

*National Symposium on Compensatory Mitigation and
the Watershed Approach*

May 19 – 21, 2004

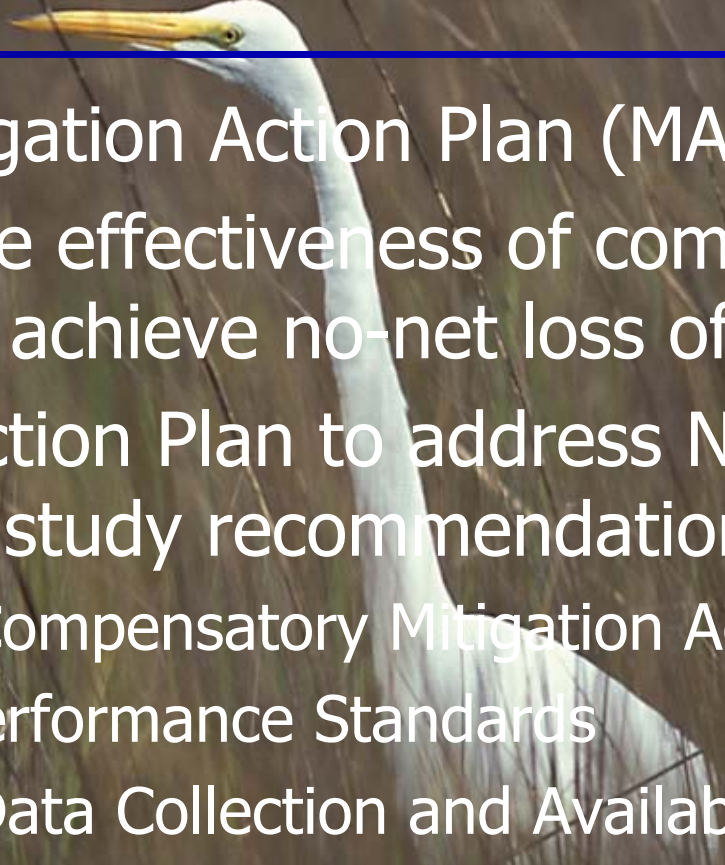
Washington, DC

**Background,
Purpose and
Desired Outcomes**



Photo by Jay Fleming

Why this Symposium?



- National Mitigation Action Plan (MAP)
- Goal: improve effectiveness of compensatory mitigation to achieve no-net loss of wetlands
- 17 – Point Action Plan to address NRC, & other independent study recommendations:
 - Improving Compensatory Mitigation Accountability
 - Clarifying Performance Standards
 - Improving Data Collection and Availability
 - Integrating Compensatory Mitigation into a Watershed Context

Mitigation Action Plan

Action Item: Integrating Compensatory Mitigation into a Watershed Context

- Develop guidance on use of on-site vs off-site and in-kind vs out-of-kind compensatory mitigation (by 2004)
- Develop guidance on use of vegetated buffers as a potential component of compensatory mitigation (by 2004)
- Develop guidance on appropriate use of preservation for compensatory mitigation (by 2004)
- BUILDING on guidance above: analyze use of compensatory mitigation within watershed context & identify criteria for making compensatory mitigation decisions in this context (by 2005)

Mitigation Action Plan Item: Integrating Compensatory Mitigation into a Watershed Context

Analyze use of compensatory mitigation within watershed context & identify criteria for making compensatory mitigation decisions in this context

- *"...develop guidance to encourage placement of mitigation where it would have the greatest benefit and probability for long-term sustainability."*
- *"...guidance will help decision-makers utilize the watershed-based planning tools/resources already developed..."*

Some Perspectives/Context

- Target audience
 - Regulators and Mitigation Providers
 - Watershed Stakeholders
- Future opportunities and linkages
- The Stars are aligned!

National Symposium

Purpose

Provide MAP Workgroup with direction and input

- Structured to identify criteria that could be included in framework for decisions on a watershed basis
- Informed by discussions drawing from examples of existing tools/resources

National Symposium

Desired Outcomes

- Identify/clarify what science says about making compensatory decisions in a watershed context
- Clarify “Logical Steps” of watershed-based approach to compensatory mitigation
- Identify most important criteria used by existing watershed-based planning tools & resources to analyze priorities and restoration options

Photo by Beverly Rodgers

National Symposium

More Desired Outcomes

- Potential for use of existing watershed-based tools & resources in a regulatory context
- Discuss information level needed to effectively use these tools/resources in a regulatory context

Why We Paid Y'all to Come

- Now
 - Provide candid, professional input
 - Ask the hard questions
 - Answer the hard questions (or at least try)
- Later
 - Continue to be a resource
 - Help make it a reality ("it" being placement of mitigation where it will have the greatest possible environmental benefit)

QUESTIONS?



Photo by Jay Osenkowski