland protection

## ■ Establishment

- 1990

## ■ Appropriation

- Initial: \$1 million STAG
- Current: \$15 million STAG





# Funding Authority:



- Statutory authority
  - CWA § 104(b)(3)
- Authorized activities
  - Research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies
  - Related to causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution



# Who is Eligible?

## ■ Eligible applicants

- CWA 104(b)(3): S/T/LG, intertribal consortia, interstate agencies, NGOs
- National WPDG guidelines:
  - Regions: S/T/LG, intertribal consortia, interstate agencies
  - HQ: NGOs

## ■ Eligible activities

- 104(b)(3) authorized activities aimed at developing and refining wetland management programs



# Making Funding Decisions

- 25% Match
- Competitive program
- Funding Priorities
  - Improving compensatory mitigation
  - Developing monitoring and assessment programs
  - Protecting vulnerable wetlands





# Compensatory Mitigation

- Develop and verify assessment methods and/or tracking systems that document:
  - Technical adequacy of mitigation project plans
  - Ecological suitability of mitigation project sites
  - Mitigation project compliance
  - Cumulative impacts
- Prohibitions



# Examples:



- North Carolina

- Coastal Plain stream restoration design aids

- Florida

- Assessment methods, success criteria and mitigation guidelines for restored streams

- Mississippi

- Mitigation compliance program and HGM guidebook development





# Examples:

- Ohio
  - Evaluation of ecological quality of OH mitigation banks
- Michigan
  - Procedures for site evaluation/approval, staff manual and training
- Wisconsin
  - Training on new state compensatory mitigation rules



# Examples:



- Utah
  - Interagency guidance for compensatory mitigation
- New Jersey, Maryland, Louisiana, Indiana
  - Assessments of programs and/or sites
- NGOs
  - Center for Natural Lands Management – Property Analysis Record (PAR) training



# Future Directions



- 2004 National WPDG guidelines
  - Under review
  - Likely maintain three priorities
- Compensatory Mitigation Priority
  - Emphasis on developing, improving, and/or refining Performance Standards

