

Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program (WMAP)

Purpose: Build State and Tribal Capacity

- Establish Baseline, Ambient Wetland Quality Condition
- Set Goals for Mitigation
- Set Goals for Restoration
- Meeting Environmental and Administrative Measures

Basic Strategy

- Facilitate Program Development
 - Elements Guidance Document
 - Wetland Program Development Grants
 - Workgroups (National/Regional)
- Technical Assistance
 - 3 Tiered Assessment Approach
 - BWWAG Modules
- EPA Policy
 - Compendium of State WQS Applications
 - Tiered Aquatic Life Uses
 - Mainstreaming Wetlands

Monitoring and Assessment Program History

- Pre-1990 Section 305(b) did not report on wetland condition only change in quantity
- Early 1990's EPA required wetland specific water quality standards be addressed in the process of the triennial review cycle
- 1996 EPA formed the Biological Assessment Wetlands Work Group (BAWWG)
- 1998 New England BAWWG was formulated
- 2002 Formulation of the National Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Workgroup
- 2003 Mid-Atlantic BAWWG Begun
- 2005 Region 8 BAWWG

Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Work Group

Products and Priorities

<i>Program Implementation</i>	<i>Methods Development and Testing</i>	<i>Demonstration Projects (showing implementation)</i>
Document wetland monitoring as an element within state/tribal monitoring program	Track development of “Level 1” assessment methods	Track use of Level 1 methods to produce watershed management plans
Produce technical guidance report that reviews Level 1 approaches	Produce a technical guidance report that review Level 1 approaches	Track adoption of methods for regulatory decision-making
Adopt minimum requirements for a monitoring and assessment program	Track development of “Level 2” methods	Track the adoption of methods for building wetland mitigation and restoration standards
Refine EPA CWA104 (WPDG) Grant Guidance	Distribute new EPA report that reviews Level 2 methods	Track the use of methods for developing water quality standards for wetlands
Prepare agenda for scheduled work group calls and workshops	Update EPA published wetland monitoring and assessment modules, including Level 3 methods	Track the use of information management systems for reporting data e.g., “WATERS”
Maintain EPA websites on wetland monitoring and assessment	Produce a module on the fundamentals of conducting a watershed/state scale wetland survey	

Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program

1. Monitoring Program Strategy
 2. Monitoring Objectives
 3. Monitoring Design
4. Core and Supplemental Water Quality Indicators
 5. Quality Assurance
 6. Data Management
 7. Data Analysis/Assessment
 8. Reporting
 9. Programmatic Evaluation
10. General Support and Infrastructure Planning

Elements Communication Strategy

- Final Comments from AWPD (10/05)
- Final comments from Science Peer Review (10/05)
- Final to Diane for Transmittal (11/05)
- Regional Monitoring Coordinators Meeting (01/06)
- Targeted 104(b) Grants (04/06)
- 2007 All States incorporate wetlands monitoring in Strategy