Your Wetland Program Plan as a Sustainable Finance Tool

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Dedicated to enhancing the ability of governments and organizations to provide environmental programs and services in fair, effective and financially sustainable ways.
http://efc.unc.edu/projects/wetlands/

Many state and tribal wetlands programs today are not able to meet all of their program goals because of insufficient or inconsistent funding. This is true both for small, emerging programs and larger, well-established programs.

The purpose of the sustainable finance project is to help state and tribal wetlands programs develop a stable and appropriate funding model to better meet their goals. There are five key elements to sustainable finance:
Session Agenda

• Introduce the concept of sustainable finance

• How sustainable finance can be integrated into wetland program plans

• How wetland program plans can be crafted to increase the likelihood of securing appropriated funds and grants
Goals of Sustainable Finance

• You have the money you need to meet your program goals.

• You are confident that you will have funding year after year, in spite of denied grants, economic downturns and the like.
Sustainable Finance Process

• Know the projects you want to pay for
• Seek out all appropriate federal funding
• Combine federal money with funds generated at the state/tribal level
• Collaborate with other units of government
• Partner with non-governmental organizations
How sustainable finance can be integrated into wetland program plans
Sustainable Finance Process

• **Know the projects you want to pay for**
  • Seek out all appropriate federal funding
  • Combine federal money with funds generated at the state/tribal level
  • Collaborate with other units of government
  • Partner with non-governmental organizations
Remember!

Finance is a means to an end. Always know what you want to accomplish with your program before you figure out how to pay for it.
Sustainable Finance Process

- Know the projects you want to pay for
- Seek out all appropriate federal funding
- Combine federal money with funds generated at the state/tribal level
- Collaborate with other units of government
- Partner with non-governmental organizations
Lots of plans specifically mention the need for funding...

This Plan is intended to outline YTEP’s program development needs and objectives and better plan for future funding and coordination opportunities.
Strategic Direction #8: Montana Wetland Council Effectiveness

The MWC will create a more formal and effective organizational structure for the Montana Wetland Council, and obtain stable funding.

Wetland and riparian area conservation and restoration challenges have increased over the last decade, outgrowing the existing Montana Wetland Council's ability to effectively respond to those challenges and proactively create solutions. We need a new structure to improve and strengthen our capacity to implement and support new vision and strategies.

3. Specific activities and funding opportunities needed to realize the ideal outcomes and strategic directions described in this STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK will be developed and described in annual work plans. Time and energy by Council participants will be essential to successfully implement annual work plans.
The Senior Environmental Specialist will carry out the following administrative tasks (and others as appropriate) in order to ensure the Wetland Program meets all funding, program, and project requirements:

13. Prepare grant application requests for additional funding from EPA and other funding programs.

14. Coordinate and foster relationships with many SRPMIC departments, enterprises, and external agencies.
4.2 Funding Opportunities for Plan Implementation

The following programs provide funding opportunities for implementation of the Wetland Program Plan.

- CWA Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) grants provide federal financial assistance and are used for water quality monitoring, assessment, and protection that includes addressing wetlands as Waters of the U.S.

- CWA Section 104(b) (3) Wetlands grants provide federal financial assistance and are used for wetlands protection and management.

- Indian environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grants are used for environmental program development and infrastructure for the environmental protection department that include wetland resources.

- CWA Section 518 specifies program authority for Tribes to administer the Section 305 Water Quality Standards Program and the Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program. These two programs do not specifically include financial assistance but can be used as tasks under the CWA Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program to provide wetland protection mechanisms.

- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has trust responsibility on the Goshute Reservation and can provide technical and financial (638 funds) assistance and resources when available that include addressing Tribal wetland resources.

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide technical and financial assistance when available that include addressing Tribal wetland resources.

- The States of Utah and Nevada can provide Tribal funding opportunities that address the restoration of impaired Tribal wetland resources, especially headwater wetlands and wetland areas under both Tribal and State jurisdiction.
CHAPTER 7
COORDINATION AND FUNDING

COORDINATION
The responsibility for wetlands conservation and management is shared among federal agencies and programs, state agencies and programs, regional organizations, county and city planning commissions, and ultimately hundreds of private landowners who make day-to-day decisions about their land.

It is imperative that these agencies and individuals share their knowledge and coordinate their work and resources to implement the action plan outlined in Chapter 6. The Governor’s Interagency Wetlands Committee and its Technical Working Group, staffed by the Environmental Policy Office (EPO), has proved to be an effective forum for information exchange, coordination, and planning. This strong coordination function should be continued and the concept should be incorporated into the state’s long-term strategy to conserve its wetlands. It is recommended that the Executive Committee meet yearly or biennially to hear progress made toward meeting the goals and objectives, and to make any necessary mid-course corrections if key action items are not being carried out.

FUNDING
It is nearly impossible to calculate the financial resources now dedicated to wetlands conservation in Tennessee, or to determine their cost-effectiveness with precision. An early attempt to do so was abandoned by the TWG and staff.

This is due to the fact that the state’s wetlands acquisition and restoration efforts, technical assistance programs, and regulatory programs are dispersed among so many agencies, organizations, and programs. In some agencies, wetlands conservation is only part of a broader program mission, and staff and institutional support are shared. The State has very limited information on the wetlands conservation costs incurred by private or non-profit organizations, or by private landowners.

In Chapter 4, the Strategy identified several state and federal wetlands programs that were considered to be
Fort Belknap Indian Community

Wetland Program Workplan
Fort Belknap Indian Community
FY 2010-FY 2015

“Protecting wetlands for future generations, is the goal of the Wetlands Program”

WETLAND PROGRAM WORKPLAN
FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY
FY 2010-FY 2015

“Protecting wetlands for future generations, is the goal of the Wetlands Program”

WETLAND PROGRAM WORKPLAN
FORT BELKNAP INDIAN COMMUNITY
FY 2010-FY 2015

“Protecting wetlands for future generations, is the goal of the Wetlands Program”

Outlines specific potential uses of WPDGs over a 5 year timeframe, including:

- Monitoring and assessing wetlands in Peoples Watershed
- Water quality monitoring on Beaver and Fort Peck Watersheds
- Water quality monitoring on the Middle Milk River Watershed;
- Completing Water Quality Standards and Designated Uses on wetlands
(8) Projects: Construction of fish passage improvements for box culverts that impede upstream and downstream migration of steelhead (funding from North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan - Prop 84 Bond Money for $803,000; matching funds of $203,237 being sought; funding and work expected to commence in July, 2011);

Core Element: Restoration and Protection

Objective 3: Restore wetland acres, condition and function

Key Action: Improve natural wetland conditions and functions through restoration (rehabilitation)
New Hampshire

**CORE ELEMENT #4: SUSTAINABLE FINANCING**

**Goal:** Provide stable funding sources to support program long-term and improve quality of service

**Objective:** To make wetland programs and other department initiatives financially stable. Stable financial resources are necessary to achieve goals and objectives in the New Hampshire Wetland Protection Plan.

| Action (a): Develop strategy to revamp fee and funding structure with goal of making wetlands program more financially stable. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Activity | 2010-2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Identify and pursue additional opportunities for program funding | x | x | x | x | x |
| Review legislative opportunities to account for public service offered at a cost to program – e.g. pre application meetings, appeals, inspections | x | x | x | x | x |
| Review existing legislative caps for appropriateness – DOT, utilities, etc | x | x | x | x | x |
| Review other possible fees for other resource use - dock registration, buffers, etc | x | x | x | x | x |

| Action (b): Identify other water programs with associated wetland impacts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Activity | 2010-2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Create mitigation program for projects impacting wetland through storm water, 401, or impacts to buffers |  |  | x |  | x |
| Review other water programs for identification of impacts to wetlands and clean water authority – nonpoint source, dams, water diversions and water quality | x | x | x | x | x |
## New Hampshire

### Action (c): Partner with key stakeholders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>2010-2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster relationships with academic institutions, natural resource scientists, and conservation groups</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with colleges and universities to promote research in areas that will assist with environmental compliance as well as social and technical research</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Work with local groups to address smaller issues, and get them involved in providing feedback to improve permit process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sustainable Finance Process

• Know the projects you want to pay for
• Seek out all appropriate federal funding
• Combine federal money with funds generated at the state/tribal level

• **Collaborate with other units of government**

• **Partner with non-governmental organizations**
Northern Leopard Frogs are abundant in this watershed and this species is identified as threatened in the western Montana, which we will intend to develop Partnerships and collaboratively work with tribal, state and federal agencies to strategize how to preserve the species and manage effective control measures that ensure their survival.
Chippewa Cree Sweetgrass Reintroduction

Project partners will include: Dr. Joe Elliott, Tara Luna, CCT Natural Resources Department, Cultural Resources Department, local Tribal plant specialists and National Fish Wildlife Federation.
Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Voluntary Restoration & Protection

Wetland Program Plan

April 2011

TABLE 5.2 Summary of Program Partners & Anticipated Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Anticipated Roles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPNR Water Quality Program</td>
<td>Collaborate on water quality issues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPNR Range Management</td>
<td>Collaborate on plants and animal species surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRPMIC Engineering &amp; Construction Services</td>
<td>Provide guidance and information on irrigation practices and maintenance as well as providing field equipment as needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRPMIC Public Works Department</td>
<td>Provide assistance with waste management, groundwater information, equipment operators and manpower, and other areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRPMIC Cultural Resources Department</td>
<td>Collaborate on planting and harvesting of culturally significant plants as well as plant surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</td>
<td>Continued collaboration on the design of the Va Shly’ay Akamel Restoration Project, an ecosystem restoration project along the Salt River.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The City of Mesa</td>
<td>Continued collaboration on the design of the ecosystem restoration project along the Salt River as directed by Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Game and Fish</td>
<td>Continue collaboration on the NestWatch program which monitors the Southwest Desert Nesting Bald Eagles during their annual breeding season and pursue opportunities to increase habitat restoration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</td>
<td>Pursue opportunities to conduct plant and wildlife surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottsdale Community College, Center for Native &amp; Urban Wildlife</td>
<td>Pursue opportunities to conduct plant and wildlife surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona State University, Central Arizona Chapter for the Society of Conservation Biology</td>
<td>Pursue opportunities to conduct plant and wildlife surveys.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)</td>
<td>Provides state wetland monitoring and assessment activities and upstream information for the Salt and Verde Rivers as well as biocriteria monitoring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA)</td>
<td>Provide opportunity to present program and project findings and results to other Indian Nations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ft. McDowell Yavapai Nation (upstream neighbor along the Verde River)</td>
<td>Continue collaboration of monitoring and assessment activities along the Verde River.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**New Mexico’s Multi State Agency Program**

**Program Development Activities for WETLANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM Core Element**

**Overall Objective:** Promote the use of new and proven methods to protect and restore wetlands by regulated project proponents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action: Adopt procedures and strengthen processes that protect wetlands through regulatory measures</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Partners</th>
<th>Activity Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maintain and improve the State’s wetlands resources through development of sufficient mitigation ratios when mitigation is the only option.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>ACOE</td>
<td>ACOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize regulatory programs like the Certification of Dredge and Fill under CWA Section 401 that provide mechanisms for regulation of wetlands activities.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>ACOE</td>
<td>SWQB 401 Cert Program and SWQB Wetlands Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explore the feasibility, find sites and sponsors of In Lieu Fee Programs and Mitigation Banks</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>ACOE, Agency and NGO Roundtables</td>
<td>ACOE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate and refine the process for reporting wetland activities under CWA §§303(d) and 305(b).</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Agency Wetlands Roundtable</td>
<td>SWQB and SWQB Wetlands Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and improve ordinances and jurisdiction that protect wetlands/riparian areas/ buffer.</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>Santa Fe County, other local agencies</td>
<td>NGO roundtable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop procedures at the state or local level that will ensure that isolated wetlands are protected from impacts.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>County governments, local governments, watershed groups</td>
<td>SWQB Wetlands Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a tracking process to track wetlands gains and losses from a variety of activities that either impact or restore wetlands</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>NGO Roundtable, consultants, watershed groups</td>
<td>SWQB Wetlands Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EFC Can Help!

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
FRESHWATER WETLANDS PROGRAM

WETLAND PROGRAM CORE ELEMENTS
2011 - 2013

Prepared by the
Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
For the
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1
April 2011

Draft Wetland Monitoring and Assessment

Index as a tool, use of tools.

Action 2: Update the Rhode Island Freshwater Wetland Monitoring and Assessment (NE|WPCC and DEM 2006)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate status of 5-year timeline (Table 10)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarize how data and demonstrations have informed the Plan objectives</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convene meetings of wetland programs and of advisors; Brief the groups; Solicit feedback</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With advisors, identify new monitoring needs and uses. Identify ways to maximize cross-program monitoring.</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigate sustainable financing for wetland monitoring, including conferring with the University of North Carolina, Environmental Finance Center</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNC ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER
How wetland program plans can be crafted to increase the likelihood of securing appropriated funds and grants
How can we increase our chances of winning grants?

Here, research is very helpful
Grantwriting Tips

- Research the funder
- Read RFP thoroughly
- Ask for enough money
- Show program financials and budgets
- Write well
- Include maps and photos
- Include letters of support from partners

- Have a specific work plan and timeline
- Cite measurable goals
- Describe how you will measure outputs and outcomes
- If applying as a group, have one lead agency apply
- Apply on time
Grantwriting and WPPs

- Research the funder
- Read RFP thoroughly
- Ask for enough money
- Show program financials and budgets
- Write well
- Include maps and photos
- Include letters of support from partners

- Have a specific work plan and timeline
- Cite measurable goals
- Describe how you will measure outputs and outcomes
- If applying as a group, have one lead agency apply
- Apply on time
Year Two (2012):
Action:
The WPDG funding will continue to build upon the core elements monitoring on Peoples Watershed which is a high priority water. Program will also research and develop narrative and numeric water quality standards to reflect conditions found in wetlands, wetland activities. This is the first time that water quality monitor wetlands for the FBIC.
- WQ Monitoring (pH, Turbidity, Salinity, D-net, Conduct)
- Research WQ criteria
- Develop narrative Water Quality Standards and Design
- Perform Aquatic Dip Net Surveys
- Continue to implement the revised ARPO if it has not be
- Document wetland losses and gains
- Attend training on wetland topics such as water quality training, aquatic collection techniques
- Find out if I could use FB WQ QAPP?

Year Three (2013):
Action:
WPDG funding will be used to build upon the core elements by monitoring on Beaver and Fort Peck Watersheds. Both watersh
- Perform WQ Monitoring at wetland sites within Beaver
- Perform Aquatic Dip Net Surveys
Year Two (FY 2013)

**Action:** For Fiscal Year 2013, The Blackfeet Tribe Wetlands Program will complete a monitoring and assessment study within the Two Medicine River watershed. The project shall use tested and refined monitoring protocols within the watershed. Using Geographic Information System (GIS), we will concentrate on identifying wetlands in potential reference condition for protection and restoration, sites impacted by stressors, and select sites for monitoring wetland condition and wetland water quality.

**Activities:**
- Monitor a minimum of 40 wetlands using trained field staff (Core Elements 2, 4 Monitoring and Assessment; Wetland Water Quality Standards).
- Revisit 10 wetlands previously assessed for data quality assurance and quality control (Core Elements 2, 4. Monitoring and Assessment; Wetland Water Quality Standards).
- Analyze data and prepare wetland condition assessment report for the Two Medicine River watershed (Core Elements 2, 4 Monitoring and Assessment).
Objective 1: Maintain effort to re-calibrate wetland assessment models.

Action Item: This effort is underway by DEQ and the Center for Coastal Resources Management (CCRM) at Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and has been completed for the coastal plain. The next step is to perform the re-calibration for the piedmont and ridge and valley physiographic provinces.

Timeline: The Piedmont is to be completed by 2012. We anticipate the ridge and valley and the re-assessment of the coastal plain to be proposed for the next grant cycle, with the calibration of land use practices with wetland stressors to be an ongoing activity.
Action: Monitor wetland indicators (level 1, 2, and 3) within 10 wetland complexes by implementing the Nebraska Wetland Condition Intensification Study. This study will examine a range of reference wetland conditions.

Activities: This project will be implemented by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, administered by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, with input provided by a Core Team composed of 11 agencies and organizations, including the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Timeline: The project will be initiated in 2011 and completed in 2013.
Sample, Annotated Grants

- [http://www.efc.unc.edu/projects/wetlands/Resources.htm](http://www.efc.unc.edu/projects/wetlands/Resources.htm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project title:</th>
<th>Developing a management and restoration strategy for the Manning Lake Wetland Complex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Priority areas addressed: | National:  
  Priority A: Regulation (Enhancing wetland protection)  
  Priority B: Wetland monitoring and assessment  
  Regional:  
  Priority B: Watershed focus |
| Applicant: | Fort Peck Tribes Fish and Game Department  
Manning Lake Wetlands Tribal Wildlife Refuge Project |
| Key personnel: | Jeanne Spaur  
Project coordinator/wildlife biologist  
Phone: 406-768-5305  
Email: jeannespaur@yahoo.com |
| Geographic Location: | HUC: 1006006  
Watershed: Big Muddy |
| Project costs: | Total: $260,860.00  
Requested: $195,627.00 |
| Abstract: | The Fort Peck Tribes are working toward the protection, management, and restoration of the... |
What influences the levels of appropriated funds for water/environmental programs?

It depends on the study
What Influences Spending Levels?

**Does Influence**
- Population size
- Land and water area of the state
- Strength of local environmental groups

**Does Not Influence**
- Pollution levels
- Fiscal health of state
- Political ideology of politicians or voters
- Business interests

What Influences Spending Levels?

Does Influence

- Strength of mining sector
- Strength of agricultural sector
- Strength of local environmental groups
- State wealth (minimally)

Does Not Influence

- Political ideology of voters
- Professionalism of legislature

What Influences Spending Levels

**Does Influence**
- Unified party control of governorship and state legislature
- Strength of local environmental groups
- Population
- Per Capita Income
- Land Area
- Strength of manufacturing sector

**Does Not Influence**
- Political ideology of voters
- Pollution levels

What Influences Spending Limits

**Does Influence**
- Pollution levels
- Strength of local environmental groups
- Organization of state environmental agency
- Population

**Does Not Influence**
- Size of state environmental agency
- State fiscal health
- Political ideology of voters

Getting Appropriated Funds

• The research is less conclusive here, but there are some key lessons
  – Generally, state fiscal health and the political ideology of voters are not strong influences
  – But power players in the state are, such as environmental groups and industry groups

• Who are the big players in your state/tribe? Can your request be tailored to their interests?
Developing a Program Message

- The program message is used to "inform, educate, and often persuade" potential funders and partners, and it is "the tool you count on to ensure that [these] target audiences know about you or your offer, believe they will experience the benefits you promise, and are inspired to act."

Your Program Message

- Who are you, and what do you do?
- What is the problem to be solved?
- What is your solution?
- What benefits come out of the solution?
- Why does the problem have to be solved now?
What is your solution?
What benefits come out of the solution?

• Description of the benefits of your work is most likely to grab the attention of potential funders and partners

• Which benefit or combination of benefits you present depends on the audience
One Example—Virginia

**Threats and Stresses to Wetlands**

While some of the primary threats and stresses to wetlands are non-tidal or tidal, the following list summarizes the major ones (Tiner and Finn 1986, Tiner, et al. 2005).

1. **Conversion to Other Land Cover — Nontidal to Uplands.** Development conversion is the most commonly associated with shoreline impoundment projects convert nontidal wetlands to open water. Conversion of non-tidal adjacent wetlands to open water is caused by sea level rise.

2. **Conversion to Other Uses** - This threat is most commonly associated with managing wetlands as residential lawn or garden and temporary fill. These conversions are...
The overarching goal of Virginia’s wetland monitoring and assessment strategy is to develop a long-term implementation plan for a wetland monitoring and assessment program that protects the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the Commonwealth’s water resources, including wetlands. In order to accomplish this goal, it is critical to first know the status of wetland resources in Virginia, in terms of location and extent of wetlands in each watershed, and have a general knowledge of the quality of these wetland resources.
Virginia

Comprehensive Wetland Program Plan
Commonwealth of Virginia
2011 - 2015

Submitted By:
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
629 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

In Collaboration with:
Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Center for Coastal Resources Management

David L. Davis, CPWD, PWS
Director, Office of Wetlands & Water Protection
Phone: 804-698-4105
Fax: 804-698-4032
dave.davis@deq.virginia.gov

Submitted to EPA pursuant to
Enhancing State and Tribal Programs Initiative for Wetlands Programs
The Environmental Protection Agency

April 2011

1. Report ambient wetland condition
   Integrated 305(b)/303(d) report;

2. Assist in the evaluation of environmental
   projects during permit review as part
   an assessment of cumulative impacts
   in a given watershed;

3. Evaluate the performance of wetland
   mitigation in replacing wetland
   condition over time based on
   maturity of the mitigation site; and

4. Evaluate the cumulative impacts
   relative to ambient ecological conditions.
A study of wetland trends in Southeastern Virginia for 1994-2000 showed a net loss of 2,100 acres (1.3%). The actual loss of vegetated wetlands was even higher, but offset by a gain in pond and open water area. The loss of palustrine wetlands was primarily due to conversion to uplands, while estuarine wetlands were lost through conversion to open water.
State and Tribal Wetland Program Plans

Wetland Program Plans (WPPs) are voluntary plans developed and implemented by state agencies and tribes which articulate what these entities want to accomplish with their wetland programs over time. WPPs describe overall program goals along with broad-based actions and more specific activities that will help achieve the goals. Timelines for the WPPs vary between 3-5 years, with more specific timeframes typically associated with the Plan actions/activities.

EPA Regional offices review WPPs, and plans that have been approved by EPA are published on this Web page. The Web page includes the name of the state agency(ies) or tribe that developed the WPP, a link to the WPP itself, the years covered by the WPP, and the wetland program Core Elements covered by the WPP.

Further details about WPP content and submission, review, and approval process can be found in an October 2009 EPA memorandum (PDF) (5 pp, 51K, About PDF). WPPs must be generally consistent with the Wetland Program Core Elements Framework.

EPA strongly encourages local governments, universities, nonprofit organizations, and other parties interested in wetland program development to review the WPPs listed here. Parties who are interested and able to collaborate with a state/tribe in carrying out the actions articulated in its WPP, or are otherwise interested in connecting their own wetland work with that of a particular state or tribal WPP, are encouraged to contact the individuals listed below.

In which EPA Region am I located?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region 1</th>
<th>Region 2</th>
<th>Region 3</th>
<th>Region 4</th>
<th>Region 5</th>
<th>Region 6</th>
<th>Region 7</th>
<th>Region 8</th>
<th>Region 9</th>
<th>Region 10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core Element of a State/Tribal Wetlands Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>Regulation</td>
<td>Voluntary Restoration &amp; Protection</td>
<td>Water Quality Standards for Wetlands</td>
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http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/wpp.cfm
Questions?

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