New England District Compensatory Mitigation Guidance Update

MAWS
24 March 2015

DRAFT Guidance at:

- http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Portals/74/docs/regulatory/publicnotices/CompMitigationGuidance3Mar2015.pdf

- Also on MAWS website

Update Highlights:

- Reorganization
  - Checklists now in appendices
  - Definitions moved to "Glossary" in appendix
- New section on stream mitigation
- Draft vernal pool assessment included
- Remove ranges from most ratios
- Editorial changes

Comments due:

- 4 May 2015

Wetland Functional Assessment

MAWS
24 March 2015

US Army Corps of Engineers – New England District

Functional Assessment

- Develop new, quantitative Functional Assessment methodology to replace the qualitative "Highway Methodology" Supplement: New England District Wetland Functional Assessment (Ver 1.0)
- Reviewed many existing methods to see what could meet our needs
- Developing new method that combines elements from several methods

Key characteristics

- Objective and repeatable
- Classification system – use NWI+ classification for ease of data collection
- Functions, not "values" (goods and services)
- No overall functional score – compare individual functions and categorical scores
- Uses – compare alternatives, impact assessment, mitigation requirements, & monitoring
- Hybrid function/condition assessment most useful for our needs

Structure of Method

- Evaluate suites of functions associated with:
  - Water quality maintenance
  - Hydrologic integrity
  - Biota support
- Stressors
- Extra Focus Triggers

Specific Functions:

- FUNCTION SUITE 1: WATER QUALITY MAINTENANCE

    – Removing Heavy Metals and Toxic Organics
    – Nutrient Transformation
    – Carbon Sequestration
    – Sediment & Other Particulate Retention

Specific Functions (cont'd.):

- FUNCTION SUITE 2: HYDROLOGIC INTEGRITY

    – Groundwater Recharge

    – Groundwater Discharge

    – Surface Water Detention

    – Streamflow Maintenance

    – Coastal Storm Surge Detention

    – Bank & Shoreline Stabilization

Specific Functions (cont'd.):

- FUNCTION/CONDITION SUITE 3: BIOTA SUPPORT

    – Primary productivity (function)

    – Production export (function)

    – Buffer integrity (condition)

    – Plant community integrity (condition)

    – Wildlife habitat integrity (condition)

WHEN??

Questions?