

## INITIAL REVIEW CHECK LIST

### **INITIAL MITIGATION PROPOSAL INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE MITIGATION BANKING INTERAGENCY REVIEW TEAM**

The following is the approval sequence and list of initial preliminary information to be provided by the applicant for proposed stream and wetland mitigation banks. Providing this information required in Step I starts the pre-application coordination phase with the joint state/federal Interagency Review Team (IRT). The initial review by the IRT will allow for a determination on whether the proposed project is/is not a good candidate for a mitigation project. The initial review data is expected to be general in nature and the applicant is not expected to provide detailed data unless the mitigation site is approved after Step II. If approved, the applicant will be requested to provide a Prospectus which will also initiate a public notice for the project. **The initial information review information required in Step I must be provided at least 2 weeks before the IRT Mitigation Banking meeting to allow the agencies adequate review time.**

- *To attend an IRT Mitigation Banking Meeting, please contact the Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Mr. Michael Moxey (251-694-3771) for information on the next scheduled meeting, and most current contact information for the IRT members.*

#### ***STEP I – INITIAL REVIEW INFORMATION PACKAGE:***

##### **I. WETLAND MITIGATION PROJECTS**

1. Please provide aerial photography that reflects the boundary of the project site (showing historic and current land use). The local NRCS is often a good source for current and historical aerial photos.
2. Preliminary wetland data:
  - a. Please show the project boundary on NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) soil map.
  - b. Please show the project boundary on a U.S.G.S. quad (U.S. Geologic Survey).
  - c. Please show the site on a NWI (National Wetlands Inventory) map. Please see [www.nwi.fws.gov](http://www.nwi.fws.gov) for available maps.
  - d. If possible, show general site location on an 8-digit HUC map.
3. Please provide an estimated acreage for the wetlands on the project site, uplands, and the entire project site. The actual final wetland acreage can be provided after the official wetland delineation has been accomplished. **It is not necessary to provide the final wetland delineation of the property using the 1987 Corps of Engineers Delineation Manual at this time.**

4. Please provide a brief discussion of the current wetland habitat types (with acreages if known) within the project site and a brief discussion of the current land use and current ecological conditions.
5. Please provide a brief discussion of the adjacent land uses surrounding the project site. Discuss reasonable expected development for the site (if bank activities were not implemented) and the surrounding area.
6. Please describe the target wetland types and upland habitat types within the project site. Please describe proposed land management actions required to achieve the target systems. Please explain whether wetland enhancement, restoration, preservation, or creation is proposed. Examples – see below:
  - Prescribe burn management of pine savannah systems (qualifies as wetland restoration).
  - Re-establishment of site hydrology by removing row and bedding of landscape.
  - Re-establishment of native vegetative communities via planting (bottomland hardwood restoration must include both a vegetation and hydrologic restoration component to qualify as restoration.)
  - Exotic species control.
7. Please discuss proposed success criteria for the project site. Please discuss the location and use of reference wetlands and uplands if appropriate. Include relevant discussion on the presence of special biological resources (e.g. endangered species/critical habitat, special aquatic sites, etc.).
8. Please provide a summary narrative overview of the project describing how the resulting increase in ecological value at the site will improve conditions in the regional watershed (or proposed mitigation service area).
9. If applicable, address if the bank may affect or be affected by a public project (public use areas or parks). If so, discuss the compatibility of the site as a mitigation bank with the public project.
- 10. Please provide a discussion of any known existing or potential historic or archaeological resources are known to exist on or near the site. It is not necessary to conduct a Phase I historic resources survey at this time.**
- 11. Please provide a discussion of any known existing (State or Federal level) Threatened or Endangered Species or their critical habitat are known to exist on or near the site. It is not necessary to conduct an Endangered Species survey at this time.**
12. Please provide a discussion of what interest in the property is currently held, will be maintained, (e.g., fee simple ownership, lease or use agreement), any known easements (road, utilities, power lines, mineral rights, floodways), and the ability to subordinate any existing easements to the required mitigation banking conservation easement. Please identify any portion of the bank that would occur on public lands;

the owner of that land, or the holder of any liens, easements, or encumbrances on the property.

13. Please discuss the proposed Mitigation Service Area for the mitigation bank.

## **II. STREAM MITIGATION**

### **A. Stream**

1. Provide aerial photography showing the current, historic, and proposed locations of intermittent and perennial streams on the mitigation site as well as the location of the proposed reference reach streams. The local NRCS is often a good source for current and historical aerial photos. Soil maps and U.S.G.S. quad maps may be used to support the locations of current and historic stream locations.
2. Preliminary stream data within project area:
  - Identify whether streams are located in coastal plain (low gradient), or piedmont and mountain (high gradient).
  - For each stream reach, identify the stream name, type (perennial or intermittent), approximated lengths, and watershed size.
  - For each stream, identify the current stream type using Rosgen's stream classification system.
  - Identify the current channel evolution state of each stream (stable, downcutting, widening, reestablishing at lower elevation) and briefly describe any alterations to the stream channel dimension, pattern, and profile that justify stream mitigation actions (channel alterations, bank erosion, excessive sedimentation, embeddedness, headcutting/downcutting, exposed bedrock).
  - For each stream, identify the target stream type and proposed stream mitigation objectives for each reach.
3. Reference Reach (required):
  - Identify whether reference streams are located in coastal plain (low gradient), or piedmont and mountain (high gradient).
  - For each reference stream reach, identify the stream name, type (perennial or intermittent), and watershed size.
  - For each reference stream, identify the current stream type using Rosgen's stream classification system.
  - Briefly describe the current condition of the reference stream channel dimension, pattern, and profile that qualify it as a reference reach stream.

### **B. Riparian Buffer**

- Please provide aerial photography or maps showing the locations of all stream riparian buffers and associated stream reaches. Briefly describe proposed widths of the proposed riparian buffers for each stream reach.
- Please provide aerial photographs and briefly describe current land uses adjacent to the riparian buffers.

- Please provide the initial information required under Wetland Mitigation Projects for all wetlands and upland habitats within the riparian buffers.
- 

*This is the initial and minimum information that is required for the IRT's preliminary review. See Step 2 – Site Inspection. For additional information regarding documentation that is required for Mitigation Bank, please refer to 33 CFR 332 and the Mobile District Mitigation Banking Instrument Template.*

**STEP 2 - SITE VISIT:** After completing Step I., a site visit will be scheduled if the IRT determines the proposed site is a good candidate as a potential mitigation bank.

1. Preliminary data that the applicant is required to furnish for the site visit:
  - A site plan that reflects individual polygons for individual habitat types and areas with different land management strategies within the mitigation site.
  - The points at which the assessments are taken must be marked (flagging, GIS coordinates, etc.) so the locations can be verified by the IRT during the site evaluation.
  - Preliminary functional assessment worksheets for all polygons within the proposed mitigation bank site (for general discussion purposes in the field).

**STEP 3 - PROSPECTUS:** After the site inspection, the IRT will either approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the project site as a potential mitigation bank. If approved, the applicant will be requested to submit a Banking Prospectus that meets the requirements specified in 33 CFR 332 Mitigation for Impacts to Aquatic Resources. Once the prospectus is received, the project will be placed on Public Notice and the applicant is encouraged to initiate communications with the regulatory agencies to provide necessary information for obtaining their required certifications including an approved wetland delineation with the Corps of Engineers. The applicant is also encouraged to begin working on the Mitigation Banking Instrument.