

## **APPENDIX C: INITIAL REVIEW CHECK LIST**

### **INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO THE MITIGATION BANKING REVIEW TEAM**

This is a list of information to be provided by the applicant for the pre-application coordination phase of the joint state/federal Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT). The MBRT's initial review is to let the applicant know if the proposed site might be a good candidate for a mitigation bank. **This initial information must be furnished to the MBRT members at least 2 weeks before a scheduled meeting.**

- *Contact the Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Mr. Michael Moxey (251-694-3771) regarding the meeting schedule and mailing addresses for the MBRT members.*

#### **Provide the following:**

#### ***STEP I – INITIAL REVIEW:***

1. Aerial photography of the project site (historic and current use). The local NRCS is often a good source for current and historical aerial photos.
2. Preliminary wetland data:
  - a. Show the property on NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) soil map.
  - b. Show the property on a U.S.G.S. quad (U.S. Geologic Survey).
  - c. Show the site on a NWI (National Wetlands Inventory) map. Please see [www.nwi.fws.gov](http://www.nwi.fws.gov) for available maps.
  - d. If possible, show site on the 8-digit HUC map.

*Note: At this phase, you do not have to delineate the property using the 1987 Corps of Engineers Delineation Manual.*

3. Total acreage of the site (including any upland buffers and upland inclusions). Estimated wetland acreage.
4. Show any streams on the site. Give current condition and projected restoration/enhancement. Give types/linear feet of streams on site.
5. A discussion of the current ecological conditions: Existing vegetative community types and target native community types. Target species should be the historic vegetative community.
6. A discussion of current land use at the site and surrounding areas. Show on a map the land uses surrounding the project site. Discuss reasonable expected development for the site (if bank activities were not implemented) and the surrounding area.

7. Describe how the mitigation will be accomplished. Examples – see below:
  - Hydrologic restoration via filling ditch network
  - Re-establishment of fire regime
  - Re-establishment of native vegetative communities via (name activity proposed)
  - Other
  - Types of mitigation proposed: Restoration, Enhancement, Creation and/or Preservation.

Percentage (or number of acres) of each type of work: Restoration, Enhancement, Creation, and/or Preservation.

8. Discuss the proposed ecological conditions under the with- and without-bank scenarios, and how the difference between these will be quantified. Relevant to this discussion are the presence of special biological resources (e.g. endangered species/critical habitat, special aquatic sites, etc.) and adjacent land uses.
9. Narrative overview of the project describing how the resulting increase in ecological value at the site will improve conditions in the regional watershed (or proposed mitigation service area).
10. Address if the bank may affect or be affected by a public project. If so, discuss the bank's compatibility with the public project.
11. A discussion of any known existing or potential historic or archaeological resources on or near the site. It is not necessary to conduct a Phase I historic resources survey at this time.
12. A discussion of any known existing (State or Federal level) Threatened or Endangered Species or their critical habitat on or near the site. It is not necessary to conduct an Endangered Species survey at this time.
13. A discussion of what interest in the property is currently held and will be maintained (e.g., fee simple ownership, lease or use agreement, easements: road, powerline or other types of easements, floodways, mineral rights, etc.); identify any portion of the bank that would occur on public lands; identify the owner of that land or holder of any easements on the property.
14. If known, the proposed Mitigation Service Area and rationale.

***STEP 2 - SITE VISIT:*** After review of the information submitted in Step I., a site visit will be scheduled if the MBRT believes the proposed site has any mitigation banking potential.

SITE VISIT: The applicant is to furnish the following information for the site visit:

- A preliminary mitigation functional assessment should be performed by dividing the project site into polygons.
- Each polygon should represent an area of specific habitat within the site (Pine Flatwoods polygon, Bottomland Hardwood polygon, or Depressional polygon, etc.).
- A general mitigation strategy identifying restoration, enhancement, or preservation strategies (creation will reviewed on a case-by-case basis but is generally not encouraged for mitigation banks) by polygon. The applicant may benefit from performing a functional assessment method such as HGM, WRAP, M-WRAP, or Ratio Method to determine credit generation by the different mitigation strategies. However, please verify type of proposed assessment with the MBRT.
- For each polygon, you must provide: 1) baseline evaluation, 2) “with bank,” and 3) “without bank” scenarios.
- The points at which the assessments are taken must be marked (flagging, GIS coordinates, etc.) so they can be revisited by the MBRT during the site inspection..
- The applicant must be able to justify all mitigation strategies, functional assessments, and credit generation findings to the MBRT.

***STEP 3 - PROSPECTUS:*** After the site inspection, if the MBRT believes that the property has mitigation banking potential, the applicant will be requested to provide a prospectus. To expedite the approval process, the MBRT recommends the applicant also initiate efforts for providing the following required information:

- A wetland delineation to the Corps of Engineers for verification and begin work on the Banking Prospectus
- A cultural resource survey and written verification provided from the State Historic Preservation Officer that any activity within the mitigation bank area in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and will not threaten significant historical or archaeological data.
- A Threatened and Endangered Species survey which should be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.