



US Army Corps
of Engineers

NAS Criteria: Inclusion into the 404 Program

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Stakeholders Meetings
National Wetlands Mitigation Action Plan
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Directorate of Civil Works

Operations Division



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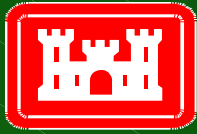
National Research Council Report (2001)

- Study of wetland mitigation for Section 404 activities
- Principal Finding:
 - Goal of no net loss of wetlands not being met
- Recommendations:
 - Watershed approach would improve permit decision making and mitigation performance
 - Need to improve mitigation performance and compliance
 - Adapt the NAS-recommended guidelines for creating or restoring self-sustaining wetlands to the Section 404 program

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NAS Guidelines

- Criteria inserted as Appendix B to RGL
 - Consider the hydrogeomorphic and ecological landscape and climate
 - Adopt a dynamic landscape perspective
 - Restore or develop naturally variable hydrological conditions.
 - Whenever possible, choose wetland restoration over creation
 - Avoid over-engineered structures in the wetland's design



NAS Guidelines (cont)

- Pay particular attention to appropriate planting elevation, depth, soil type, and seasonal timing.
- Provide appropriately heterogeneous topography
- Pay attention to subsurface conditions, including soil and sediment geochemistry and physics, groundwater quantity and quality, and infaunal communities.
- Consider complications associated with creation or restoration in seriously degraded or disturbed sites.
- Conduct early monitoring as part of adaptive management.



Adopt NAS Guidelines to Corps' Section 404 Program

Mitigation Action Plan Road Map:

- Expand NAS Guidelines and incorporate specific language relative to applicant proposed mitigation as required by the Corps
- Stakeholder input (first draft as handout)
- Incorporate comments (stakeholders and others)
- Provide to each Corps District for incorporation in Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines
- Publish revised Mitigation and Monitoring Guidelines by January 2004 in each District



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Questions?

Contact Information

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