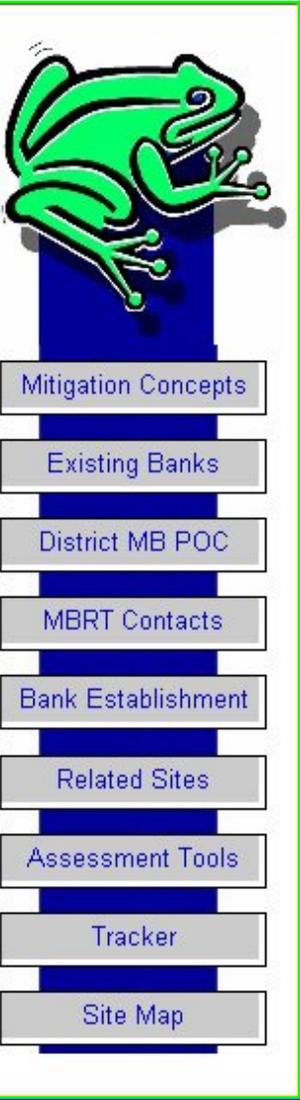




RIBITS: Regional Internet Bank Information Tracking System



Background

The Mobile District manages a multi-agency Mitigation Bank Review Team (MBRT) tasked with the formulation of District guidance for prospective mitigation bankers and potential bank users. Representative agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR), the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, and the Mississippi Secretary of State. The MBRT Team members believe that tracking mitigation banks is difficult, time-consuming, and prone to error. The **Regional Internet Bank Information Tracking System (RIBITS)** was developed to manage the District's mitigation banks, support the MBRT, and serve as a source of technology transfer for prospective mitigation bank developers and customers owning impact sites.

RIBITS Capabilities

RIBITS allows the District to track the status of mitigation banks, monitor credits and debits incurred by permitting actions, view compliance reports, and automatically email requests for information and upcoming deadlines from a single Internet-based interface. **RIBITS** is based on an underlying SQL database containing information on existing mitigation banks, users, habitats, watersheds, credit ledgers, and ecological progress. The Website is partitioned into public and restricted access components. The public access component provides information on mitigation concepts, bank establishment guidance, assessment tools, habitat classification, and highlights existing mitigation banks. The restricted access component of **RIBITS** allows individual mitigation bank managers to monitor their bank's credit ledger and ecological progress and provides access to supporting documentation (i.e. banking instruments, monitoring reports, etc). The MBRT and the District's Regulatory Branch can track each bank's credit ledger, monitor ecological progress, schedule site visits, and summarize available and sold credits across the District. Initially, the tracking ledger will focus on Ratio- and WRAP- (Wetland Rapid Assessment Procedure) based credits, but a flexible architecture will be designed, allowing the District to incorporate HGM- (HydroGeoMorphic Approach) based credits as models become available. The EXHGM (EXpert HydroGeoMorphic Approach to Wetland Assessments software) will be made available via the Website, allowing bankers and potential bank users to download and assess both impact and credit potentials across the District.

Status and Availability

RIBITS is complete and has been deployed on the Mobile District server at:

<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/op/reg/>. Upgrades and adaptations of the habitat evaluation models are under development. To receive an on-site demonstration of the site's capabilities, contact the POCs below.

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