Draft Prospectus Submittal Guidance for Wetland Mitigation Banks or Wetland In-Lieu Fee Projects

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June 1, 2016
Draft Prospectus Submittal Guidance for Wetland Mitigation Banks or Wetland In-Lieu Fee Projects

- Guidance Documents
  - Increase efficiency of review
  - Increase transparency
  - To support decision making rooted in sound science in accordance all applicable laws
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- Basic Information required for submittal
  - Owner – project sponsor, landowner(s), etc.
  - Agent – consultants qualifications and experience
  - Project location – coordinates, town, HUCs, ecoregions, etc.
  - Written permission to access the property
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- Project goals
  - Why are you proposing the project
  - Address specific physical, chemical, and/or biological functions that will be improved
    - Example: Increase water retention time and restore native plant community to forested flat wetland
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- Project Objectives
  - How will the goals be achieved?
  - Objectives will be specific and quantitative
    - Example: Restore 30 acres of forested flat wetland by plugging drainage ditches and planting native woody vegetation to increase water retention, biogeochemical transformation, maintain characteristic plant community, and improve wildlife habitat.
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- Site Constraints
  - Describe constraints that would limit restoration potential
    - Adjacent Landuse, Roadways, Utility Lines, Stormwater outfalls
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- Wetland Assessment
  - Accurately document the baseline conditions and/or functions of any existing wetlands
    - Tennessee Rapid Assessment Method (TRAM)
    - Non-Hydrogeomorphic Methodology (HGM) TRAM
    - USACE Regional Guidebook for Applying the HGM Approach to Assessing the Functions of Flat and Seasonally Inundated Depression Wetlands on the Highland Rim.
    - Tennessee Valley Authority Rapid Assessment Methodology (TVA-RAM)
    - Floristic Quality Index, or other IRT approved assessment
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- Assessment needs to be completed for each wetland type and/or distinct plant community type.
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- Baseline Conditions
  - Describe existing conditions within the watershed and the proposed site
  - List and Describe all site selection criteria used to identify the site
  - Estimation of acreage of project site and wetland acreage within project site
- Current On-site Land Use
- Current Adjacent Land Use and Reasonable Expected Development
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- Baseline Conditions Continued
  - HGM Classification of each wetland type
  - Source of Hydrology that exist at the project site
  - Description of any existing hydrologic impairments contributing to baseline conditions
  - Hydrologic Monitoring should be conducted prior to baseline data collection and throughout monitoring period
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- Baseline Condition Continued
  - Current wetland habitat Cowardin classification types (acres for each type)
  - Dominant Plant Species (by stratum) identified throughout the site for each wetland type
  - Proposed Service Area (Banks) Advanced credit service are for (ILF Sites)
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- Maps
  - Parcel Maps
  - Map estimation of each on-site aquatic resource boundary
  - NRCS Hydric Rating Map
  - National Wetland Inventory Map
  - Topographic Map
  - Aerial Maps (current and historical)
  - Service Area (If applicable)

- Site Photographs
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- Proposed Mitigation Approach
  - Describe the mitigation approach for each area within the project site (establishment, re-establishment, rehabilitation, enhancement, and preservation)

Table 1. Summary of Mitigation Approach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Condition</th>
<th>Treatment Type</th>
<th>Desired Condition</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Credit Ratio</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Wetland</td>
<td>Enhancement</td>
<td>PF01</td>
<td>5.72</td>
<td></td>
<td>4:1</td>
<td>1.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floodplain</td>
<td>Creation</td>
<td>PF01</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td></td>
<td>1:1</td>
<td>1.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag. Upland</td>
<td>Buffer</td>
<td>PF01</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td></td>
<td>8:1</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Restoration</td>
<td></td>
<td>11.66</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Function Lift – Use the baseline data to describe how the proposed project will improve wetlands functions within each area.

- Describe the target wetland Cowardin Classification, HGM Type, and ecological classification
- Describe slope, size, and structure of the upland buffer

Identify the reference site of the same HGM class and provide a description of the site.
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- **Site Protection**
  - Describe the long-term site protection
    - Conservation easement
    - Restrictive covenant

- **Long-Term Management**
  - Proposed ownership arrangements
  - Potential easement holder
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- Historic Properties
  - Provide a statement regarding the presence of cultural, archaeological, and/or historic resources
  - Information regarding cultural resources and the National Historic Preservation Act can be reviewed at the National Park Service’s website: http://www.nps.gov/nr/
  - It is not necessary to conduct a Phase I historic resources survey at this time
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- Threatened and Endangered Species
  - Provide a discussion of any existing (state or federal) threatened or endangered species and/or their critical habitat known to exist on or near the site and cite the source of this information as well as the last year the population was documented
  - Listed species survey not required at this time
Questions