# Bowl Basin Restoration Site Monitoring Report MY01 DMS Project # 95721 DMS Contract # 005012



Submitted to:

NCDMS, 1652 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1652

Construction Completed: February 2015 Data Collection: 2015 Submitted: January 2016

## **Monitoring and Design Firm**







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#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY / PROJECT ABSTRACT

The Bowl Basin Restoration Site (BBRS) is a full-delivery project that was developed for the North Carolina Division of Mitigation Services (DMS). Construction was completed in February 2015. The site is within the 03020106 Watershed Cataloging Unit (8-digit HUC) and the Local Watershed Unit (14-digit HUC) 03020106010010. In DMS' most recent publication of excluded and Targeted Local Watersheds/Hydrologic Units, the 03020106010010 14-digit HUC has been identified as a Targeted Local Watershed.

The project goals and objectives are listed below.

#### **Project Goals**

- Protect and improve water quality by reducing sediment and nutrient inputs
- The protection of a watershed draining into shellfish harvesting waters
- Provide habitat for aquatic flora and fauna by improving physical structure and vegetative composition
- Increase the local hydroperiod by encouraging both surface and subsurface storage and retention
- Restore and establish a functional and diverse wetland community

#### Project Objectives

- Fill field ditches to restore surface flow retention and elevate local groundwater levels.
- Redevelop longer wetland flow patterns to increase surface flow retention time.
- Restore a diverse wetland vegetation community through maintenance and germination of existing wetland seed stores, planting of wetland trees and shrubs, and incorporation of a custom wetland seed mix

The project site, which is protected by an 11.7-acre permanent conservation easement held by the State of North Carolina, is situated in Onslow County in the Carolina Flatwoods ecoregion of the Coastal Plains physiographic province. The site is located on a single parcel located off of White Oak River Road approximately 13.5 miles north of Jacksonville, North Carolina.

The BBRS provided mitigation for wetland impacts within Hydrologic Unit 03020106 by restoring 11.7 acres of wetland, generating 11.7 non-riparian wetland mitigation units (WMU's)

The BBRS will be monitored to determine if the project is on-track to meeting jurisdictional wetland status. In the restoration areas, the wetland site will be deemed successful once hydrology is established and vegetation success criteria are met.

#### 2.0 MONITORING RESULTS

The BBRS will be monitored to determine if the project is on-track to meeting jurisdictional wetland status. The wetland restoration area will be deemed successful once hydrology is established and vegetation success criteria are met. The site will be monitored for at least seven years or until the success criteria are achieved.

#### 2.1 VEGETATION MONITORING

The success criteria for the planted species in the mitigation area will be based on survival. The site will demonstrate the re-establishment of targeted vegetative communities based on survival and growth of planted species and volunteer colonization, with an average stem density of 320 stems/acre after three years, 288 stems/acre after four years, 260 stems/acre after five years, and 210 stems/acre after seven years to be considered successful. To determine the success of the planted mitigation area, ten permanent vegetation monitoring plots (10 by 10 meters) have been established in the wetland restoration area at a density that represents the total mitigation acreage. The average density of these plots will determine whether the site meets the success criterion.

The first-year vegetation monitoring was based on the Level 2 CVS-EEP vegetation monitoring protocol. The site's average density for this monitoring period was 791 planted stems/acre. All ten plots had greater than 320 planted stems/acre. Including volunteers, the site averaged 1,934 total stems/acre. In general the site is well vegetated, with widespread herbaceous coverage and healthy planted stems.

#### 2.2 HYDROLOGY MONITORING

Wetland hydrology will be monitored with a series of automatic gauges that record water table depth. The site must present continuous saturated or inundated hydrologic conditions for at least 9% of the growing season with a 50% probability of reoccurrence during normal weather conditions. A "normal" year is based on NRCS climatological data for Onslow County using the 30th to 70th percentile thresholds as the range of normal as documented in the USACE Technical Report "Accessing and Using Meteorological Data to Evaluate Wetland Hydrology, April 2000." The growing season for Onslow County is considered to extend from March 18 to November 16 (243 days). The water table of the restored wetlands must be within 12" of the soil surface continuously for at least 9% (22 days) of the 243-day growing season. Wetland hydrology will be monitored with eight automatic gauges that record water table depth.

Due to the inherent variability in the site's soils and associated drainage characteristics, it is unlikely that the project will exhibit uniform hydrologic conditions across the site, making a single hydrologic performance criterion unrepresentative of the site's performance. As such, the gauge data can be evaluated and presented as a spatial average with each gauge representing the area half the distance to adjacent gauges. The spatial average will be the calculated value for comparison with the performance standard for credit validation.

The wetland gauges will be checked and/or downloaded every other month. Daily data will be collected from the automatic gauges over the 7-year monitoring period.

The daily rainfall data was obtained from a local weather station in Pumpkin Center, NC; provided by the NC State Climate Office. For the 2015 year, the months of January, February, June, October, and November experienced above average rainfall, while May, July, August, and September experienced average rainfall. The months of March and April recorded below average rainfall for the site. Overall, the area experienced average rainfall during the 2015 growing season.

During the site's first growing season, 7 of the 8 gauges had continuous saturation within 12 inches of the ground surface for 9% (22 days) of the 243 day growing season (March 18 to November 16). Since no gauges were below 6.5% continuous saturation, all gauges were used in the analysis to determine the spatial average for the hydrology of the entire site. This analysis is based off percent saturation contours

for the restoration area calculated from the gauge data. Following the method described above and as illustrated in the figure in Appendix D, it is determined that based on the spatial average, the site was continuously saturated for 16.3% of the growing season and met the hydrology success criteria of 9% for the first year of monitoring.

#### 3.0 METHODOLOGY

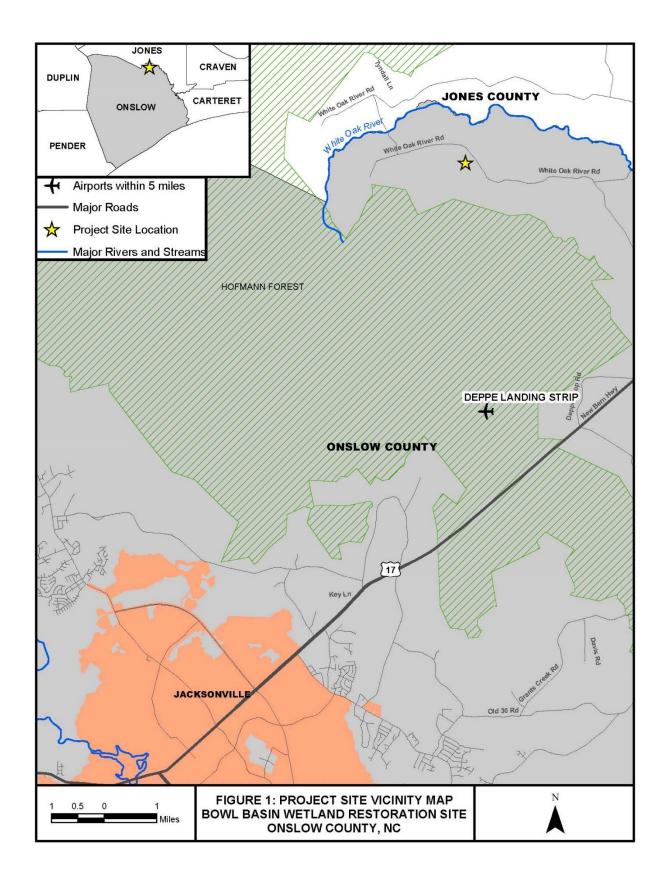
The CVS-EEP protocol, Level 2 (<a href="http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm">http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm</a>) was used to collect vegetation data from the site. The vegetation monitoring was completed on October 16, 2015.

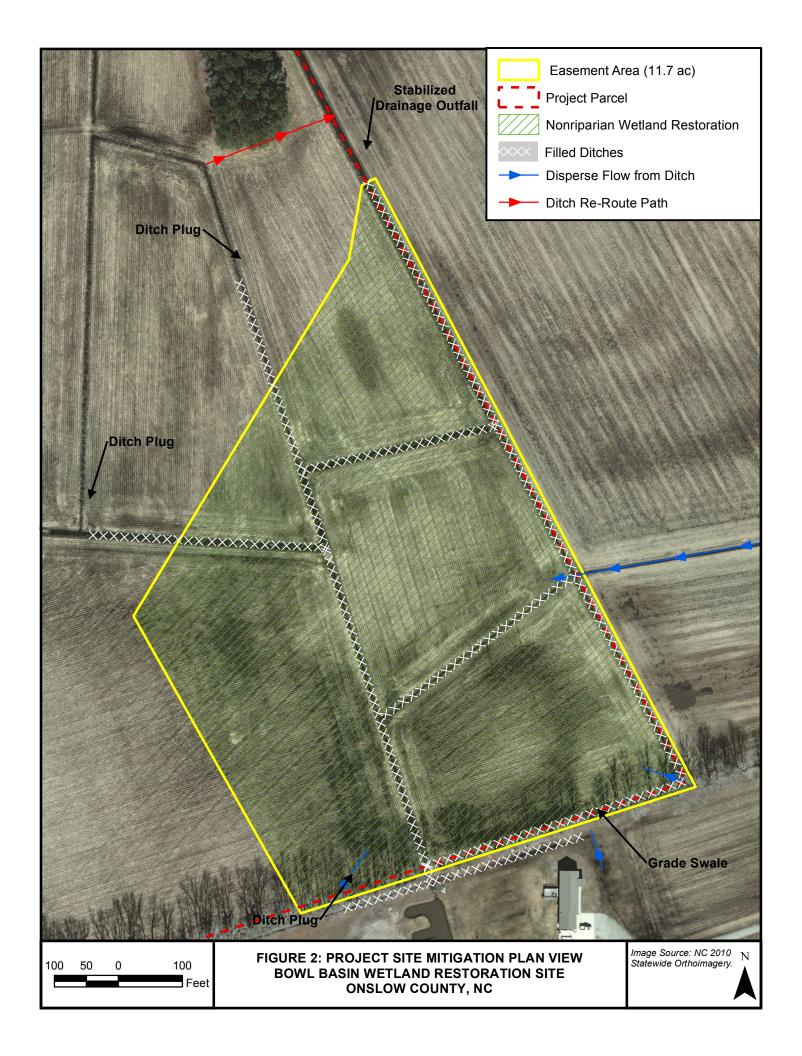
#### 4.0 REFERENCES

Lee, M.T., R.K. Peet, S.D. Roberts, and T.R. Wentworth. 2008. CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation, Version 4.2 (http://cvs.bio.unc.edu/methods.htm)

USACE. 2003. Stream Mitigation Guidelines. USACE, NCDENR-DWQ, USEPA, NCWRC.

# Appendix A Project Vicinity Map and Background Tables





1 Toject Number	anu Na	me: 95/2	1 – B0W		estoration Ci								
	Stı	eam		Mit arian tland	Igation Ci Noi ripar Wetla	n- rian	Buffer	Nι	trogen ıtrient Offset		osphorous rient Offset		
Type R		R RE		RE	R	RE							
Acres	-	-	-	-	11.7	-	-		-		-		
Credits	-	-	-	-	11.7	_	-		-		-		
TOTAL CREDITS		-		-	11.	7	-		-		-		
				Proj	ect Comp	onents							
Project Component -or- Reach ID		tioning/ cation	Foo	isting otage/ reage		roach II etc.)	Restora -or- Restora Equiva	tion	Footage or Acreage		ion   Restoration   Footage   or Acreage		Mitigation Ratio
Wetland Area		-	11.7	' acres		-	Restora	tion	11.7 a	cres	1:1		
	•		•	Comp	onent Sun	nmatio	n		•				
Restoration Level			Ripa	arian We (acres)			on-riparian etland (acres		Buffer (square feet)		Upland (acres)		
			Riverin	10	Von- Liverine								
Restoration							11.7 acres						
Enhancement													
Enhancement I													
Enhancement II													
Creation													
Preservation													
High Quality Preservation													

Table 2. Project Activity & Reporting History

Project Number and Name: 95721 - Bowl Basin Restoration Site

Elapsed Time Since Grading Complete: 9 months Elapsed Time Since Planting Complete: 9 months

**Number of Reporting Years: 1** 

	Data Collection	<b>Actual Completion or</b>
Activity or Report	Complete	Delivery
Mitigation Plan		Oct 14
Final Design - Construction Plans		Dec 14
Construction		March 15
Planting		March 15
Baseline Monitoring/Report	April 15	May 15
Year 1 Monitoring	Oct 15	Jan 16

Table 3. Project Contacts	744 P. I.P. I. P. (14 G)						
Project Number and Name: 957  Design Firm	721 - Bowl Basin Restoration Site  KCI Associates of North Carolina, PC						
Design Firm	Landmark Center II, Suite 220						
	4601 Six Forks Rd.						
	Raleigh, NC 27609						
	Contact: Mr. Tim Morris						
	Phone: (919) 278-2512						
	Fax: (919) 783-9266						
	KCI Environmental Technologies and						
<b>Construction Contractor</b>	Construction, Inc.						
	Landmark Center II, Suite 220						
	4601 Six Forks Rd.						
	Raleigh, NC 27609						
	Contact: Mr. Tim Morris						
	Phone: (919) 278-2512						
	Fax: (919) 783-9266						
Planting Contractor	Bruton Nurseries and Landscapes						
	PO Box 1197						
	Freemont, NC 27830						
	Contact: Mr. Charlie Bruton						
	Phone: (919) 242-6555						
<b>Monitoring Performers</b>							
MY00-MY01	KCI Associates of North Carolina, PC						
	Landmark Center II, Suite 220						
	4601 Six Forks Rd.						
	Raleigh, NC 27609						
	Contact: Mr. Adam Spiller						
	Phone: (919) 278-2514						
	Fax: (919) 783-9266						

Table 4. Project Attribute Table Project Number and Name: 95721 – Bowl Basin Restoration Site											
County	Onslow County										
Project Area (acres)	11.7 acres										
Project Coordinates (lat. and long.)	34.925365 N , -77	.607461 W									
Pro	ject Watershed Su	mmary Information									
Physiographic Province	Coastal Plain										
River Basin	White Oak										
USGS Hydrologic Unit 8-digit	03020106	USGS Hydrologic Unit 14-digit	03020106010010								
DWQ Sub-basin	03-05-01b										
Project Drainage Area (acres)	76.0 acres										
Project Drainage Area Percentage of Impervious Area	1%										
CGIA Land Use Classification 94% Cultivated, 4% Forest, and 2% Low-Intensity Development											
Wetland Summary Information											
Parameters		Wetland Area									
Size of Wetland (acres)		11.7 acres									
Wetland Type (non-riparian, riparian riverine or riparian non-riverine)		Non-riparian									
Mapped Soil Series	Pa	ntego loam by detailed soil investiga	ation								
Drainage class		Poorly drained									
Soil Hydric Status		Drained Hydric									
Source of Hydrology		Groundwater / Precipitation									
Hydrologic Impairment		Ditching and Crops									
Native vegetation community		Crops									
Percent composition of exotic invasive vegetation		0%									

# Appendix B Visual Assessment Data



#### Table 5. Vegetation Condition Assessment

Project Number and Name: 95721 – Bowl Basin Restoration Site

Planted Acreage 11.7 Easement Acreage 11.7

Vegetation Category	Definitions	Mapping Threshold	CCPV Depiction	Number of Polygons	Combined Acreage	% of Planted Acreage
1. Bare Areas	Very limited cover of both woody and herbaceous material.	0.1 acres	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%
2. Low Stem Density Areas	Woody stem densities clearly below target levels based on MY3, 4, or 5 stem count criteria.	0.1 acres	Not Depicted, Covers Most of Restoration Area	0	0.00	0.0%
			Total	0	0.00	0.0%
3. Areas of Poor Growth Rates or Vigor	Areas with woody stems of a size class that are obviously small given the monitoring year.	0.25 acres	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%
			Cumulative Total	0	0.00	0.0%
4. Invasive Areas of Concern	Areas or points (if too small to render as polygons at map scale).	1000 SF	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%
5. Easement Encroachment Areas	Areas or points (if too small to render as polygons at map scale).	none	Pattern and Color	0	0.00	0.0%

# **Photo Reference Points**





PP1 - MY - 01 - 10/16/15

PP2 - MY-01 - 10/16/15





PP3 - MY-01 - 10/16/15

PP4 – MY-01 – 10/16/15





PP5 - MY-01 - 10/16/15

PP6 - MY-01 - 10/16/15

# **Vegetation Monitoring Plot Photos**



Vegetation Plot 1 – MY-01 – 10/16/15

Vegetation Plot 2 – MY-01 – 10/16/15





Vegetation Plot 3 - MY-01 - 10/16/15

Vegetation Plot 4 - MY-01 - 10/16/15





Vegetation Plot 5 – MY-01 – 10/16/15

Vegetation Plot 6 - MY-01 - 10/16/15

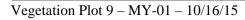




Vegetation Plot 7 – MY-01 – 10/16/15

Vegetation Plot 8 - MY-01 - 10/16/15







Vegetation Plot 10 – MY-01 – 10/16/15

# Appendix C Vegetation Plot Data

Table 6. Vegetation Plot Criteria Attainment Project Number and Name: 95721 - Bowl Basin Restoration Site										
Vegetation Plot ID	Vegetation Survival Threshold Met? (320 planted stems/acre)	Monitoring Year 01 Planted Stem Density (stems/acre)	Monitoring Year 01 Total Stem Density (stems/acre)							
1	Yes	769	1,012							
2	Yes	850	1,133							
3	Yes	769	809							
4	Yes	769	3,602							
5	Yes	971	8,013							
6	Yes	809	1,457							
7	Yes	607	769							
8	Yes	728	890							
9	Yes	445	607							
10	Yes	890	1,052							

Table 7. CVS Vegetation Plot M	letadata
Project Number and Name: 9572	21 - Bowl Basin Wetland Restoration Site
Report Prepared By	Tommy Seelinger
Date Prepared	12/23/2015 11:09
database name	KCI-2014-95721_Bowl Basin.mdb
database location	M:\2012\20122939 Bowl Basin FDP\Monitoring\Veg Database
computer name	12-927DM12
file size	62001152
<b>DESCRIPTION OF WORKSHEETS II</b>	N THIS DOCUMENT
Metadata	Description of database file, the report worksheets, and a summary of project(s) and project data.
Proj, planted	Each project is listed with its PLANTED stems per acre, for each year. This excludes live stakes.
Proj, total stems	Each project is listed with its TOTAL stems per acre, for each year. This includes live stakes, all planted stems, and all natural/volunteer stems.
Plots	List of plots surveyed with location and summary data (live stems, dead stems, missing, etc.).
Vigor	Frequency distribution of vigor classes for stems for all plots.
Vigor by Spp	Frequency distribution of vigor classes listed by species.
Damage	List of most frequent damage classes with number of occurrences and percent of total stems impacted by each.
Damage by Spp	Damage values tallied by type for each species.
Damage by Plot	Damage values tallied by type for each plot.
Planted Stems by Plot and Spp	A matrix of the count of PLANTED living stems of each species for each plot; dead and missing stems are excluded.
ALL Stems by Plot and spp	A matrix of the count of total living stems of each species (planted and natural volunteers combined) for each plot; dead and missing stems are excluded.
PROJECT SUMMARY	
Project Code	
project Name	Bowl Basin Wetland Restoration Site
Description	Wetland Restoration Site
River Basin	White Oak
Sampled Plots	

															Curr	ent Plo	ot Data	(MY1 20	15)												
		Species	95721	1-01-00	001	9572	1-01-0002	2	95721	-01-00	03	9572	1-01-0	004		1-01-00			21-01-0	006	9572	1-01-00	007	95721	1-01-0008	95721	1-01-00	009	9572	1-01-0	J10
Scientific Name	Common Name		PnoLS	P-all	T	PnoLS	P-all T	I	PnoLS	P-all	T	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	T	PnoLS	P-all	Т	PnoLS	P-all	T P	noLS	P-all T	PnoLS	P-all	T	PnoLS	P-all	Γ
Acer rubrum	red maple	Tree						1																							
Betula nigra	river birch	Tree				1	1	1	1	1	1	7	7	7	1	1	1							7	7 7	1			10	10	
Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush	Shrub																			4	4	4	4	4 4	. 4	4	4			
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	Tree	5	5	5	, 6	6	6	10	10	10	8	8	12	11	11	11	3	3	3	4	. 4	4			1	1	1	7	7	
Juglans nigra	black walnut	Tree						2																							
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	Tree			6	,		4	_		1			64			174			16			4		Δ	,		3			A7
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay	Tree	2	2	. 2	2 1	1	1																		1	1	1			
Nyssa aquatica	water tupelo	Tree													7	7	7														
Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo	Tree	2	2	. 2	2																							3	3	
Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	Tree				6	6	6	3	3	3															2	2	. 2	1	1	
Quercus pagoda	cherrybark oak	Tree				1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2												1	1	
Quercus phellos	willow oak	Tree				6	6	6				2	2	4	1	1	1														
Quercus shumardii	Shumard's oak	Tree										1	1	1																	
Salix nigra	black willow	Tree																								1	1	2			
Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	Tree	10	10	10	)			3	3	3				2	2	2	17	17	17	7	7	7	7	7 7	2	2	. 2			
		Stem count	19	19	25	5 21	21	28	19	19	20	19	19	89	24	24	198	20	20	36	15	15	19	18	18 22	11	11	15	22	22	1
1		size (ares)		1			1			1			1			1			1			1			1	1	1			1	

0.02

0.02

971 8013

0.02

809 809 1457

0.02

607 607 769

0.02

0.02

0.02

size (ACRES)

Species count
Stems per ACRE

0.02

1012

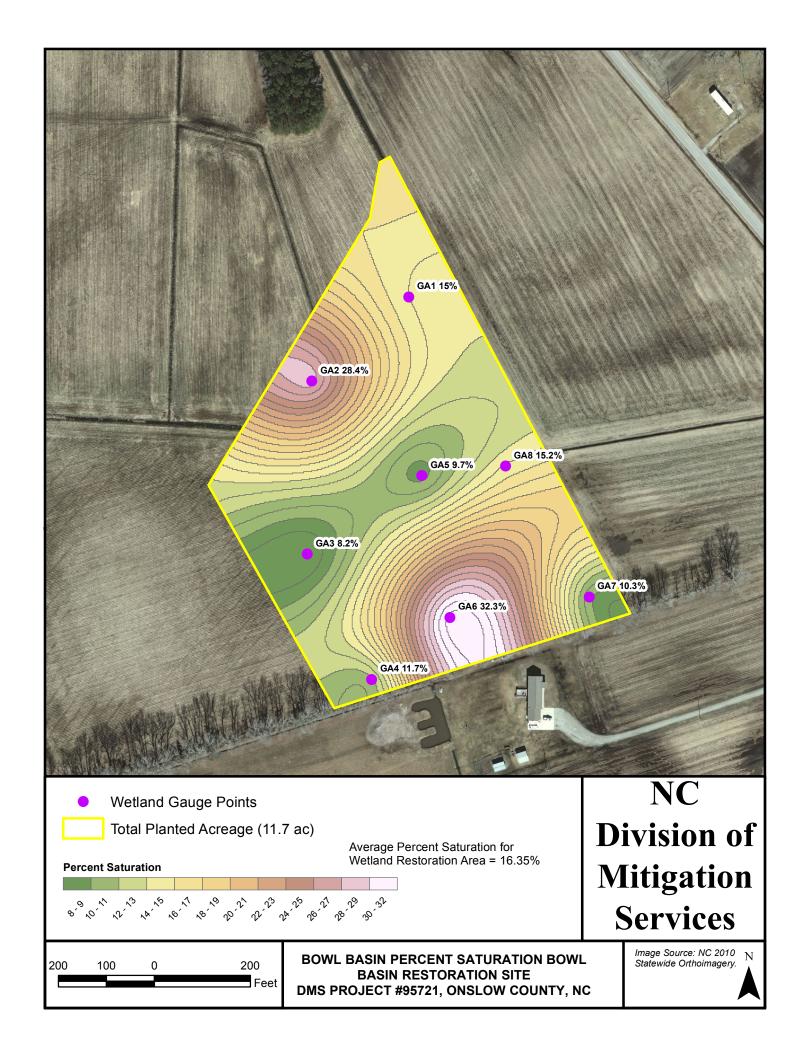
0.02

0.02

			Annual Means										
		Species	MY	1 (201	5)	MY	0 (2015	5)					
Scientific Name	Common Name	Type	PnoLS	P-all	T	PnoLS	P-all	T					
Acer rubrum	red maple	Tree			1								
Betula nigra	river birch	Tree	27	27	27	22	22	2					
Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush	Shrub	12	12	12	11	11	1					
Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	Tree	55	55	59	51	51	5					
Juglans nigra	black walnut	Tree			2								
Liquidambar styraciflua	sweetgum	Tree			280								
Magnolia virginiana	sweetbay	Tree	4	4	4	4	4						
Nyssa aquatica	water tupelo	Tree	7	7	7	7	7	,					
Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo	Tree	5	5	5	3	3						
Quercus michauxii	swamp chestnut oak	Tree	12	12	12	15	15	1.					
Quercus pagoda	cherrybark oak	Tree	7	7	7	7	7						
Quercus phellos	willow oak	Tree	9	9	11	9	9						
Quercus shumardii	Shumard's oak	Tree	1	1	1	2	2						
Salix nigra	black willow	Tree	1	1	2								
Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	Tree	48	48	48	45	45	4					
	-	Stem count	188	188	478	176	176	17					
		size (ares)		10			10						
	si	ze (ACRES)		0.25			0.25						
	Sı	pecies count	12	12	15	11	11	1					
	-	s per ACRE		761	1934	712	712	71					

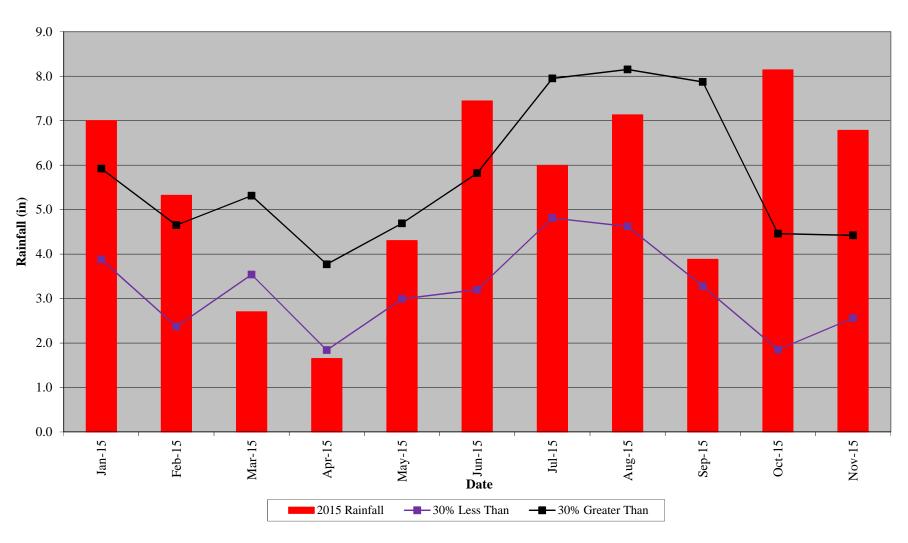
# Appendix D

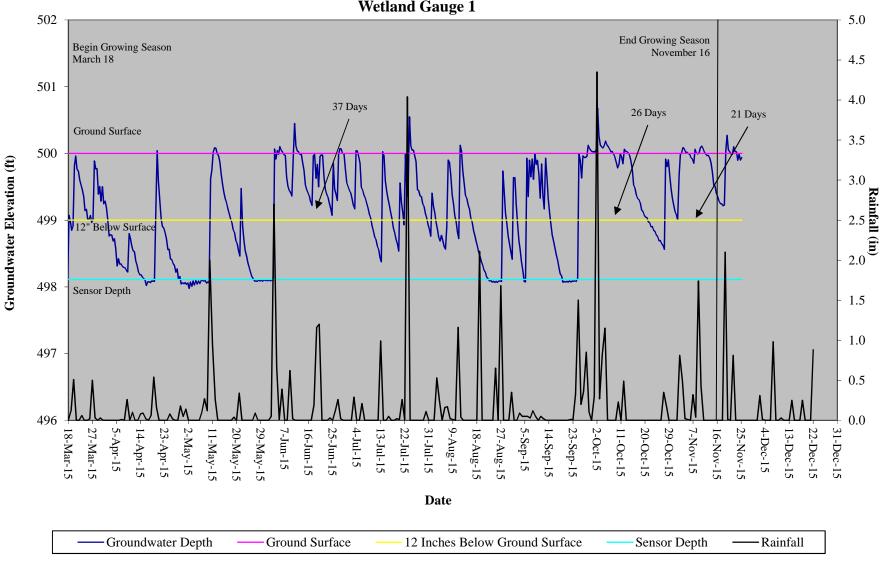
# **Hydrologic Data**

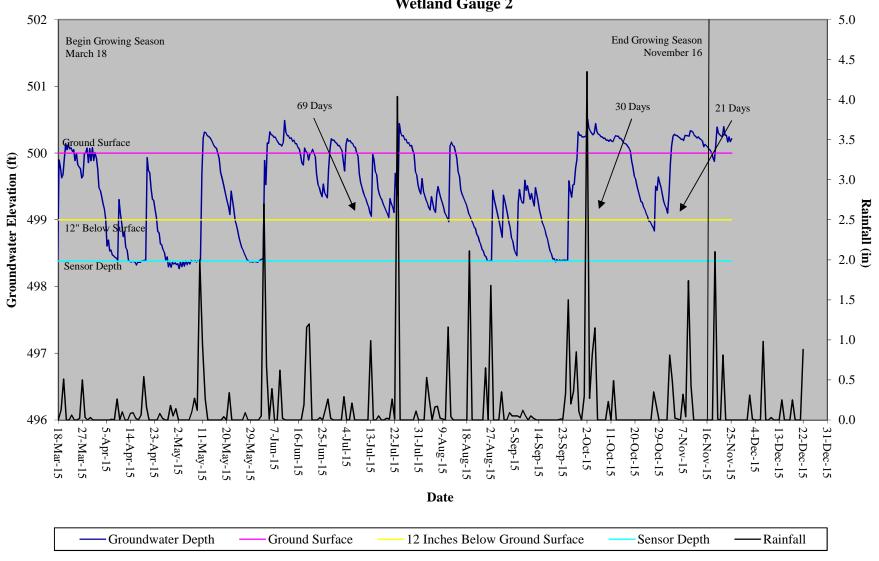


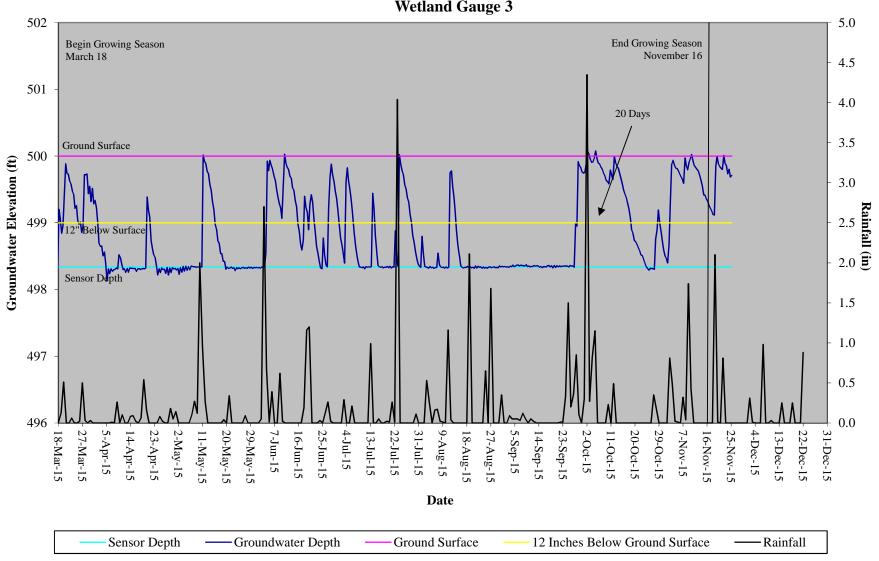
# **Bowl Basin Wetland Restoration Site** 30-70 Percentile Graph

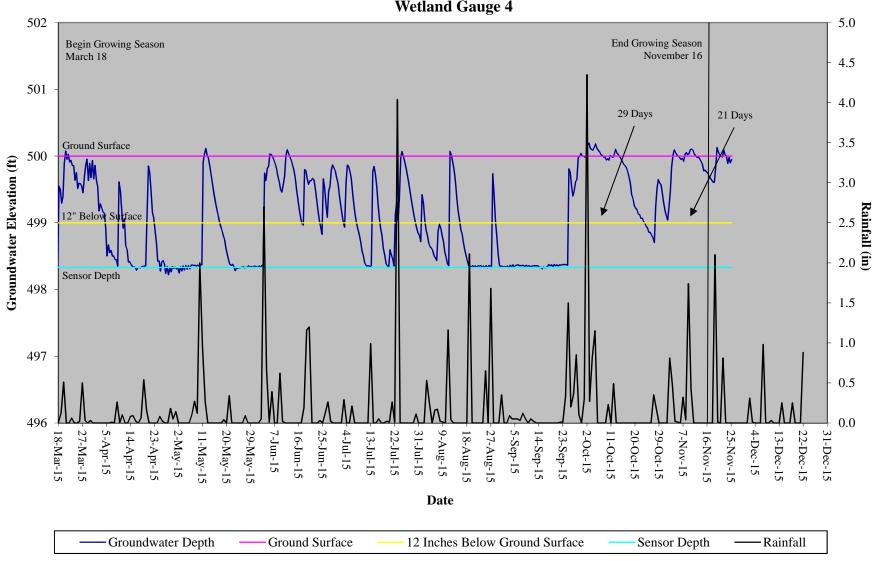


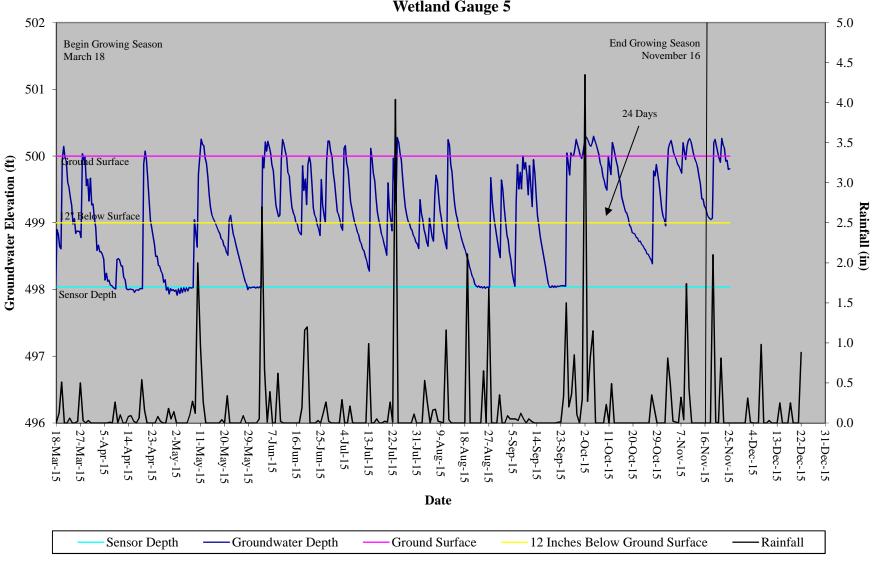


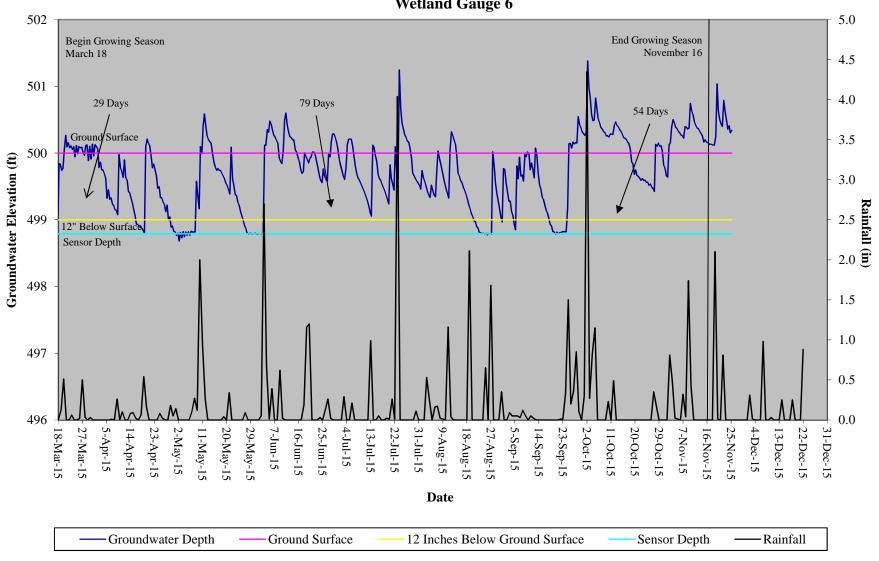


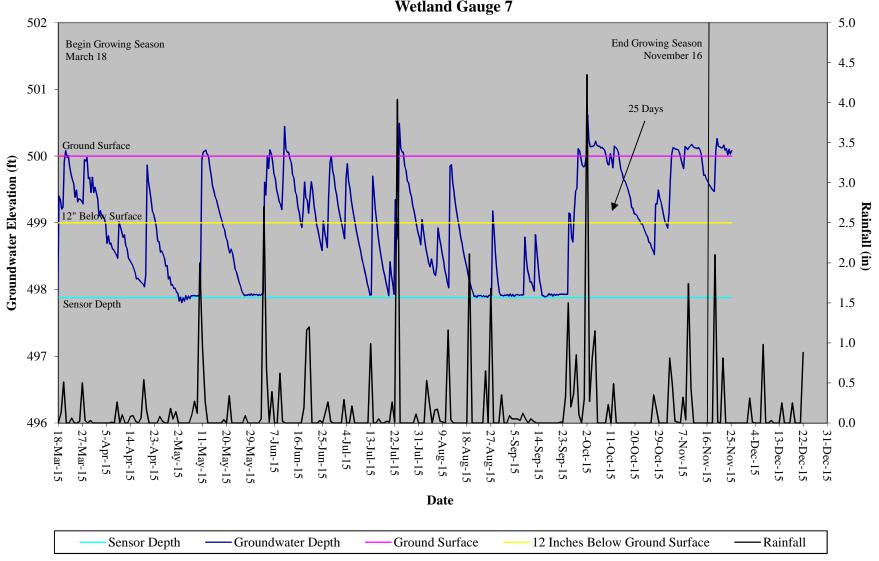












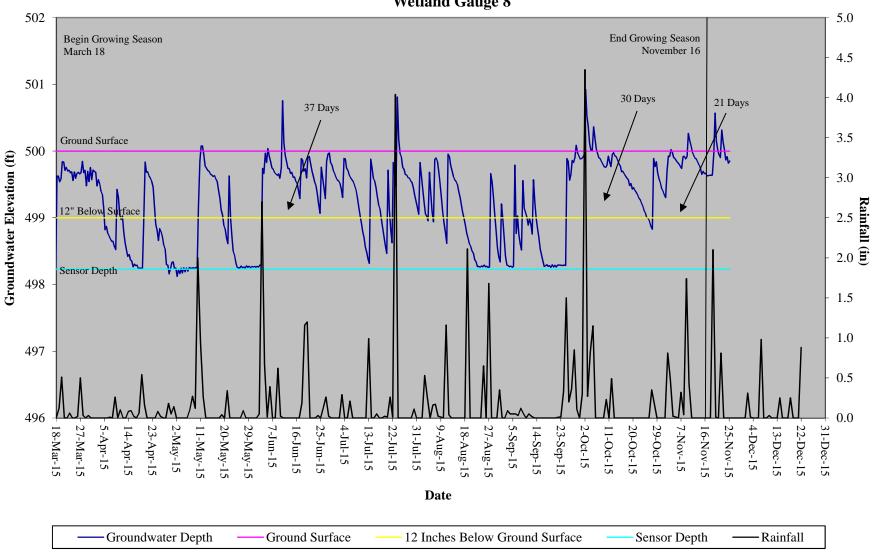


Table 9. Wetland Hydrolo Project Number and Namo															
0		Success Criteria Achieved/ Max Consecutive Days During Growing Season (Percentage)													
Non-Riparian Gauges Success Criteria (22 Days) (9%)	MY-01 2015	MY-02	MY-03	MY-04	MY-05	MY-06	MY-07								
Gauge 1	Yes/37 (15.0%)														
Gauge 2	Yes/69 (28.4%)														
Gauge 3	No/20 (8.2%)														
Gauge 4	Yes/29 (11.7%)														
Gauge 5	Yes/24 (9.7%)														
Gauge 6	Yes/79 (32.3%)														
Gauge 7	Yes/25 (10.3%)														
Gauge 8	Yes/37 (15.2%)														