DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401

November 8, 2018

Regulatory Branch
SAS-2017-00592

PUBLIC NOTICE
Savannah District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch (Corps), is proposing a new monitoring metrics and performance standards for evaluating stream and wetland compensatory mitigation pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). This public notice is being distributed to all interested stakeholders to solicit public input for consideration in the development of these monitoring metrics and performance standards.

The Corps is soliciting written comments on the proposed "Draft Monitoring Guidelines & Performance Standards for Freshwater Wetlands and Non-Tidal Streams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Savannah District", dated November 8, 2018. Once finalized, these guidelines would be incorporated into the compendium of documents that comprise the 2018 Standard Operating Procedure for Compensatory Mitigation, dated April 27, 2018, and apply to all regulatory actions requiring the evaluation of compensatory mitigation actions associated with mitigation banks, In-Lieu-Fee mitigation projects, and permittee responsible mitigation sites. The period for submittal of written comments will close 60 days from the date of this public notice.

BACKGROUND: The 2008 Mitigation Rule (Rule), [33 CFR 332.5 (a)], states, “The approved mitigation plan must contain performance standards that will be used to assess whether the project is achieving its objectives. Performance standards should relate to the objectives of the compensatory mitigation project, so that the project can be objectively evaluated to determine if it is developing into the desired resource type, providing the expected functions, and attaining any other applicable metrics (e.g., acres improved). In addition, the Rule states [33 CFR 332.6 (a)(1)], states, “Monitoring the compensatory mitigation project site is necessary to determine if the project is meeting its performance standards, and to determine if measures are necessary to ensure that the compensatory mitigation project is accomplishing its objectives. The submission of monitoring reports to assess the development and condition of the compensatory mitigation project is required, but the content and level of detail for those monitoring reports must be commensurate with the scale and scope of the compensatory mitigation. The mitigation plan must address the monitoring requirements for the compensatory mitigation project, including the parameters to be monitored, the length of the monitoring period, the party responsible for conducting the monitoring, the frequency for submitting monitoring reports to the district engineer, and the party responsible for submitting those monitoring reports to the district engineer”.

Pursuant to the regulation-required mitigation plan elements outlined above, the Corps developed the draft monitoring metrics and performance standards to assist project sponsors with the evaluation of both freshwater wetland and non-tidal stream mitigation projects within the State of Georgia

COMMENTS: Anyone wishing to comment on this public notice should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Regulatory Branch, Attention: Mr. Justin A. Hammonds, Post Office Box 528, Buford, Georgia 30515, no later than 60 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to project number SAS-2017-00592 in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Justin A. Hammonds, Mitigation Liaison at (678) 804-5227 or Justin.A.Hammonds@usace.army.mil.

Enclosure
1. Draft Monitoring Guidelines & Performance Standards for Freshwater Wetlands and Non-Tidal Streams, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Savannah District