

STREAM RESTORATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF A REGULATORY AGENCY^{AFS}

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Stream restoration projects require authorization under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. It is recognized that the purpose and intent of such projects is to restore and enhance aquatic resources. Most stream restoration projects are authorized under Nationwide Permit #27. Providing specific information in the Joint Application Form can result in expedited reviews and authorization. Applications should include information on monitoring, Endangered Species Act coordination/consultation, mitigation, maintenance, and reference site data. Initial observations regarding the use and success of a specific feature such as root wads and rock/log structures shows mixed results. Compliance with required monitoring and other project specific conditions are not always met. Requiring mitigation of adverse impacts to wetlands has become routine. Now, mitigation for adverse impacts to the physical, biological and chemical components of a stream will also be required. Enhancing the stream and/or the riparian areas can mitigate impacts. The Corps has developed a Stream Mitigation Process and Document that outlines the program, and will likely be implemented in 2004. It will require applicants to mitigate for adverse impacts to a stream in addition to mitigating for unavoidable impacts to wetlands.