


Issue:		Water and Water Quality	
Action Tool Title		The use of regional strategies for Section 404 permitting	
Description of the tool:		The use of general and regional permitting can streamline the development permitting process, resulting in better projects and more effective conservation of natural values. The Clean Water Act Requires that the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States, including special aquatic sites such as wetlands, requires a Section 404 permit, issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) can authorize activities by a standard individual permit, nationwide permit, or regional permit. The Corps makes the determination on what type of permit is needed.	
How Well Does It Work?			
How valuable is this tool? How important is its contribution to achieving North Texas' vision for the future?			
Wetlands, creeks, rivers, lakes and other waterbodies, are critical sources of water for domestic and industrial use in the region. The tool aims to protect these important resources as well the other benefits they provide to the surrounding area and region overall.			
How does it actually work?			
This tool would involve working closely with the regulatory agency (Corps) as well as the variety of supporting organizations such as US Fish & Wildlife, USEPA, TCEQ, etc.			
What are the costs and who will they affect?	What are the benefits and who will they help?		
Restrained development that may increase the cost of land available for development. Environmental impacts mitigation processes that may increase the cost of projects.	The region as a whole benefits from less pollutants of its waters. Protection and conservation of wetlands and waterbodies enhances the ecological biodiversity of the region.		
What are the biggest stumbling blocks?	How can they be addressed?		
Need for interagency and intergovernmental coordination Need for appropriate public involvement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up an ongoing interagency panel to develop proposals and strategies. Set up public awareness education and involvement program to comply with intent of Clean Water Act (CWA) and permit procedures. 		
Who Would be Responsible?			
Primary (lead) responsibility	U. S. Army Corp of Engineers		
Secondary responsibility	USEPA, USFW, FEMA, US Coast Guard, TCEQ, TWDB, NCTCOG		
Need for coordination	Public special interest groups, Private Sector Development		
How Should it be Funded?			
Primary (lead) responsibility	Federal/State/Local partnership		
Secondary responsibility	Federal/State/Local partnership		
How Does It Connect?			
What other VNT issues are helped by this tool?	Climate change concerns, habitat diversity		
What other VNT issues could be hurt by this tool?	None so far		
How Should It Be Implemented?			
What will be done?	When will it happen?		
Meeting for launch of cooperation	Launch cooperative discussions ASAP		
Develop MOA or MOU to maintain partnerships	ASAP		
What Examples Can We Follow?			
North Texas Case Studies	Successful wetland mitigation banks, innovative permitting strategies in use, etc.		
Other Texas Case Studies	Katy-Cypress Wetlands Mitigation Bank; Martins Creek Mitigation Bank; Anderson Tract Project; Hawkins Tract Mitigation Area; Byrd Tract Mitigation Area; Klamm Mitigation Bank; Blue Elbow Swamp Mitigation Bank; Greens Bayou Mitigation Bank; BFI Mitigation Bank; Neches River Cypress Swamp Preserve; Coastal Bottomlands Mitigation Bank and other innovative permitting strategies in use, etc.		
Other U.S. Case Studies	Successful wetland mitigation banks, innovative permitting strategies in use, etc.		
Supporting Research	National Mitigation Banking Association		
Related Information			
Acknowledgements	Vision North Texas Water/Natural Assets Team		