

WETLAND PRACTICES SUPPORTIVE OF PUBLIC RECREATION AND HUNTING

**ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION**

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North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pursuant to NC General Statute 143-214.15 the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) reports annually to the Environmental Review Commission 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 2019. 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.

During 2019 DWR worked with the IRT on three primary focus areas: 1) continued focus on the appropriate flow regime for zero to first order streams, 2) push the mitigation community into pursuing more projects on higher order streams. There has been a decline in recent years on work on alluvial stream systems. The IRT has made it a focus to pursue larger drainage areas stream systems, which in turn usually have more floodplain and seep wetlands. And 3), the IRT has focused on revising the mitigation guidance in response to several major trends noted over the last couple of years.

Some of the major trends the IRT focused on in the guidance include: 1) promoting larger sites and 2) more contiguous (connected, spatially and hydrologically) restoration sites, and 3) sites that show significant functional uplift (more restoration).

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 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 2019 the Department held mitigation property interest in 819 parcels statewide. This number includes 25 properties held in deed and 794 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 seven mitigation properties and plans to make six 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 NCWRC and the Department continues to consult with the NCWRC 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	DEQ Determination of Potential Wildlife Habitat	Department Name	County Name	Transaction Type Name	SPO File No.	Project Name
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Bertie	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	08-020.001	SALMON CREEK (NICHOLLS FARM)
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Cabarrus	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	13-016.001	CODDLE CREEK
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
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Dare	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	28-090.023	OUTER BANKS MITIGATION - LOT 39 AT HOLIDAY SHORES (SUMMERELL SWANVIEW SHORES)
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Dare	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	28-096.001	USACOE IMPACTS (CARLYLE 2 ON SOUND)
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Forsyth	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	34-036.001	BRUSHY FORK CREEK
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Franklin	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	35-011.001	MOCCASIN CREEK
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Hertford	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	46-031.001	NUCOR STEEL MILL SITE
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Lenoir	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	54-033.003	ADKIN BRANCH
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Onslow	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	67-073.001	US EPA SETTLEMENT (HPS&R SITE)
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Orange	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	68-041.038	CHAPEL CREEK-FINLEY GOLF COURSE
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Orange	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	68-041.041	MORGAN CREEK FLOODPLAIN
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Pasquotank	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	70-032.001	KNOBS CREEK
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Pitt	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	74-041.001	MIDDLE SWAMP CREEK (JOHNSON-DALE)
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Rockingham	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	79-018.001	SHARPE WETLAND PRESERVATION
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Rowan	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	80-020.001	DOUBLE THUMB RESTORATION SITE (SECOND CREEK WETLANDS)
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Rowan	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	80-020.002	DOUBLE THUMB RD. RESTORATION SITE (SECOND CREEK WETLANDS)
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Sampson	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	82-021.008	GREAT COHARIE SWAMP TRACT
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-234.001	SMITH AUSTIN
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-234.002	SMITH-AUSTIN CREEK
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ROL REALLOCATION OF LAND	92-236.001	CHAVIS PARK RESTORATION SITE
FALSE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-241.001	NEW LIGHT CREEK (BOLD RUN)
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wake	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	92-241.002	TERRIBLE CREEK
TRUE	IN REVIEW	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	Wayne	ABD ACQUISITION BY DEED	96-040.001	NORWOOD GAINEY WETLAND