



Site Selection Criteria for Restoration Projects

Approved 03-18-02; Updated 02-05-08

Overriding Criteria for ALL Proposed EEP Projects:

- Proposed site is preferably located within an [EEP Local Watershed Planning Area](#) or [Targeted Local Watershed](#) (to see a list of Local Watershed Planning documents in each River Basin click [here](#))
- Must have a permanent conservation easement on the proposed site at a minimum
- Must have permanent access to the proposed site for construction and long term monitoring and stewardship

Overriding Considerations for ALL Proposed EEP Projects

- Minimal number of landowners
- Minimal constraints/utilities (power, sewer, gas, fiber optic lines, roads, bridges, culverts, other infrastructure)

Wetland Restoration Project Criteria

The following *must be present* for all proposed EEP wetland restoration projects:

- Hydric soils present (might be relic)
- Original wetland hydrology altered by ditching, tile drains or other means caused by human influences or naturally occurring events
- Lack of appropriate wetland vegetation
 - Characteristics which may be observed:
 - Ditches / canals present
 - Tile drainage
 - Adjacent stream is incised
 - Dams or other water control structures
 - NRCS designated Prior-Converted (PC) land
 - Adjacent land use has affected hydrology
 - Vegetation removed or encroaching upland vegetation; evidence of wetland vegetation
- EEP would prefer sites to be greater than 5 acres, but will consider proposed projects smaller than this Particularly when associated with a stream restoration project

Considerations regarding costs / wetland project impacts:

- Obvious effects on adjacent land if hydrology is restored to site (flooding, hydrologic trespass)
- Failing bulkhead (coastal marsh)
- Utilities that need to be removed or designed around
- Presence of invasive species of vegetation

Stream Restoration Project Criteria

All of the following ***must be present*** for an EEP stream restoration project:

- Proposed stream segment must include permanent easements (at a minimum) from landowners extending 50 ft., measured from the top of the stream bank, on both sides of the stream.
- Stream segment proposed must be greater than or equal to 1,500 linear feet in length at a minimum
- Proposed stream segment must be perennial as indicated on USGS 24K Quadrangle Maps and/or in the NRCS Soil Surveys

Any or all of the following ***may be present*** for an EEP stream restoration project:

- Most restorable stream reaches will accommodate a drainage area of less than 20 square miles
- Stream pattern has been altered
 - Characteristics which may be observed:
 - Channel has been straightened
 - Stream is positioned next to or close to a slope
- High amounts of sediment observed in stream channel
- Evidence of bank erosion
 - Characteristics which may be observed:
 - Severe undercutting of banks
 - Severe exposure of tree roots
 - Large numbers of trees falling in stream
- The stream channel is incised (narrow and deep)
 - Characteristics which may be observed:
 - Base flow (normal flow) is well below top of bank
 - Low Bank Height/Bankfull Ratio greater than 1.5
- Pool/Riffle sequence has been impacted
 - Characteristics which may be observed:
 - Riffle are found in meanders
 - Pools are shallow
- Stream has overwidened
 - Characteristics which may be observed:
 - Stream segments above and below the stream segment proposed are narrower and deeper than the proposed site
 - Evidence of mid-stream bars being formed
 - Heavy deposits of sediment on benches

Considerations regarding costs / stream project impacts:

- Minimal number of crossings of stream by utilities (sewer lines, etc.), roads, bridges, culverts
- One side of stream must be free of utilities
- Need proper area or belt width to meander stream (to calculate appropriate belt width needed: multiply targeted bankfull width [from stream curves] by 4, add 50 ft.)
- Channel should have minimal infrastructure (rip-rap, fabricform, gabions, etc.) due to the high cost of removal

Riparian Buffer Restoration Project Criteria

Any or all of the following *may be present* for an EEP riparian buffer restoration project:

- Woody vegetation absent or sparse (less than 100 stems per acre that are greater than 5 inches diameter at breast height) measured within 50 feet of intermittent and perennial streams, lakes, ponds and shorelines
- Project length greater than 1,000 linear feet
- Adjacent to headwater streams or those streams defined as first, second or third order
- Water table depth within three to four feet of the surface as determined by characteristics of soil cores where riparian buffers are restored along ditches
- Adjacent source of nitrogen including cropland, pasture, golf course, residential development, ball fields, etc.
- Evidence of concentrated flow (i.e. ditches, gullies, etc.) within 50 feet of intermittent and perennial streams, lakes, ponds and estuaries

Considerations regarding costs / buffer project impacts:

- Minimal number of utilities (sewer lines, etc.), roads, bridges crossing the proposed site
- Should have minimal infrastructure on stream banks (bulkheading, rip-rap, fabriform, gabions, etc.) due to the high cost of removal

If you feel you own property where stream, wetland and/or buffer restoration is viable and meets the aforementioned criteria, please contact EEP by completing a [Site Proposal Form](#) and submit it to the appropriate [Project Manager](#) for that county.