



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Regulatory Program

Third Stakeholder Forum On Federal Wetlands Mitigation

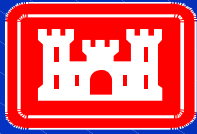
Stream Assessment Protocol
Portland, Oregon
July 29, 2003

Michael Rabbe

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

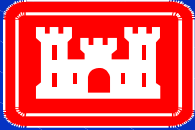
Directorate of Civil Works

Operations Division



National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

- Purpose of the MAP:
 - Further achievement of “no net loss”
 - Undertake series of actions to improve ecological performance of mitigation sites
- Seventeen action items including publication of the RGL
- Interagency team at HQ level will address the action items
- Work teams from field will assist with each action item



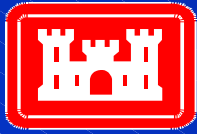
National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

- Action Items for FY 2003
 - Guidance on on-site vs. off-site, in-kind vs. out-of-kind
 - Implementation of the TEA-21 preference for mitigation banking
 - **Clarifying considerations for mitigating impacts to streams**
 - Develop a model mitigation plan checklist
 - Review and develop guidance adapting the NAS/NRC recommended guidelines for creating or restoring self-sustaining wetlands
 - Analyze existing research to determine the effectiveness of using biological indicators and functional assessments for evaluating mitigation performance
 - Compile and disseminate information regarding existing mitigation-tracking database systems



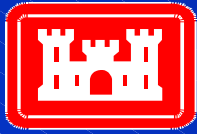
National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

- Clarifying Considerations For Mitigation Impacts To Streams
 - Why?
 - Some impacts to stream ecosystems authorized under Section 404 were compensated with wetland mitigation
 - Not recognizing different functions that interacting ecosystems play in the landscape
 - Lack of stream assessment methodologies nationwide suitable for use in CWA Section 404



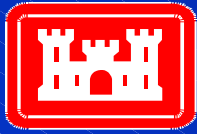
National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

- Objectives
 - Develop assessment protocol
 - Assign regions and stream types for each protocol
 - Calibrate protocol to local conditions
 - Identify how difficult assessment protocol will be to use in the field
 - Evaluate effectiveness of protocol for applicability and effectiveness of CWA 404 mitigation requirements



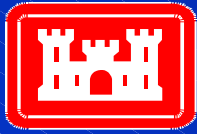
National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

- Outcome of task
 - Comprehensive bibliography of stream assessment and mitigation methods
 - Compilation and comparison of federal, state and local assessment SOP's
 - Dichotomous key for selection of appropriate assessment methods based on technical factors



National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan

- Outcome of task (cont.)
 - Tabulation of level of effort, complexity, calibration needs, of protocol to local conditions
 - Tabulation of degree each protocol can be utilized to evaluate project impacts, quantify necessary compensatory mitigation and assess mitigation plan
 - Tabulation of data gaps and recommendations for future research and development



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Questions?

Contact Information

<http://www.usace.army.mil>

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