

WETLAND PRACTICES SUPPORTIVE OF PUBLIC RECREATION AND HUNTING

**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION**

Winter 2019

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	Page 1
Mitigation Credit For Diverse Habitats Update	Page 2
Potential Wildlife Habitats Update.....	Page 2
Appendix A. Inventory of DEQ Mitigation Land Holdings	Page 3

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-214.15 the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reports to the Environmental Review Commission annually on the actions taken to encourage wetland mitigation practices supportive of public recreation and hunting on mitigation sites. The Department's mitigation sites are comprised of lands owned in fee and conservation easements held on private lands. The following report reflects the Department's supportive activities for Calendar Year 2018. This is the third annual report prepared pursuant to NC General Statute 143-214.15.

MITIGATION CREDIT FOR DIVERSE HABITATS UPDATE

As a member of the Interagency Review Team (IRT), the Division of Water Resources (DWR) works with the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) staff and other agencies to ensure that the appropriate wetland and stream mitigation is taking place for impacts to those resources, and analyzes sites for the appropriate mitigation credit.

In the past year (2018), DWR worked closely with IRT members to examine the aquatic habitat and flow for many of the zero order and first order streams that were proposed for stream mitigation. While these drainages in the upper watershed are important for water quality, they may not possess the adequate flow to support the aquatic life necessary to provide the appropriate functional uplift for the proposed stream mitigation reaches. The IRT is currently working with the Division of Mitigation Services (DMS) and Mitigation Providers to identify and gauge representative stream reaches to provide more data to better inform the mitigation policy regarding these streams.

The DWR and WRC staff continue to coordinate with other IRT members to optimize the amount of stream and wetland diverse habitats that occur on mitigation sites in North Carolina.

POTENTIAL WILDLIFE HABITATS UPDATE

To conserve, protect and enhance the natural resources of North Carolina, the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) and other state agencies protect high-quality natural areas and mitigation lands through easement purchases or fee simple acquisitions. These land holdings are managed in perpetuity to protect water quality, wildlife habitat and open space. The Department utilizes three methods of acquisition for mitigation land holdings: acquisition by easement (ABE), acquisition by deed (ABD), and reallocation of land (ROL). The Department retains hunting rights on ABD and ROL properties. Private landowners do not convey hunting rights to the State with the signing of a conservation easement.

For calendar year 2018 the Department held mitigation property interest in 570 parcels statewide. This number includes 26 properties held in deed and 544 properties held in easement. Since the inception of the mitigation program the Department has provided public hunting opportunities on select mitigation properties held in deed. This has been accomplished thru the award of term-limited hunting leases. The Department currently leases five mitigation properties and plans to make four additional properties available for hunting lease over the next year.

Appendix A of this report provides an inventory of the Department's ABD and ROL mitigation land holdings. This inventory has been provided to the WRC and the Department continues to consult with the WRC to determine which mitigation land holdings qualify as potential wildlife habitats.

APPENDIX A

ABD and ROL Mitigation Land Holdings with Retained Hunting Rights

DEQ Determination of Potential Wildlife Habitat	NCWRC Determination of Potential Wildlife Habitat	Department Name	County Name	Transaction Type Name	SPO File No.	Project Name	DEQ File No. (IMS)
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Bertie	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	08-020.001	SALMON CREEK (NICHOLLS FARM)	441
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Cabarrus	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	13-016.001	CODDLE CREEK	94
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Caldwell	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	14-020.008	BROWN BRANCH	
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Cumberland	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	26-045.002	BIG POND BAY	92101
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Dare	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	28-090.023	OUTER BANKS MITIGATION - LOT 39 AT HOLIDAY SHORES (SUMMERELL SWANVIEW SHORES)	N/A
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Dare	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	28-096.001	USACOE IMPACTS (CARLYLE 2 ON SOUND)	N/A
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Forsyth	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	34-036.001	BRUSHY FORK CREEK	55
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Franklin	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	35-011.001	MOCCASIN CREEK	256
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Hertford	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	46-031.001	NUCOR STEEL MILL SITE	94798
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Lenoir	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	54-033.003	ADKIN BRANCH	7
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Onslow	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	67-073.001	US EPA SETTLEMENT (HPS&R SITE)	94799
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Orange	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	68-041.038	CHAPEL CREEK-FINLEY GOLF COURSE	77
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Orange	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	68-041.041	MORGAN CREEK FLOODPLAIN	258
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Pasquotank	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	70-032.001	KNOBS CREEK	209
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Pitt	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	74-041.001	MIDDLE SWAMP CREEK (JOHNSON-DALE)	661
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Rockingham	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	79-018.001	SHARPE WETLAND PRESERVATION	92241
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Rowan	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	80-020.001	DOUBLE THUMB RESTORATION SITE (SECOND CREEK WETLANDS)	92237
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Rowan	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	80-020.002	DOUBLE THUMB RESTORATION SITE (SECOND CREEK WETLANDS)	92237
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Sampson	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	82-021.008	GREAT COHARIE SWAMP TRACT	92152
IN REVIEW	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Sampson	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED		SIX RUNS CREEK	92617
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-234.002	SMITH-AUSTIN CREEK	343
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-234.001	SMITH-AUSTIN CREEK	343
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-241.001	NEW LIGHT CREEK (BOLD RUN)	439
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-241.002	TERRIBLE CREEK	134
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	92-236.001	CHAVIS PARK RESTORATION SITE	87
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wayne	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	96-040.001	NORWOOD GAINES WETLAND	628