

Exhibit C

Site Selection Criteria

USACE Norfolk District and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
November 2017

Mitigation Site Name

Principal Criteria (check all that apply)

Site activities will result in at least 80% of wetland credits obtained through wetland restoration/establishment/re-establishment

Site activities will result in at least 50% of stream credits obtained through stream restoration/enhancement/re-establishment/rehabilitation

Site is contiguous or connected to other aquatic resources

Site contains minimal or no invasive /undesirable/ nuisance species

Site has not been logged in the past 5 years

Site abuts and/or adjoins an existing preservation/conservation area, etc.

Site has no known encumbrances (ie easements, liens, rights of way, reserved timber, severed surface or subsurface mineral or natural gas rights, etc.) on the site, on adjacent properties or within the watershed of the site that will negatively affect the compensation goals

Immediately adjacent land is less than 10% impervious cover

Site does not contain any impoundments that are not proposed for removal

Site is able to be protected long-term through the recordation of an appropriate site protection instrument or other mechanism that will support the long-term protection of the site

Site is expected to provide in-kind compensation (similar hydrologic regime)

Watershed Scale Features (check all that apply)

Site activities will contribute to habitat diversity**

Site activities will contribute to habitat connectivity**

**Explanation Required

Site activities will remove pollutants from downstream waters**

Site activities will remediate inputs of substantial amounts of sediments to downstream waters**

Site is in the same HUC-8 as the impact

Site is in an adjoining HUC-8 as the impact

Site is in the same physiographic province as the impact

Development Trends in the Watershed Where Site is Located (check all that apply)

****Explanation Required**

Site will address watershed needs for habitat protection as identified in the state wildlife action plan, compensation planning framework, Habitat Conservation Plan, etc.**

Site will address watershed needs for flood management as identified in the state wildlife action plan, compensation planning framework, Habitat Conservation Plan, etc. **

Site will address watershed needs for water quality improvement as identified in through the 303 (d) list**

Site will address watershed needs for reduction of sediment loads as identified through the 303(d) list**

Less than 50% of land use within the watershed is residential/commercial/industrial

Less than 50% of land use within the watershed is agricultural

Future land use plans (i.e. local comprehensive plans, conservation plans) show minimal or no change

No water withdrawal permits issued within the vicinity of the site

No point source permits within the vicinity of the site

Watershed vs. Site Specific Water Quality Goals (check all that apply)

****Explanation Required**

Site is likely to contribute to improved water quality within the watershed and not solely within the site boundaries**

Site will include preservation/establishment/rehabilitation of the entire watershed upstream of the project to the drainage divide

No downstream impoundments (excluding drinking water) that would limit the watershed benefits derived from site activities

Site will improve water quality conditions of existing wetlands identified by VDEQ (WetCAT) as "Somewhat Severely Stressed" or "Severely Stressed"***

Site Compatibility with Adjacent Land Use (check all that apply)

****Explanation Required**

Site is within an area identified as meriting conservation in an approved watershed management plan, state wildlife action plan, national forest management plan, or conservation plan**

Site is not likely to be affected by current activities occurring on adjacent properties

Site will not be affected by likely future activities occurring on adjacent properties

Site activities will not affect adjacent properties

Site is not adjacent to residential, commercial or industrial development

Site is not adjacent to silvicultural properties

Site is not adjacent to agricultural land

Properties adjacent to the site do not have the potential to spread invasive, nuisance or undesirable species to the site**

Positive Effects Site will have on Ecological/Cultural Resources (check all that apply)

****Explanation Required**

Site activities will conserve/restore habitat for species identified as rare by VDCR**

Site activities will conserve/restore natural communities identified by VDCR as imperiled**

Site activities are within areas that have been identified by VDGIF as meriting improvement**

Site activities will conserve/restore areas designated by VDGIF as wild trout streams**

Site activities will conserve/restore areas designated by VDGIF as anadromous fish use areas**

Site activities will protect state or federal threatened and/or endangered species**

Site contains historical cultural resources that will be preserved**

Site activities will establish new or expand existing wildlife corridors**

Site activities will result in removal of barriers to fish passage**

Site will improve habitat conditions of existing wetlands identified by VDEQ (WetCAT) as "Somewhat Severely Stressed" or "Severely Stressed"***

**Hydrologic Sources/
Ecological Features
(check all that apply)**

Site activities do not consist of wetland creation in the uplands

Site activities do not consist of stream creation

Site activities do not entail impounding or diverting water from other areas to the project site

Site activities do not entail excavation to reach groundwater

**Physical/Chemical
Characteristics
(check all that apply)**

****Explanation Required**

Sites receiving waters are 303(d) listed

Site qualifies for preservation only, as 1) the resources provide important physical, chemical, or biological functions to the watershed, 2) the resource contribute significantly to the ecological sustainability of the watershed, 3) the IRT has determined that preservation is appropriate and practicable, 4) the resources are under threat of destruction or adverse modification, and 5) the site will be permanently protected through an appropriate real estate instrument**

Site activities will not result in the construction of artificial or unnatural wetlands that will have limited opportunity to provide the desired functions

Past land use was PC crop or ditched wetlands

Past land use was agriculture/silviculture**

Past land use was commercial or industrial**

No impoundments exist upstream of the site that will cause thermal increases in water temperature, decreases in dissolved oxygen, erosion and degradation of the channel downstream from the impoundment, or dam failure from a storm event**

**Site activities will result in all onsite impoundments being removed and streams re-established/
rehabilitated**