EPA Wetland Program Development Grants

Improving Compensatory Mitigation

Mitigation Stakeholder Forum
July 29, 2003
Portland, Oregon
Wetland Program Development Grants

- Grant Program Background
  - Authority
  - Eligibility
- Funding Priorities
- Compensatory Mitigation Examples
- Future Directions
Grant Program Background

- **Purpose**
  - Provide direct support to S/T/LG to increase their participation in wetland protection

- **Establishment**
  - 1990

- **Appropriation**
  - Initial: $1 million STAG
  - Current: $15 million STAG
Funding Authority:

- Statutory authority
  - CWA § 104(b)(3)
- Authorized activities
  - Research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies
  - Related to causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution
Who is Eligible?

Eligible applicants

- CWA 104(b)(3): S/T/LG, intertribal consortia, interstate agencies, NGOs
- National WPDG guidelines:
  - Regions: S/T/LG, intertribal consortia, interstate agencies
  - HQ: NGOs

Eligible activities

- 104(b)(3) authorized activities aimed at developing and refining wetland management programs
Making Funding Decisions

- 25% Match
- Competitive program
- Funding Priorities
  - Improving compensatory mitigation
  - Developing monitoring and assessment programs
  - Protecting vulnerable wetlands
Compensatory Mitigation

- Develop and verify assessment methods and/or tracking systems that document:
  - Technical adequacy of mitigation project plans
  - Ecological suitability of mitigation project sites
  - Mitigation project compliance
  - Cumulative impacts

- Prohibitions
Examples:

- North Carolina
  - Coastal Plain stream restoration design aids
- Florida
  - Assessment methods, success criteria and mitigation guidelines for restored streams
- Mississippi
  - Mitigation compliance program and HGM guidebook development
Examples:

- Ohio
  - Evaluation of ecological quality of OH mitigation banks

- Michigan
  - Procedures for site evaluation/approval, staff manual and training

- Wisconsin
  - Training on new state compensatory mitigation rules
Examples:

- Utah
  - Interagency guidance for compensatory mitigation
- New Jersey, Maryland, Louisiana, Indiana
  - Assessments of programs and/or sites
- NGOs
  - Center for Natural Lands Management – Property Analysis Record (PAR) training
Future Directions

- 2004 National WPDG guidelines
  - Under review
  - Likely maintain three priorities
- Compensatory Mitigation Priority
  - Emphasis on developing, improving, and/or refining Performance Standards