What Speeds and Slows Wetland and Stream Restoration
Insights from Research on US Army Corps Mitigation Bank Approval Timelines

State of the Coast 2023
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“Sometimes, fully one-third of public funding for a restoration project goes to planning and permitting…” (Cutting Green Tape)
Quantitative Analysis of Required Timelines

- 225 days

DA permits. This initial evaluation letter must be provided to the sponsor within 30 days of the end of the public notice comment period.

And more...
Data & Research Questions

FY14 - FY21 Corps ORM data
- 686 ending records

Categories
- Mandatory federal processing
- Sponsor processing
- Additional processing

Is required timeline being met?
- Difference by District?
- Difference by year?
Main Q: Is required timeline being met?

- No, mean mandatory federal processing time ≠ 225 days (p<0.01)
- Actual (mean) = 336 days federal processing*

* Note: Probably underestimated, because 46% of records do not start recording times until the complete prospectus is received.
Adding in Sponsor and Additional Time

- No, mean mandatory federal processing time ≠ 225 days (p<0.01)
- Actual (mean) = 336 days federal processing + 495 days sponsor processing + 267 days additional processing = TOTAL 1,099 days
Q: Are there Differences by District? A: Yes
Other National-Level Research Questions

Q: Are Timelines Being Met in Some Years?
A: No (exception: 2014)

Q: Are Timelines Trending Over Time?
A: No
Take-Aways from Quantitative Analysis

● Using delay codes will help adaptive management

● Transparency - PEEP it!
  (Virginia’s Permitting Enhancement and Evaluation Platform)

● Appendix data is a goldmine!

Report link: bit.ly/mitigationbankresearch
Digging In: Mapping out What Speeds and Slows Restoration Permitting
Insight from Interviews - Top 3 Things…

Districts are doing great!

1. Standardization and consistency
2. Staff
3. Leadership in project review team (IRT)
Insight from Interviews - Top 3 Things…

What top things could change to speed up restoration permitting?

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Insight from Interviews - Top 3 Things…

Districts could change

1. Increase staffing / dedicated team
2. Standardization and consistency
3. X analysis paralysis (be decisive!)

Poll

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Other EPIC Work

Restoration Permit Streamlining - Policy Tracking [ADD VISUAL]
Pay for Success Approaches to Restoration
California Mitigation Bank Approval Timelines
Tribal Compensatory Mitigation
Waters of the United States - Policy Tracking

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Thank You!

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Report Link

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