

# Mitigation Process Improvement Workshop

September 17 - 21, 2001



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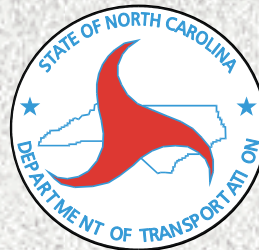
# Mitigation Process Mission

- To develop a structured mitigation process that supports the timely delivery of North Carolina's Transportation Program while appropriately compensating for unavoidable and minimized wetland, stream, and buffer impacts.

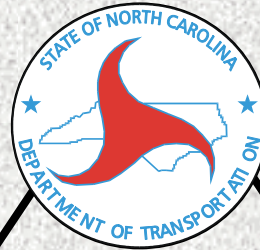


# Workshop Purpose

- To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the DOT/DENR/COE compensatory mitigation process.



# Sponsors



**Roger Sheats**

## Reinforcing Sponsors

Janet D'Ignazio Greg Thorpe

Donna Moffitt Wayne Wright

Len Sanderson



**Dempsey Benton**



US Army Corps  
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**Colonel James DeLony**

# 21 Participants and 4 Facilitators Attended



# Key Issues



- Lack of a defined mitigation process
- No clear definition of agency roles and responsibilities
- Difficulty in identifying, obtaining, and improving mitigation sites
- Difficulty in recruiting and retaining skilled staff to implement program
- Mitigation success is not clearly defined
- Mitigation science is still developing



# Lack of a Defined Mitigation Process



Programmatic or Project Specific?

When does mitigation start?  
Up-Front-Proactive/Project Driven

Kind of mitigation needed?  
Watershed Approach/Habitat Approach

Functional replacement values?



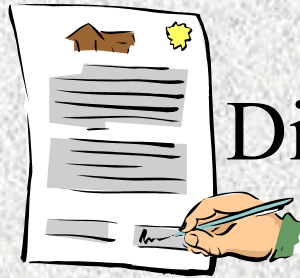
# Identified Root Problems in Current Process

- Lack of a formal functional replacement methodology
- Mitigation Process not done early enough/Late plan approval
- Permits driving the mitigation process
- Lack of understanding of watershed needs
- Project focused rather than program focused
- Agencies have different missions/Lack of consistency

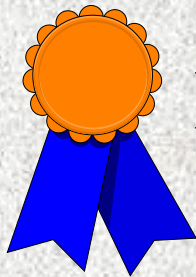




# No clear definition of agency roles and responsibilities



Differing Regulations and Guidance



High quality resources not defined



Flexible mitigation options are needed

# Difficulty in identifying, obtaining, and improving mitigation sites

~~Lack of  
available streams  
and wetlands~~

~~Poor  
Site  
Selection~~

~~Satisfying  
Agency  
Requirements~~

~~Landowner  
unwillingness  
to sell~~

~~Cost  
Prohibited ?~~



# Difficulty in recruiting and retaining skilled staff to implement program

**Work Overload**

**Lack of Program Direction**

**Job  
Dissatisfaction  
?**

**Unsatisfactory Pay  
& Benefits**

**Insufficient # of  
Staff Positions**



# Future Strategies

- Ecological Enhancement Program (EEP)

Advisory and Technical Group

- NCDOT Parallel Program
- WRP In Lieu Fee Program
- Entrepreneurial Banking Contracts



# Advantages of EEP

- State Endorsed Program
- Multi Agency Funding
- Representative Agency Participation
- Guaranteed Delivery of Mitigation
- Accountability by all Agencies
- Mitigation Process de-coupled from Permits



# Recommendations

- Adequate **Staff** and **Money** for existing and future program.
- MOU outlining new process.
- EEP responsible and accountable for program.



*(See handout provided)*