

2. OWP-AAP: Compile hydrologic performance standards for mitigation banks.

Position Title: Water Resources Protection Summer Volunteer

Background:

The 2008 Mitigation Rule requires that mitigation plans for impacts to wetlands from projects permitted through the Clean Water Act Section 404 dredge and fill permitting program identify enforceable ecologically based performance standards for determining if and when mitigation project objectives have been achieved (33 CFR 332.5) and (40 CFR 230.95). The rule further requires that these ecological performance standards *a*) be objective and verifiable, *b*) be based on the best available science that can be measured or assessed in a practicable manner, and *c*) where practicable, should take into account the expected stages of aquatic resource development, allowing for appropriate adaptive management. The 2008 rule outlines additional monitoring requirements necessary to determine if and when performance standard have been achieved (33 CFR 332.6) and (40 CFR 230.96).

Position Description:

The Aquifer and Aquatic Resource Protection Unit (AARPU) in the Region Office of Water Protection proposes a summer intern review and summarize *hydrologic* performance standards for existing wetlands mitigation sites in the region. The information would be used to develop a tool that would support recommendations for monitoring mitigation sites and developing performance standards, and to assess whether mitigation plans and banking instruments have the proper hydrology to be resilient in during drought in a semi-arid environment. This projects combines AARPU's unique expertise in mitigation banking and hydrologic science to support the intern. This project would coordinate with and build on a similar HQs project that an intern at EPA HQs has developed; that project is focused on humid areas without the extreme drought outlook that is present in parts of Region 8. Working with a HQs intern will offer the R8 intern additional learning opportunities.

Specific duties may include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Finding examples of hydrologic performance standards in bank instruments or site plans by using program databases, and by contacting EPA and Corps staff.
- Potentially contacting mitigation bank sponsors to get specific information about the performance standards
- Evaluate the performance standards with guidance by EPA staff experts.
- Evaluate the ability of the standards to perform under drought conditions.
- Compile information and supporting documentation in a readily useable format.
- Develop a tool to support recommendations for mitigation banks that are under review by interagency review teams.

Desired Skills:

- Excellent written and verbal communication
- Basic Excel
- Basic Word
- Ability to work independently and make contacts without introductions by others
- Works well on a team

Knowledge/Experience (optional, but a bonus):

Basic hydrology and/or wetland science

Timeline:

Intern will be on board for 3 months (there may be an opportunity to extend for a maximum of 6 months depending on circumstances, but this is not assured).

Desired hours per week:

30-40 hours.

Desired start date:

Not fixed. Completing the project before end of fiscal year is the goal.

For More Information: Karen Hamilton 303 312 6236.

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