

Guide to Wetland Mitigation Issues for Transportation Designers



**American Association of
State Highway and Transportation Officials**

444 North Capitol Street, NW, Suite 249
Washington, D.C. 20001

September 1996



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Prepared by the Task Force for Environmental Design of the Standing
Committee on Highways, Subcommittee on Design

Published by the American Association of State Highway and
Transportation Officials

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Printed on recycled paper.

ISBN: 1-56051-042-0

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LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**Authors**

Phil Quarterman, Oregon Department of
 Transportation*
 Michael W. Shippey, Oregon Department of
 Transportation

With Contributions From

Eb Engelmann, Oregon Department of
 Transportation
 Vince Pizzolato, Louisiana Department of
 Transportation
 Harry Underwood, Wyoming Department of
 Transportation
 Bill Yarnell, Missouri Transportation
 Department

Reviewers

Bill Belt, Arizona Department of
 Transportation
 Bruce Brumfield, New Jersey Department
 of Transportation
 Charles Desjardins, Federal Highway
 Administration
 William M. DuBose, III, South Carolina
 Department of Transportation
 Pieter Dykman, Oregon Department of
 Transportation
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 Transportation
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 North Dakota: David Leer
 Ohio: Donald K. Huhman, P.E.
 Oklahoma: Bruce E. Taylor
 Oregon: Thomas D. Lulay
 Pennsylvania: Dean A. Schreiber, Mahendra G. Patel
 Puerto Rico: Jose E. Hernandez
 Rhode Island: J. Michael Bennett
 South Carolina: William M. DuBose, III, Robert I. Pratt, Edwin S. Eargle, II
 South Dakota: Monte R. Schneider, Timothy Bjorneberg, Larry Engbrecht
 Tennessee: Clellon L. Loveall, Paul Morrison, James P. Alexander
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Amy Steiner, Program Director



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On the Cover: Cattail Marsh. Wisconsin.



Photo Courtesy of Louisiana Department of Transportation

Deciduous Forested Wetland. Bayou Nezpique, Louisiana.

FOREWORD

This document is written for use by transportation facility designers throughout the United States. Attempts have been made to avoid regional particularity, acknowledging the uniqueness and diversity of wetlands from different regions. To this end we have included examples from around the country.

Scientific understanding has greatly increased the regulatory framework for working within wetland areas. Impacts to regulated wetlands must be mitigated by the full range of activities which avoid, minimize, and compensate for these impacts. As with regional variation in wetland types, so too does the regulatory framework and practice vary by region of the country. It is recommended that the users of this guide become well acquainted with the regulations of their particular region.

It is the hope of the authors of this document and the AASHTO Task Force for Environmental Design that this manual will assist in planning and decision making regarding the alternatives available when impacts to wetland areas are being considered. It is also hoped that the reader understands the logic for the emphasis placed upon avoidance and minimization actions, reserving compensatory mitigation as the least preferred strategy.

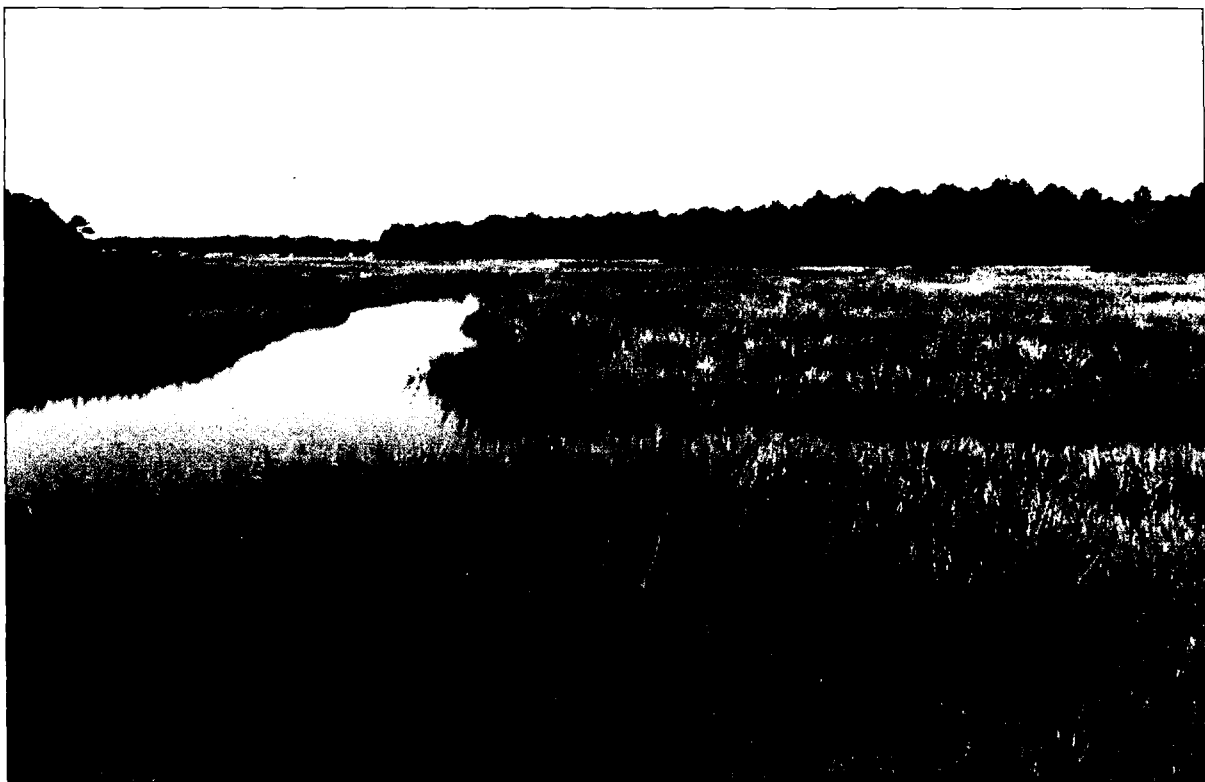


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Intertidal Salt Marsh. Coastal North Carolina.

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