National Wetland Mitigation Forum
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Mitigation Highlights

- **Creation** more successful than anticipated
- **Enhancement** is problematic
  - Different actions provide different levels of ecological lift
  - Vegetative manipulation not sufficient
  - Enhancement activities generally overvalued
  - Greater credit for process restoration
Mitigation Policy Issues

- No net loss of area &/or function?
- Cross-resource tradeoffs
- Urban vs. Rural
Implementing a Watershed Approach

Challenges

- Regulatory/Legal
- Technical
Implementing a Watershed Approach

Challenges: Regulatory

1. Guidance on Mitigation Requirements
   Environmentally preferable
2. Role of Preservation
3. Split mitigation requirements
4. Nexus with impacted functions
Regulatory challenges

Out of kind mitigation:

Using non-wetland restoration as mitigation needs to have clearly articulated nexus between functions lost and functions provided by the buffer, riparian or upland habitat mitigation. Environmentally preferable alone is not sufficient.
Implementing a Watershed Approach

Challenges: Technical

1. Guidance on selecting mitigation alternatives
2. Tools for evaluating landscape context
   a. Landscape tool
   b. WSDOT Watershed Characterization
3. Exceeding the capacity of the site
Principles of Wetland Planning
A Tool for Evaluating Wetland Projects

Through an interactive questionnaire, this tool can be used to evaluate how well a wetland project incorporates current ecological principles.

This is a draft tool that is still under development. Comments are appreciated and can be emailed from the "Comments" button at the top of each page.
Guidance

You have selected the **Glaciated Region** as indicated in the header above. The steps listed to the left will guide you in developing the information necessary to answer the questionnaire. You will need to keep track of your conclusions along the way.

Since each step builds on information from the previous step, we suggest that you continue through the steps in order, starting with "Landscape Setting".

If you are already familiar with this tool and can supply the information needed in the first 6 steps you can go:

Directly to the Questionnaire
Websites

• Landscape Tool
  http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wet-tool/INTRO/TITLE.htm

• WSDOT watershed characterization method
  http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/environment/streamlineact/watershed.htm

• Ecology wetland mitigation studies

• Wetland Guidance updates
  http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wet-updatedocs.htm