2015 Wetland Program Development Grant
Recipients

TRACK I

Kentucky Division of Water

Kentucky Water Assessment Data for Environmental Monitoring (K-WADE) Enhancement for Wetland Assessment Data

The Kentucky Division of Water has an Oracle database, K-WADE, which houses data from surface water and ambient groundwater monitoring programs, and which has recently been launched for input of monitoring data from streams, lakes, and reservoirs. The funded project will enhance K-WADE to accommodate the unique needs of the wetland program, by incorporating new data types (e.g., soils, vegetation, hydrology, etc.), indicators of condition and function, and different sampling designs and spatial information requirements.

Kentucky Division of Water

The Wetlands Prioritization Tool: A Method to Prioritize Wetlands for Restoration or Protection

This project will develop a tool that scores wetlands based on user needs and objectively ranks sites according to the user inputs. The tool will use data obtained through the Kentucky Wetlands Rapid Assessment Method, KY-WRAM, to select sites that would provide the greatest ecosystem services for the investment, by Section 404/401 applicants considering mitigation activities.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

This project will continue developing wetland assessment protocols to support regulatory and other wetland efforts in Georgia, and continue focused, long-term monitoring of reference wetlands and mitigation sites. With input from stakeholders, eight to ten long-term wetland monitoring sites throughout the state will be selected and analyzed, focusing on terrain, hydrology and soils gradients.

North Carolina DENR

Improved Watershed Planning Through Web Services Development

This project will align research, training, studies and other activities related to protecting and restoring North Carolina's wetlands and water resources, by developing web services that will allow efficient and open access to the State's wetland and water quality data. The end user of these data will have the benefit of a single interface that accesses multiple databases.

Kentucky Division of Water

Survey of Kentucky Wetlands: Intensification of the National Wetland Condition Assessment (NWCA)

This project will use the National Wetland Condition Assessment protocol to assess 37 sites, in addition to the 13 sites from the 2016 NWCA draw; conduct a Level 2 assessment of sites using the Kentucky Wetland Rapid Assessment Method (KY-WRAM); and use the large volume of collected vegetation and stressor data to continue development of a vegetation index of biological integrity (VIBI) and amphibian index of biotic integrity (AmphIBI).

Seminole Tribe of Florida

Continued Development of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Wetland Management Plan

This project will develop a Wetland Program Plan to foster efficient and effective development of the Tribe's wetland program and a GIS database of wetland impacts on the Tribe's Brighton and Big Cypress reservation lands.

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida

L-28 Impact Assessment and Restoration Planning Grant

This project will develop a Tribal Wetland Program Plan and accelerate monitoring and assessment in the L-28 impact area in the heart of the Miccosukee Tribe's Alligator Alley Federal Indian Reservation.

TRACK II

University of Tennessee, Inst. Of Agriculture

Dam Sediment Recycling: Developing Protocols for Characterization and Standards for Reuse in Wetland Rehabilitation

This project will (1) assess existing site conditions behind low head dams pertinent to dam removal feasibility and wetland rehabilitation in dam shadow, focusing on sediment quality and quantity; (2) assess the potential for using dam sediments as soil amendments in wetland rehabilitation projects; and (3) track improvement of functional indicators for restored riparian wetlands associated with dam removal projects.

Tampa Bay NEP

Increasing Coastal Wetland Quantity and Quality in Tampa Bay, Florida, through Assessment of Climate Change Impacts

This project will implement a multi-scale assessment of status, trends, and functions of a suite of critical coastal habitats, and quantify effects of anthropological impacts, such as climate change and sea level rise, on coastal wetlands of Tampa Bay. The assessment will focus on sites that have been previously altered, to evaluate how these areas react differently than those with minimal disturbance.

University of Georgia

Integrating Wetland Ecosystem Services into agriculture: A University of Georgia Demonstration Project

This project will demonstrate how wetland ecosystem services can be profitably integrated into agricultural practice to help induce farmers to conserve wetland habitats. It will be demonstrated at a research farm recently acquired by the University.

Dauphin Island Sea Laboratory

Reducing Runoff Pollution in Coastal Waters through Marsh Restoration: A Decision Support Tool for Stakeholders

This project will conduct a cost-effectiveness analysis of how various marsh restoration designs perform in terms of reducing runoff pollution under current and elevated sea levels. The cost-effectiveness analysis will examine a range of planting densities, platform slopes, and sediment grain sizes.

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

Developing and Applying a Method to Use Ecosytem Services Measurement to Quantify Wetland Restoration Success

The ECOSERVE ecosystem services method predicts the benefits and range of ecosystem services that can be expected from restoration proposals under various future conditions. This project will apply the method to existing wetland habitat restoration sites in the study area that were completed by federal, state, local governments and non-governmental organizations, then it will apply the method to currently proposed mitigation projects. The project will also provide training on use of the method to wetland land managers, regulatory scientists, and interested public decision-makers.