ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003



Dowd Dairy Farm Mitigation Site Bladen County Project No. 8.1241802 TIP No. R-2204WM



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North Carolina Department of Transportation
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following report summarizes the monitoring activities that have occurred in the past year at the Dowd Dairy Farm Mitigation Site. Phase I of this site was constructed in 1998 and Phase II was completed in 2000. Monitoring of the site began in 1999 following Phase I site construction. The monitoring activities in 2003 represent the third official year of monitoring following completion of the entire site. The site must demonstrate hydrologic and vegetation success for a minimum of five years or until the project is deemed successful.

The site is being monitored with thirty-eight groundwater-monitoring gauges, two rain gauges, and thirty-eight vegetation plots.

In May 2003, NCDOT and agency representatives met to conduct an onsite review. Two additional groundwater gauges were installed in June 2003 to record hydrology near groundwater gauge (G1).

Rainfall data has been acquired from an onsite rain gauge. Also, monthly rainfall data recorded from a rain gauge maintained by the NC State Climate Office in Elizabethtown was used for the historical data.

For 2003, hydrologic monitoring indicated that twenty-nine gauges met jurisdictional hydrologic success of at least 12.5% during the growing season; conversely, six gauges met hydrology less than 12.5% of the growing season. Several gauges were replaced or misplaced during the 2003-growing season, therefore these gauges may not contain the correct gauge serial number or the data may be missing. These gauges are noted in Table 2.

The 2003 vegetation monitoring of the 619 acres of planted areas revealed an average density of 499 trees per acre, which is above the minimum requirement of 320 trees per acre. NCDOT also monitored the site for nuisance species such as pine and sweetgum. NCDOT recognizes that a problem may exist in some areas and proposes waiting until year five of monitoring to address any concerns in a comprehensive manner. At that time, a contract will be let to address the situation, if warranted.

Based on the monitoring results from the 2003 growing season, NCDOT will continue to monitor hydrology and vegetation on the Dowd Dairy Mitigation Site.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Description

The Dowd Dairy Farm Wetland Mitigation Site is located 7 miles north of Elizabethtown and 2 miles east of White Oak in Bladen County (Figure 1). It is bounded by SR 1324 (Dowd Dairy Farm Road) to the north, SR 1332 (Oak Grove Church Road) to the west, and dense forest to the south and east. The site represents a Coastal Plain interstream divide converted for agricultural use. The site receives drainage from elevated sandy terraces and discharges into Ellis Creek and Panther Branch, tributaries of the Cape Fear River.

The site encompasses approximately 658 acres and is designed as a mitigation site for the Cape Fear River Basin.

1.2 Purpose

In order to demonstrate successful mitigation, hydrologic and vegetative monitoring must be conducted for a minimum of five years or until success criteria are fulfilled. Success criteria are based on federal guidelines for wetland mitigation. These guidelines stipulate criteria for both hydrologic conditions and vegetation survival. The following report details the results of hydrologic and vegetative monitoring during 2003 on the Dowd Dairy Farm Mitigation Site.

Activities in 2003 reflect the third year of monitoring following the construction of Phase II at the site. Included in this report are analyses of both hydrologic and vegetative monitoring results, as well as local climate conditions throughout the growing season.

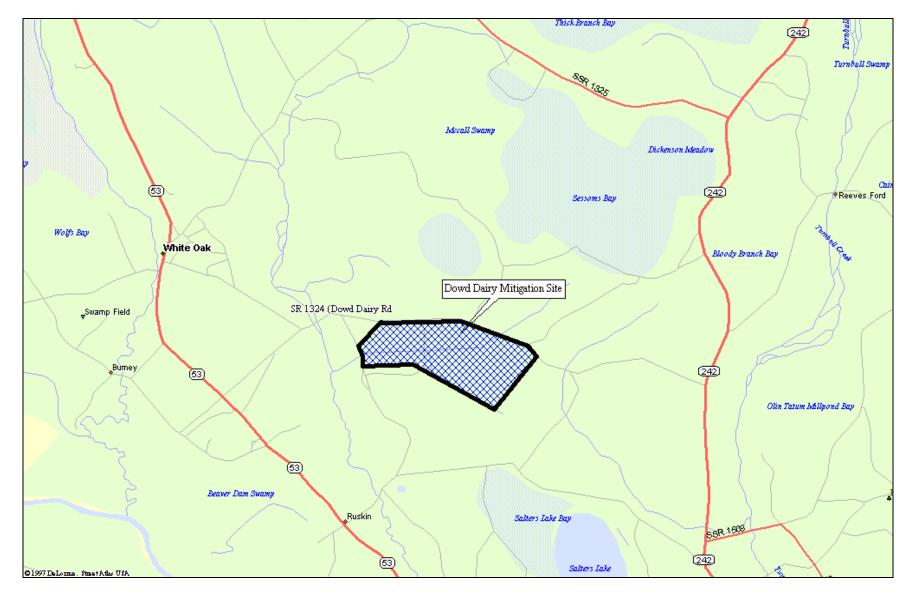


FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION MAP

1.3 Project History

| Summer 1998 | Construction – Phase I |
|-----------------------|--|
| Spring 1999 | Tree Planting – Phase I |
| February – April 1999 | Installation of Monitoring Gauges |
| March – November 1999 | Hydrologic Monitoring (Year 1) |
| September 1999 | Construction Begins – Phase II |
| November 1999 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 1) |
| March – November 2000 | Hydrologic Monitoring (Year 2) |
| June 2000 | Construction Completed – Phase II |
| November 2000 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 2) |
| February 2001 | Tree Planting – Phase II |
| March – November 2001 | Hydrologic Monitoring (Restart Year 1) |
| October 2001 | Vegetation Monitoring (Restart Year 1) |
| August 2002 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 2) |
| March – November 2002 | Hydrologic Monitoring (Year 2) |
| May 2003 | Onsite Agency Meeting |
| August 2003 | Vegetation Monitoring (Year 3) |
| March – November 2003 | Hydrologic Monitoring (Year 3) |

Phase I construction consisted of clearing, grubbing, ripping, filling lateral ditches, and adding ditch plugs. Phase II construction consisted of filling in the central canal. Completion of the site was delayed to June 2000 due to the saturated conditions from the hurricane activity in the fall of 1999.

1.4 Debit Ledger

Because of its size, Dowd Dairy Farm will provide mitigation for several highway projects. Table 1 shows the projects that this site is providing mitigation for as of November 2003.

Table 1. Dowd Dairy Debit Ledger

| | Headwater Swamp (Riverine) | Nonriverine Swamp Forest | Nonriverine Wet Hardwood Forest | Wetland/ Upland Restoration | Nonriverine Atlantic White Cedar | Total |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--------|
| Acres at Start | 13 | 198 | 357 | 20 | 70 | 658 |
| TIP Project Debits | | | | | | |
| R-2204A | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| R-2238AA | 0.6 | 5.8 | 2.5 | 0 | 0 | 8.9 |
| R-2562AA/AB | 5.8 | 0 | 16.4 | 0 | 0 | 22.2 |
| B-3412 | 0 | 1.18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.18 |
| B-3413 | 0 | 1.17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.17 |
| B-3409 | 0.8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8.0 |
| | | | | | | |
| Remaining Acres | 5.8 | 172.85 | 338.1 | 20 | 70 | 606.75 |

1.5 Permit Requirements

As shown on the ledger, the Dowd Dairy Mitigation Site has been debited to compensate for impacts to TIP Project Numbers R-2204A (USACE Action ID number 199602560), R-2562 AA/BB (USACE Action ID number 199304806), R-2238 AA (USACE Action ID Number 199302820), B-3412 (USACE Action ID Number 200200729), B-3413 (USACE Action ID Number 200200716) and B-3409 (USACE Action ID Number 200201004).

The permits for project R-2562AA/AB and R-2238AA stated that grading on the restoration site should be completed no later than August 1, 2000, and all planting should be completed by March 1, 2001. All grading and planting have been completed.

The permit for project R-2204A stated that the annual monitoring reports should describe the overall success of the entire mitigation site and any recommended remedial actions that may become necessary. This report summarizes the findings for 2003.

The permits for projects B-3409, B-3412 and B-3413 contained no special conditions pertaining to the success criteria of the site that must be met in order for the site to be deemed successful.

2.0 HYDROLOGY

2.1 Success Criteria

In accordance with federal guidelines for wetland mitigation, the success criteria for hydrology state that the area must be inundated or saturated (within 12" of the surface) by surface or groundwater for at least 12.5% of the growing season. Areas inundated less than 5% of the growing season are always classified as non-wetlands. Areas inundated between 5% - 12.5% of the growing season can be classified as wetlands depending upon other factors, such as the presence of hydrophytic vegetation and hydric soils.

The growing season in Bladen County begins March 16 and ends November 14. The dates correspond to a 50% probability that temperatures will drop to 28° F or lower after March 16 and before November 14. The growing season is 243 days; therefore the optimum duration for wetland hydrology is 31 days. Also, local climate must represent average conditions for the area.

2.2 Hydrologic Description

Historically, wetlands on the tract were created by a combination of radial groundwater and surface water flow from adjacent terraces, as well as precipitation and vertical groundwater fluctuations maintained within the site. After an extensive study of the site's hydrology, it was concluded that blocking and filling the drainage ditches within the site would elevate the groundwater to a level that would saturate the soil stratum within the required twelve inches. It was predicted that this, in addition to surface water and runoff would be sufficient to restore wetland hydrology.

Thirty-one groundwater-monitoring gauges, and two rain gauges were installed in 1999 (Figure 2). Five additional gauges were installed in transects along the main channel in 2001 to examine potential drainage effects of the large remaining canal. In June 2003, two additional groundwater gauges were installed. The rain gauges and groundwater monitoring gauges record daily readings of rainfall and depth to groundwater, respectively.

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¹ Natural Resources Conversation Service, <u>Soil Survey of Bladen County</u>, <u>North Carolina</u>, p. 123.

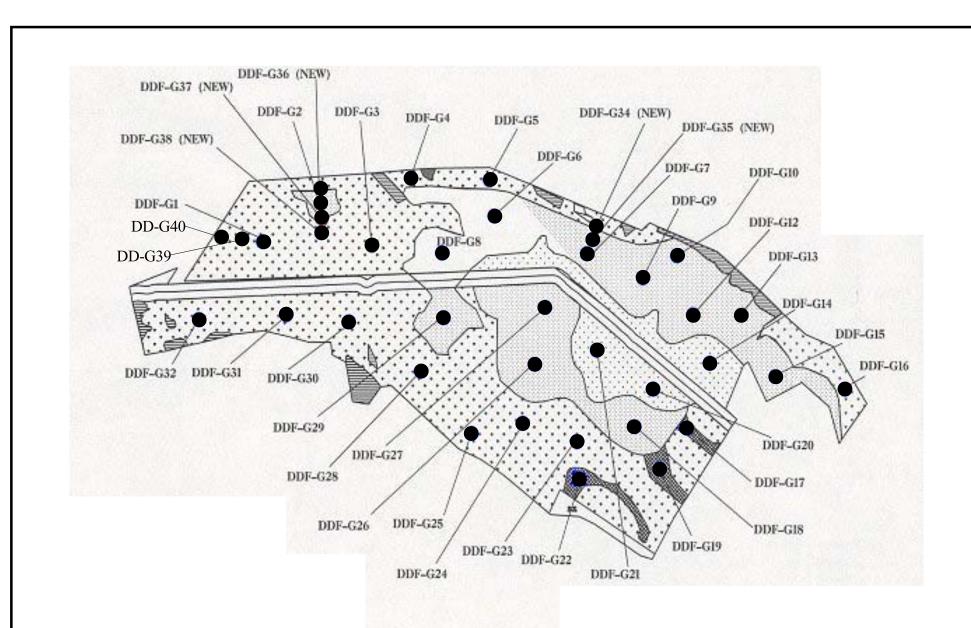




Figure 2. Gauge Location Map

2.3 Results of Hydrologic Monitoring

2.3.1 Site Data

The maximum number of consecutive days that the groundwater was within twelve inches of the surface was determined for each groundwater gauge. This number was converted into a percentage of the 243-day growing season. Table 2 presents the hydrologic monitoring results for 2003.

Figure 3 provides a graphical representation of the hydrologic results. Gauges highlighted in blue indicate wetland hydrology for more than 12.5% of the growing season. Gauges highlighted in red show hydrology between 8% and 12.5% of the growing season, while those in green indicate hydrology between 5% and 8%. Gauges highlighted in black indicate no wetland hydrology (less than 5% of the growing season).

Appendix A contains a plot of the groundwater depth for each monitoring gauge. Daily rainfall is included on each graph as bars (recorded by rain gauges located on the site). The maximum number of consecutive days that the groundwater was within 12 inches of the surface is noted on each graph.

Table 2. 2003 HYDROLOGIC MONITORING RESULTS

| Monitoring | 9 | | > 12.5% | Actual % | Dates Meeting | | | | |
|------------------|---|---|---------|----------|---------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Gauge | | | | | | Success | | | |
| DDF-G1+ | | | | × | 43 | March 17-June 28 | | | |
| DDF-G2 | | | × | | 8.3 | March 17-April 5 | | | |
| DDF-G3 | | × | | | 7.4 | March 17-April 3 | | | |
| DDF-G4 | × | | | | 4.1 | | | | |
| DDF-G5+ | | | | × | 38.4 | March 17-May 17 May 23-Aug 23 | | | |
| DDF-G6+ | | | | × | 69.8 | March 17-Sept 1 | | | |
| DDF-G7*+ | | | | × | 14.5 | March 17-April 20 | | | |
| DDF-G8 | | | | × | 24.0 | March 17-May 13 May 18-June 23 | | | |
| DDF-G9+ | | | | × | 42.6 | April 25-Aug 5 Sept 14-Nov 12 | | | |
| DDF-G10+ | | | | × | 17.8 | July 15-Aug 26 | | | |
| DDF-G12+ | | | | × | 68.2 | March 17-Aug 28 | | | |
| DDF-G13 | × | | | | 2.5 | | | | |
| DDF-G14 + | | | | × | 21.9 | May 24-June 26 July 21-Aug 22 | | | |
| DDF-G15 + | | | | × | 65.7 | March 17-Aug 22 Sept 19-Nov 13 | | | |
| DDF-G16+ | | | | × | 66.9 | March 17-Aug 25 | | | |
| DDF-G17 + | | | | × | 76.4 | March 17-Sept 17 | | | |
| DDF-G18 + | | | | × | 79.3 | March 17-Sept 24 | | | |
| DDF-G19+ | | | | × | 41.3 | May 23-Aug 30 | | | |
| DDF-G20* | | | | | - | | | | |
| DDF-G21 + | | | | × | 61.5 | April 29-Sept 25 | | | |
| DDF-G22+ | | | | × | 20.5 | March 17-April 23 July 2-Aug 20 | | | |
| DDF-G23+ | | | | × | 75.5 | March 17-Sept 14 | | | |
| DDF-G24+ | | | | × | 69.7 | March 17-Sept 1 | | | |
| DDF-G25+ | | | | × | 44.3 | March 17-June 4 June 7-Sept 22 | | | |
| DDF-G26+ | | | | × | 91 | March 17-Oct 23 | | | |
| DDF-G27 + | | | | × | 32.0 | March 18-June 3 | | | |
| DDF-G28+ | | | | × | 100 | March 17-Nov 14 | | | |
| DDF-G29+ | | | | × | 100 | March 17-Nov 14 | | | |
| DDF-G30+ | | | | × | 43.0 | March 17-June 28 July 1-Sept 1 | | | |
| DDF-G31 + | | | | × | 73.4 | March 17-Sept 10 | | | |
| DDF-G32+ | | | | × | 27.5 | March 17-May 21 July 1- Aug 31 | | | |
| DDF-G34 | | | | × | 23.4 | March 17-May 11 | | | |
| DDF-G35* | | | | | | | | | |
| DDF-G36* | | | | | - | | | | |
| DDF-G37 | | | | X | 15.6 | March 17-April 22 | | | |

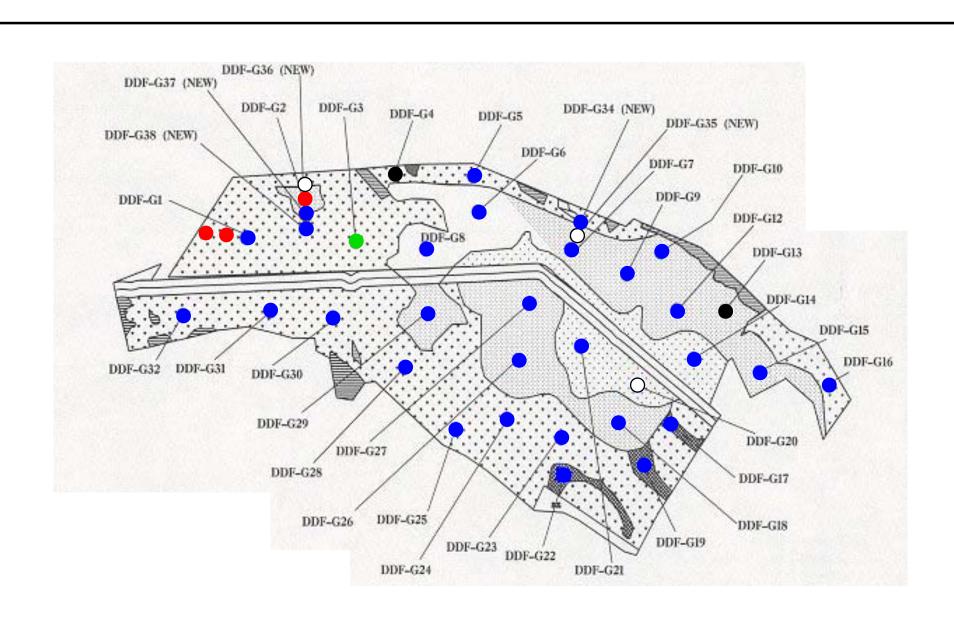
| DDF-G38 | | | × | 24.6 | March 17-May 14 July 3-Aug 11 |
|---------|--|---|---|------|----------------------------------|
| DDF-39 | | × | | 7.8 | |
| DDF-40 | | × | | 7.8 | |

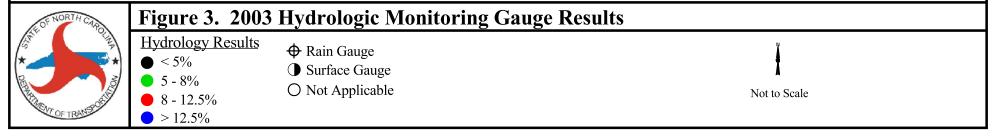
^{*} Gauges have been replaced or misplaced without proper documentation. Gauge data may not be available.

Specific Gauge Problems:

• For the 2003 monitoring year, several gauges were replaced or misplaced. Therefore these gauges may not contain the correct gauge serial number or the data may be missing throughout the growing season. These gauges are noted in Table 2.

⁺ Gauges met the success criterion during an average rainfall month (May, August, and September).





2.3.2 Climatic Data

Figure 4 represents an evaluation of the local climate in comparison with historical data in order to determine whether 2003 was "average" in terms of climate conditions. The two lines represent the 30th and 70th percentiles of monthly precipitation for Elizabethtown, NC. The bars are monthly rainfall totals for 2002 and 2003. The historical data was collected from the State Climate Office of North Carolina.

For the 2003-year, February, March, April, June, July, and October experienced above average rainfall. The months of November (02'), January and November recorded below average rainfall for the site. May, August, and September experienced average rainfall. The rainfall data for November 2002 was not included in the graph. Overall, 2003 experienced an average to above average rainfall year.

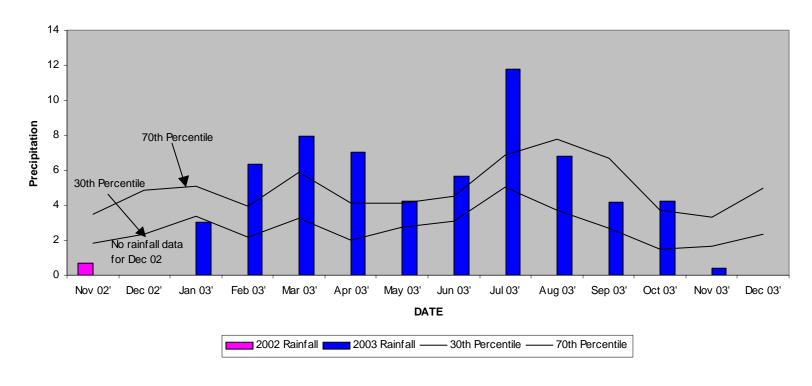
2.4 Conclusions

For the 2003 monitoring year, twenty-nine gauges met jurisdictional hydrologic success of at least 12.5% during the growing season; conversely, six gauges met hydrology less than 12.5% of the growing season. Several gauges were replaced or misplaced during the 2003-growing season, therefore these gauges may not contain the correct gauge serial number or the data may be missing. These gauges are noted in Table 2.

NCDOT will plan a site visit to correctly identify all gauges and their corresponding serial number prior to the 2004-monitoring season.

FIGURE 4. 30-70 PERCENTILE GRAPH

Dowd Dairy 30-70 Percentile Graph Elizabethtown , NC



2.3.2 Climatic Data

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2.4 Conclusions

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3.0 VEGETATION: DOWD DAIRY MITIGATION SITE (YEAR 3 MONITORING)

3.1 Success Criteria

Success criteria state that there must be a minimum of 320 trees per acre living for at least three consecutive years. A minimum of five character tree species must be present, with no more than 20% of any one species present, with the exception of Atlantic White Cedar, which may comprise up to 75% of the swamp forest restoration. Loblolly Pine cannot comprise more than 10% of the 320 trees per acre requirement.

3.2 Description of Species

The following tree species were planted in the Wetland Planting Areas:

Zone 1: Non-Riverine Wet Hardwood Forest (320.25 acres)

Quercus falcata var. pagodaefolia, Cherrybark Oak

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

Quercus laurifolia, Laurel Oak

Quercus Iyrata, Overcup Oak

Quercus michauxii, Swamp Chestnut Oak

Nyssa aquatica, Water Tupelo

Quercus nigra, Water Oak

Quercus phellos, Willow Oak

Zone 2: Pine/Oak Hickory (17.68 acres)

Juglans nigra, Black Walnut

Nyssa sylvatica var. sylvatica, Blackgum

Pinus palustris, Longleaf Pine

Quercus falcata var. falcata, Southern Red Oak

Quercus nigra, Water Oak

Quercus alba, White Oak

Quercus phellos, Willow Oak

Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Poplar

Quercus Iyrata, Overcup Oak

Zone 3: Non-Riverine Swamp Forest (201.2 acres)

Chamaecyparis thyoides, Atlantic White Cedar

Taxodium distichum, Baldcypress

Quercus falcata var. pagodaefolia, Cherrybark Oak

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

Quercus laurifolia, Laurel Oak

Quercus Iyrata, Overcup Oak

Quercus nigra, Water Oak

Quercus phellos, Willow Oak

Nyssa aquatica, Water Tupelo

Zone 4: Headwater (Slope) Swamp (12.05 acres)

Taxodium distichum, Baldcypress

Quercus falcata var. pagodaefolia, Cherrybark Oak

Quercus laurifolia, Laurel Oak

Quercus lyrata, Overcup Oak

Quercus michauxii, Swamp Chestnut Oak

Quercus nigra, Water Oak

Quercus phellos, Willow Oak

Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Poplar

Zone 5: Atlantic White Cedar Slope (67.76 acres)

Chamaecyparis thyoides, Atlantic White Cedar

Taxodium Distichum, Baldcypress

Pinus serotina, Pond Pine

Quercus michauxii, Swamp Chestnut Oak

Nyssa aquatica, Water Tupelo

Quercus phellos, Willow Oak

Liriodendron tulipifera, Tulip Poplar

Quercus falcata var. pagodaefolia, Cherrybark Oak

Fraxinus pennsylvanica, Green Ash

Quercus laurifolia, Laurel Oak

Quercus Iyrata, Overcup Oak

3.3 Results of Vegetation Monitoring

| 3.3 K | | 13 01 | | | | I | | 3 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
|-------|--------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ZONE | Plot # | Swamp Chestnut Oak | Laurel Oak | Willow Oak | Cherrybark Oak | Water Tupelo | Water Oak | Green Ash | Overcup Oak | White Oak | Southern Red Oak | Longleaf Pine | Pond Pine | Blackgum | Black Walnut | Tulip Poplar | Baldcypress | Atlantic White Cedar | Total (3 year) | Total (at planting) | Density (Trees/Acre) |
| 1 | 1 | | | 8 | 1 | | | 6 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | 25 | 37 | 459 |
| | 3 | 5 | | 5 | | 1 | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | 15 | 40 | 255 |
| | 4 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | 28 | 28 | 680 |
| | 5 | | 5 | 3 | | 4 | 1 | 9 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | 34 | 39 | 593 |
| | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | | 4 | | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | 21 | 38 | 376 |
| | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 23 | 39 | 401 |
| | 15 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 16 | 32 | 340 |
| | 17 | 14 | 3 | | 7 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 25 | 41 | 415 |
| | 19 | 4 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 11 | 35 | 214 |
| | 28 | 3 | | 10 | | 3 | | 8 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 27 | 37 | 496 |
| | 29 | 4 | 2 | 2 | | | | 6 | 19 | | | | | | | | | | 33 | 41 | 547 |
| | 30 | | 3 | 10 | | | | 18 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 33 | 39 | 575 |
| | 31 | 14 | | | 1 | 2 | | 5 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 27 | 37 | 496 |
| | 32 | 6 | | 5 | | 2 | | 9 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | 25 | 38 | 447 |
| | 33 | | 5 | | 1 | | | 24 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | 44 | 44 | 680 |
| | 34 | 7 | 3 | 1 | | 6 | | 6 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | 33 | 39 | 575 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Z | ONE | 1 AVI | ERAG | E | T | | | 472 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 21 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 25 | 25 | 680 |
| | 12 | | | 4 | | | 1 | | | | 9 | | | | | | | | 14 | 26 | 366 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Z | ONE | 2 AVI | ERAG | E | | | - | 523 |

| ZONE | Plot# | Swamp Chestnut Oak | Laurel Oak | Willow Oak | Cherrybark Oak | Water Tupelo | Water Oak | Green Ash | Overcup Oak | White Oak | Southern Red Oak | Longleaf Pine | Pond Pine | Blackgum | Black Walnut | Tulip Poplar | Baldcypress | Atlantic White Cedar | Total (3 year) | Total (at planting) | Density (Trees/Acre) |
|------|----------|--------------------|------------|------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3 | 6 | | 5 | 1 | 5 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | 8 | 5 | 30 | 30 | 680 |
| | 7 | | | | | | | 10 | 2 | | | | | | | | 20 | | 32 | 40 | 544 |
| | 9 | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 10 | 5 | 19 | 3 4 | 380 |
| | 10 | | 5 | | 3 | | 2 | | 10 | | | | | | | | 12 | 1 | 33 | 4 4 | 510 |
| | 11 | | 2 | 12 | 2 | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | 7 | 1 | 28 | 28 | 680 |
| | 20 | | 1 | 2 | | | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | 13 | 37 | 239 |
| | 24 | | 1 | 4 | 1 | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 5 | 18 | 3 4 | 360 |
| | 25 | | | 6 | 6 | | | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | | 1 | 6 | 31 | 31 | 680 |
| | 26 27 | | 4 | 2 | <u> </u> | | | 20 | 1 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | | | <u> </u> | | <u> </u> | 6 | 5 | 34 | 35 | 6 6 1 4 1 6 |
| | 35 | | 1 | 6 | 1 | 3 | | 1 6 | 10 | | | | | | | | 4 | | 22 14 | 36 37 | 257 |
| | 36 | | 4 | 6 | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 16 | 36 | 302 |
| | 30 | | | _ | <u> </u> | | | - J | | | | | 7 | ONE | 3 A V F | RAG | | | 10 | 30 | 476 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | I | <u> </u> | I | - | | 1 | | 470 |
| 4 | 16 | 3 | | | 1 | | | | 5 | | | | | | | | 12 | | 21 | 3 1 | 461 |
| | 18 | 7 | 3 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 9 | | 22 | 35 | 427 |
| | | | _ | | | | | | | | | | Z | ONE | 4 A V E | RAG | _ | | | | 444 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | <u> </u> | | | | | |
| 5 | 13 | | 2 | 1 | 7 | | | 4 | 3 | | | 1 | | | | | | | 17 | 24 | 482 |
| | 21 | | | 6 | | | | | | | | 1 | 10 | | | | 13 | | 29 | 29 | 680 |
| | 22 | 8 | | 2 | | 4 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 8 | 2 | 25 | 27 | 630 |
| | 23 | 1 | | 9 | | 5 | | | | | | | 6 | | | | 13 | | 34 | 38 | 608 |
| | 37 | 12 | | 9 | | 5 | | | | | | | 6 | | | | 15 | | 47 | 47 | 680 |
| | 38 | 21 | | 12 | | | | | 4 | | | | 2 | 8 | | | 3 | | 50 | 50 | 680 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Z | ONE | 5 A V E | RAG | E | | | | 627 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | Т | ОТАІ | _ A V E | RAG | E | | | | 499 |

Site Notes:

Zone 1: Other species noted: goldenrod, briars, red maple, broomsedge, pine, sweetgum, stinkweed, sicklepod, trumpet creeper, *Juncus* sp., *Aster* sp., switchgrass, giant foxtail, fennel, sassafras, ragweed, *Baccharis halimifolia, Panicum* sp., woolgrass, cattail, and *Bidens* sp.

Zone 2: Other species noted: ragweed, *Aster* sp., *Juncus* sp., broomsedge, pine, goldenrod, *Panicum* sp., and cacti.

Zone 3: Other species noted: fennel, broomsedge, goldenrod, winged sumac, *Baccharis halimifolia*, cattail, stinkweed, *Juncus* sp., black willow, foxtail, sweetgum, briars, sassafras, ragweed, smartweed, sicklepod, bahia, winged sumac, woolgrass, and *Aster* sp. Planted green ash (10 ft. tall) noted outside of plot 9.

Zone 4: Other species noted: sweetgum, briars, fennel, red maple, broomsedge, *Aster* sp., and *Juncus* sp.

Zone 5: Other species noted: fennel, briars, sweetgum, red maple, bermuda grass, *Juncus* sp., cattail, *Aster* sp., winged sumac, and broomsedge.

3.4 Conclusions

Of the 658 acres on this site, approximately 619 acres involved tree planting. There were thirty-eight test plots established throughout the planting areas, covering all plant communities. The 2003 vegetation monitoring of the planted areas revealed an average density of 499 trees per acre, which is above the minimum requirement of 320 trees per acre. It should be noted that since this was a phased project, the majority of the plots contain 4-year old trees. The site was extremely wet at the time of monitoring.

NCDOT also monitored the site for nuisance species such as pine and sweetgum. These species were abundant around the perimeter of the site toward the woods and in the cut over area. NCDOT recognizes that a problem may exist in some areas and proposes waiting until year five of monitoring to address any concerns in a comprehensive manner. At that time, a contract will be let to address the situation, if warranted.

NCDOT will continue vegetation monitoring on the Dowd Dairy Mitigation Site.

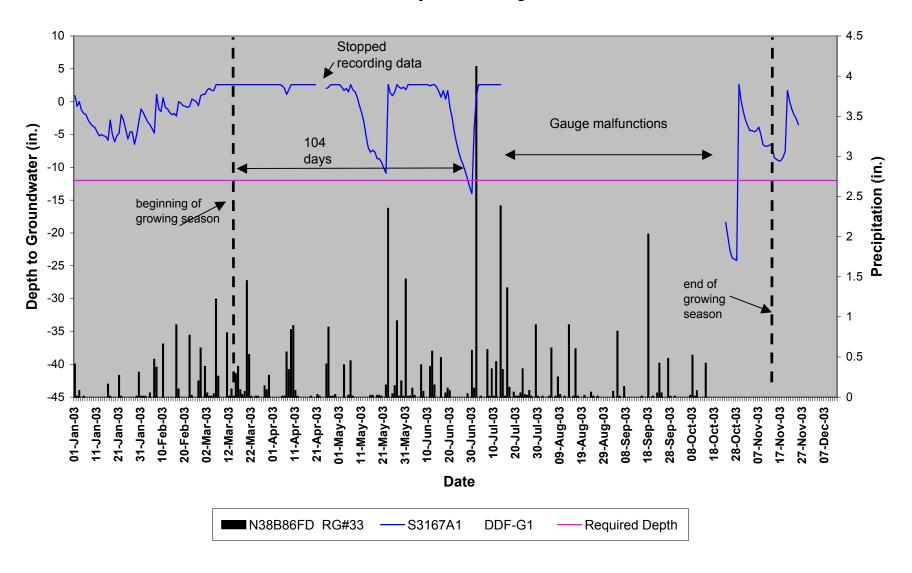
4.0 OVERALL CONCLUSIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS

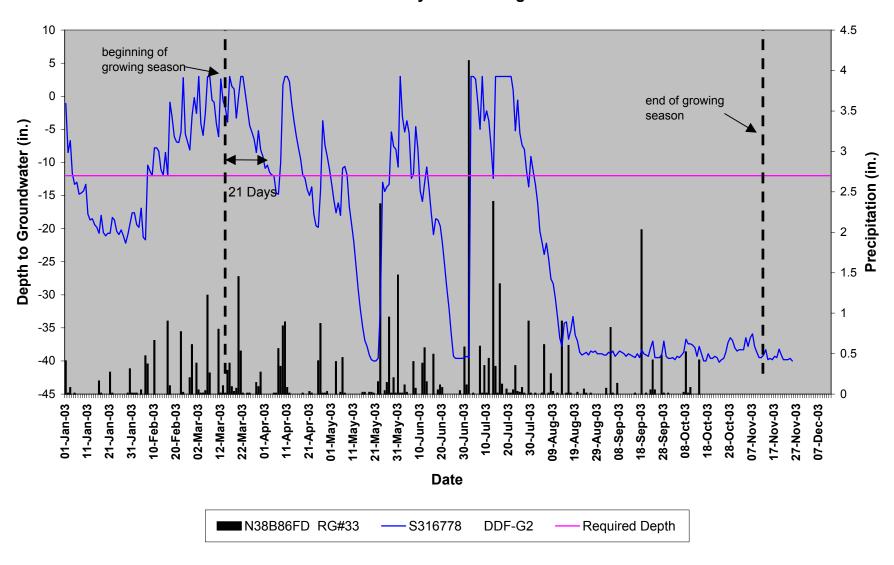
Hydrologic monitoring for the 2003-monitoring year indicated that twenty-nine gauges met jurisdictional hydrologic success of at least 12.5% during the growing season; conversely, six gauges met hydrology less than 12.5% of the growing season. Several gauges were replaced or misplaced during the 2003-growing season, therefore these gauges may not contain the correct gauge serial number or the data may be missing. These gauges are noted in Table 2. NCDOT will plan a site visit to correctly identify all gauges and their serial numbers prior to the 2004 monitoring season.

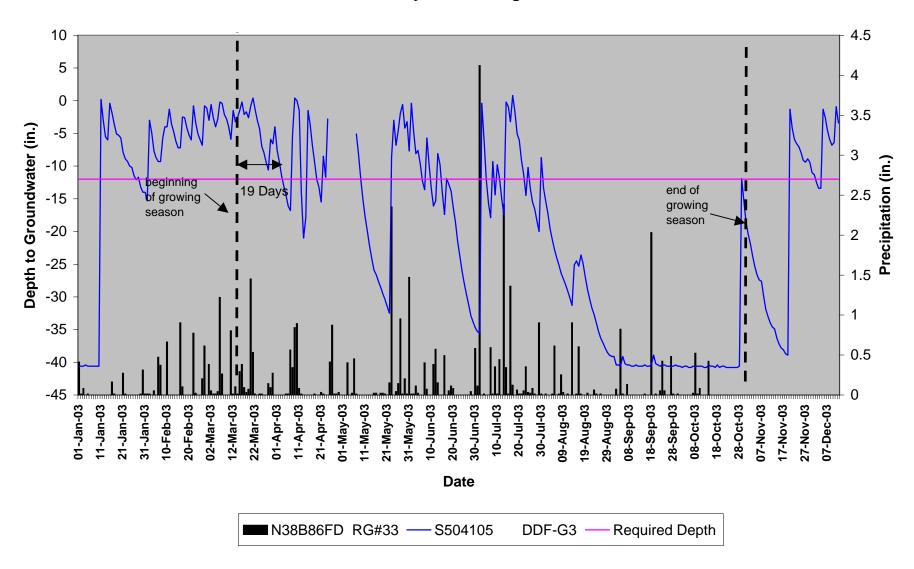
The third year of vegetation monitoring (of the 619 acres planted in trees), revealed an average density of 499 trees per acre, which is above the minimum requirement of 320 trees per acre. NCDOT also monitored the site for nuisance species such as pine and sweetgum. NCDOT recognizes that a problem may exist in some areas and proposes waiting until year five of monitoring to address any concerns in a comprehensive manner. At that time, a contract will be let to address the situation, if warranted.

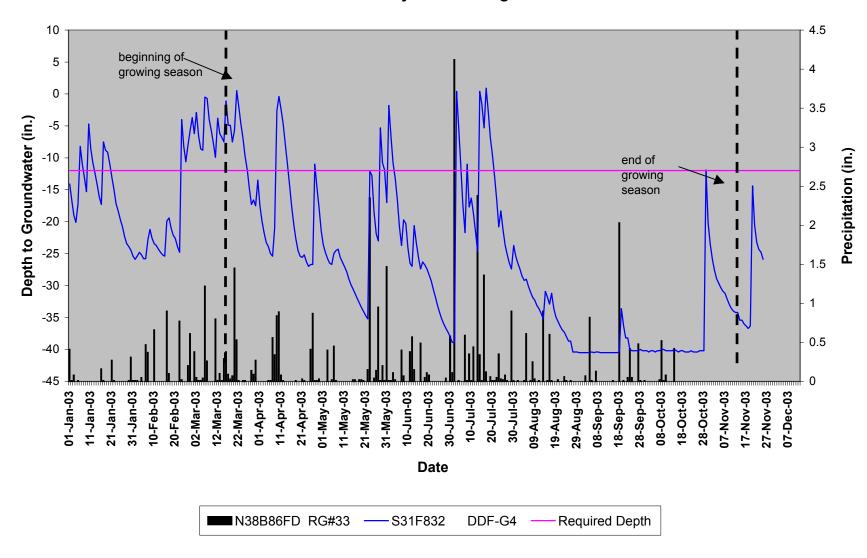
NCDOT will continue to monitor the Dowd Dairy Mitigation Site for hydrology and vegetation.

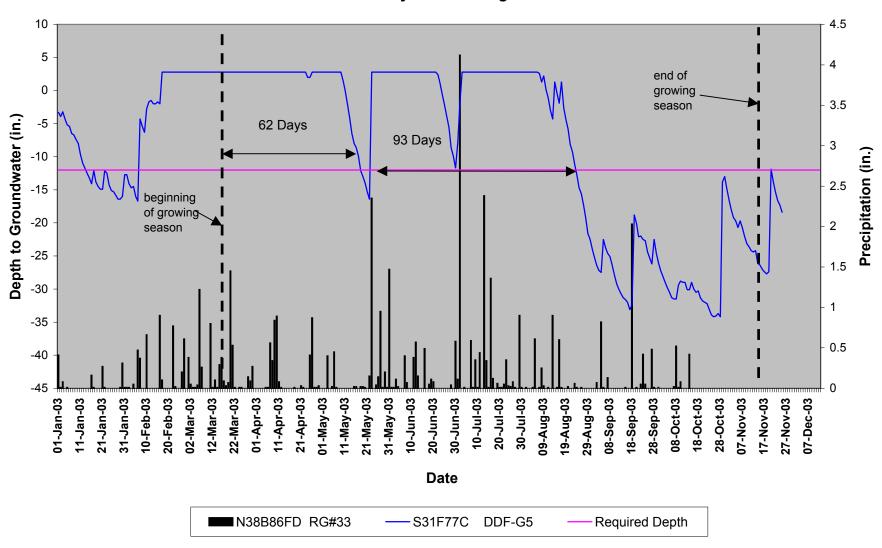
APPENDIX A GAUGE DATA GRAPHS

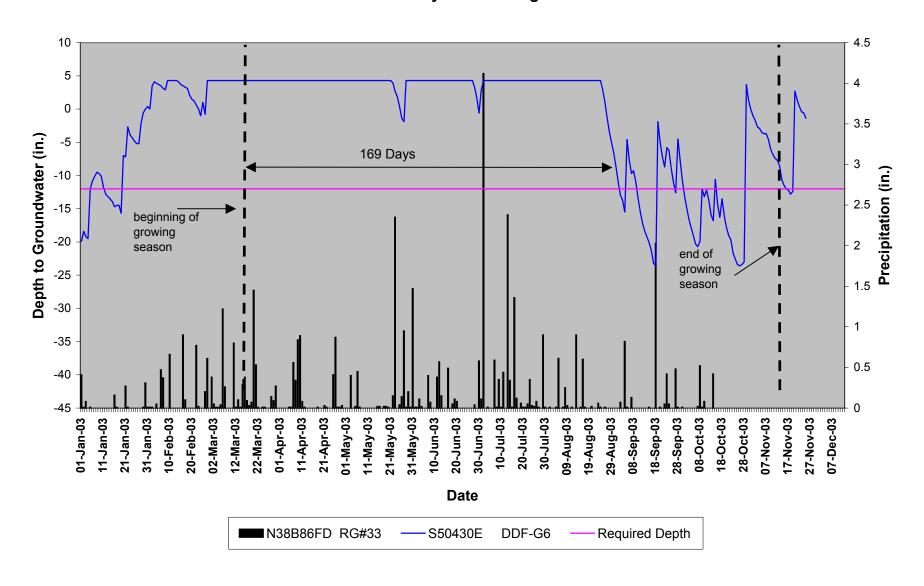


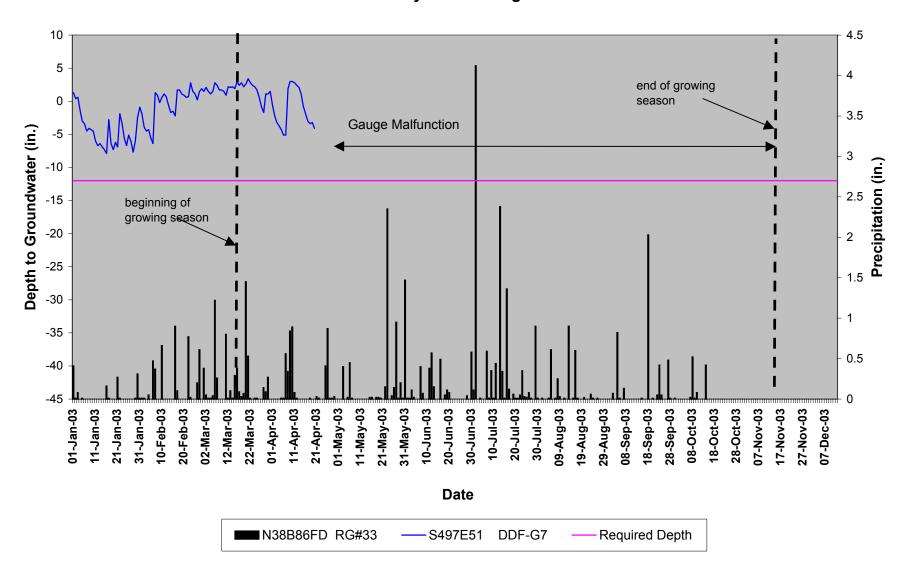


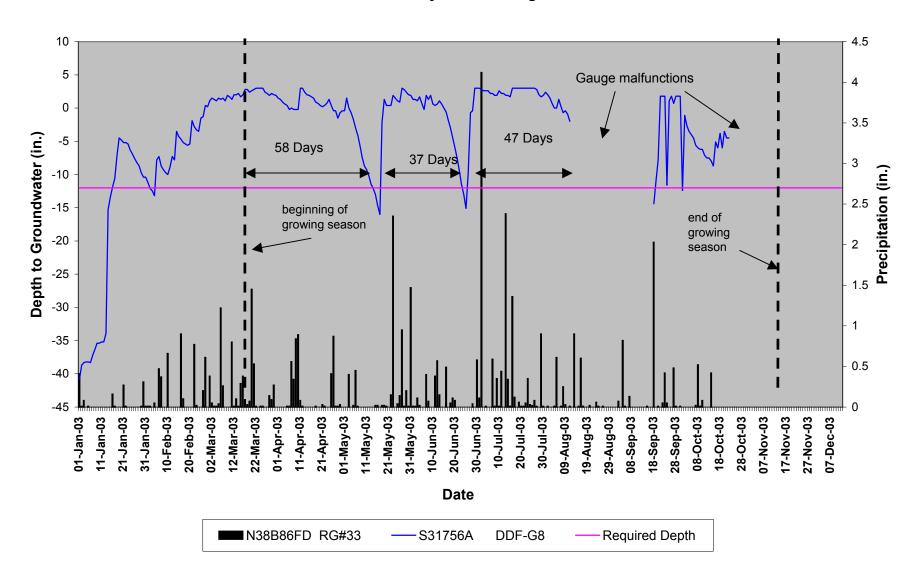


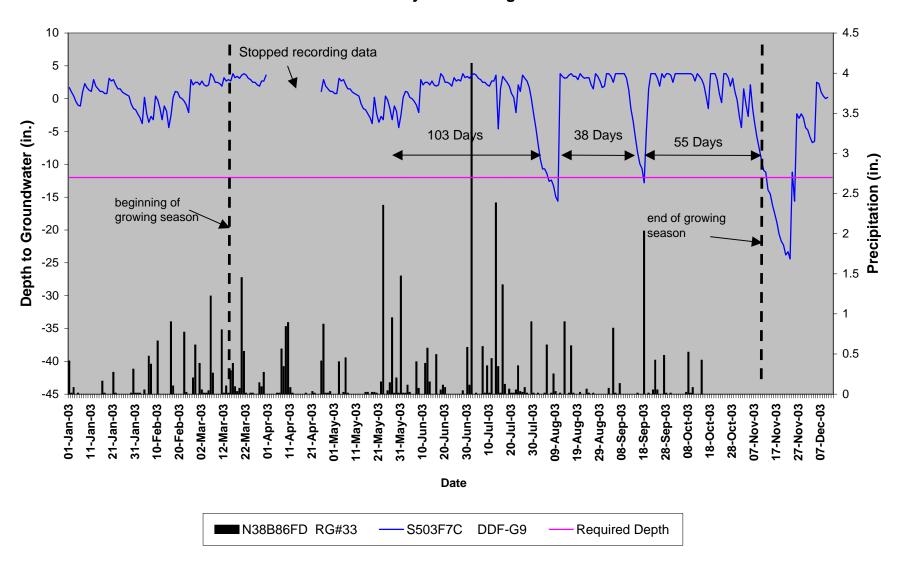


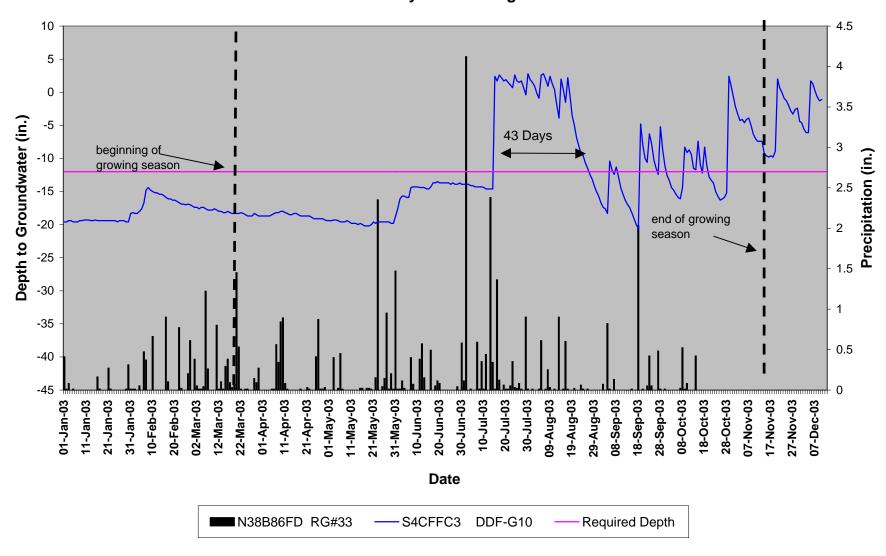


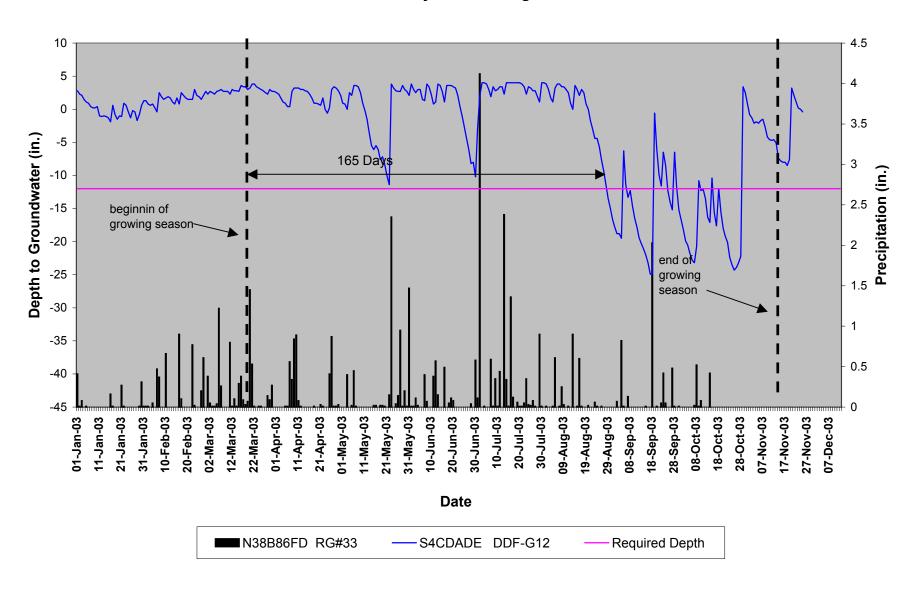


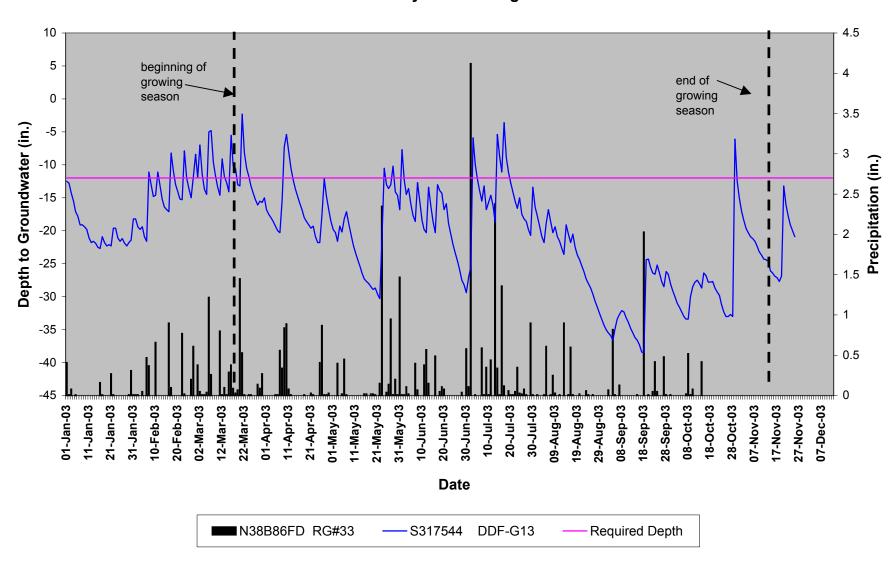


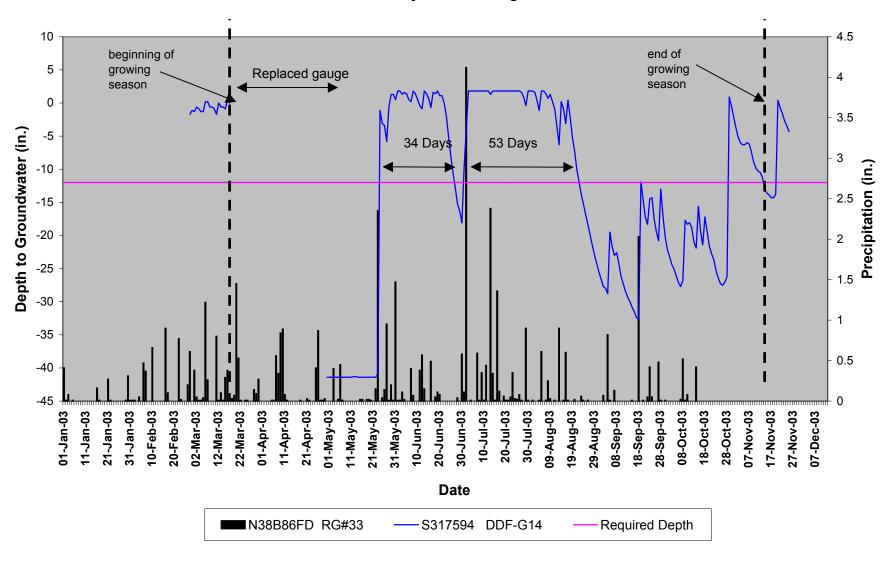


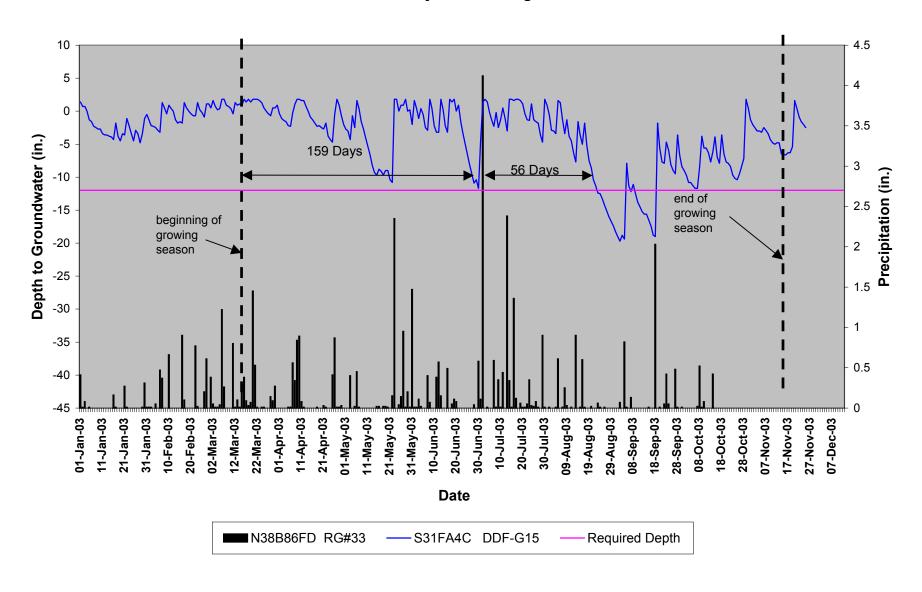


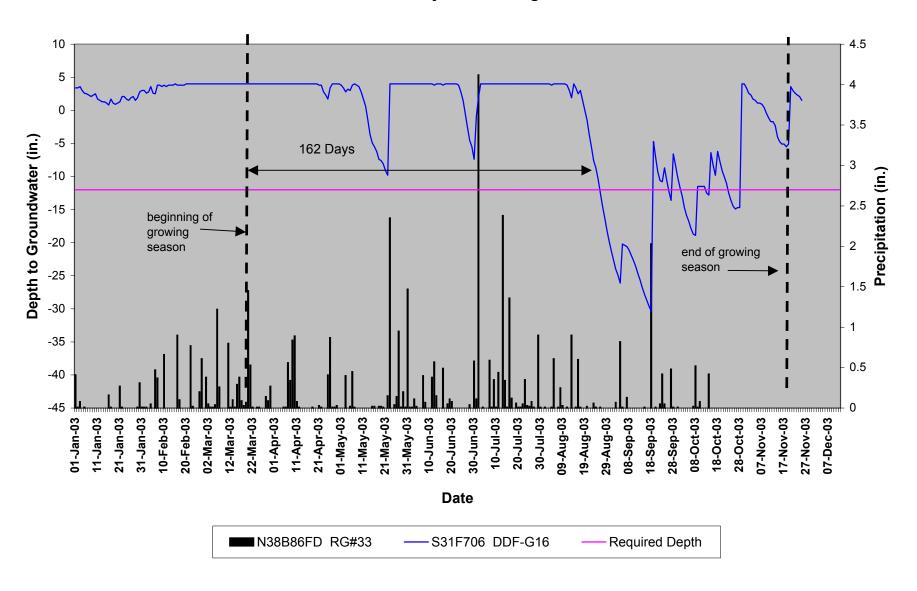


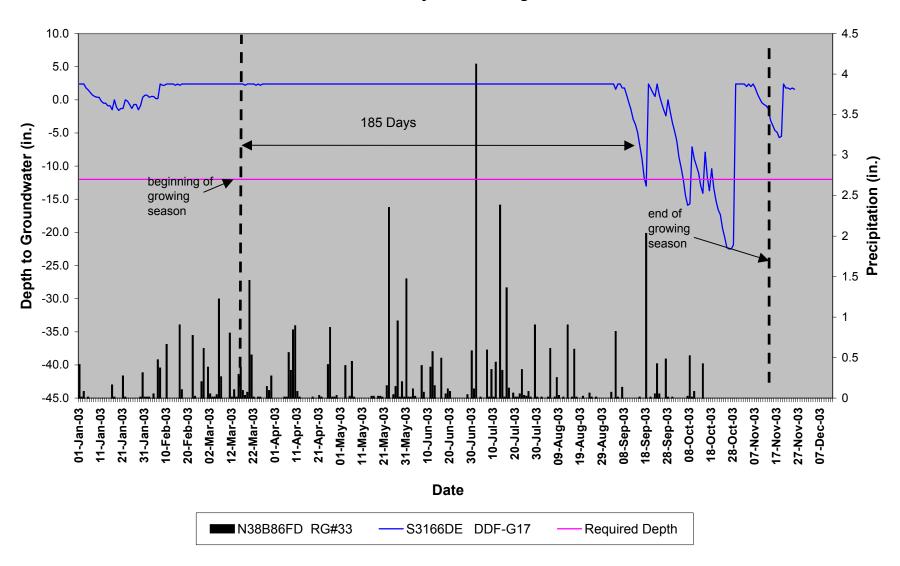


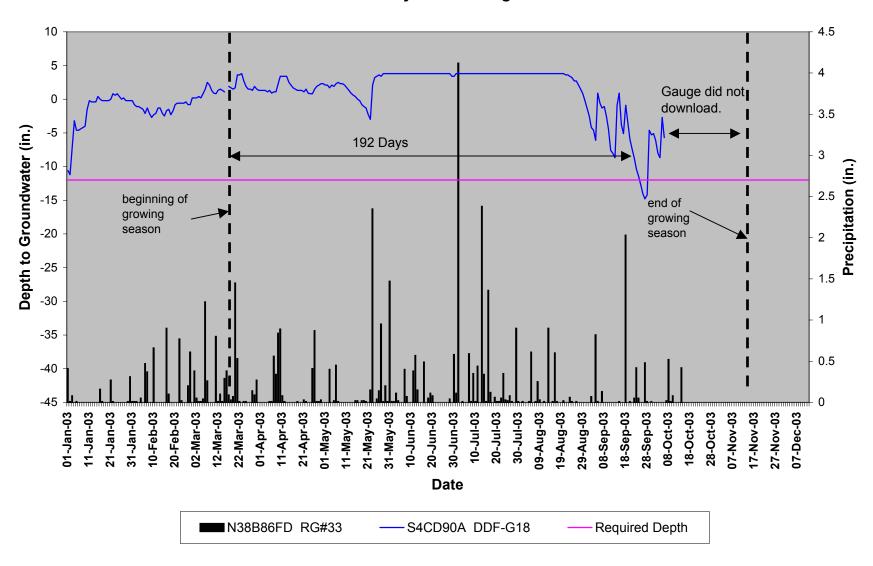


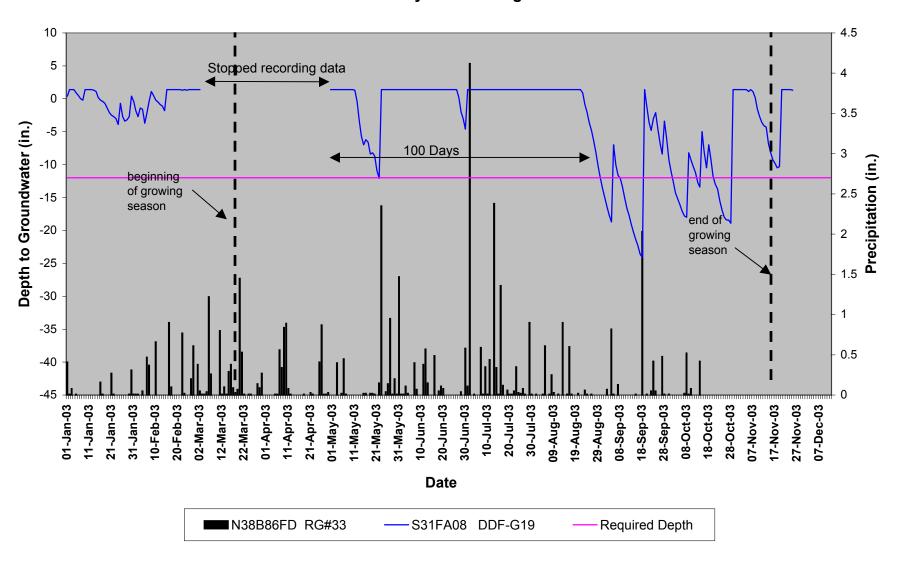


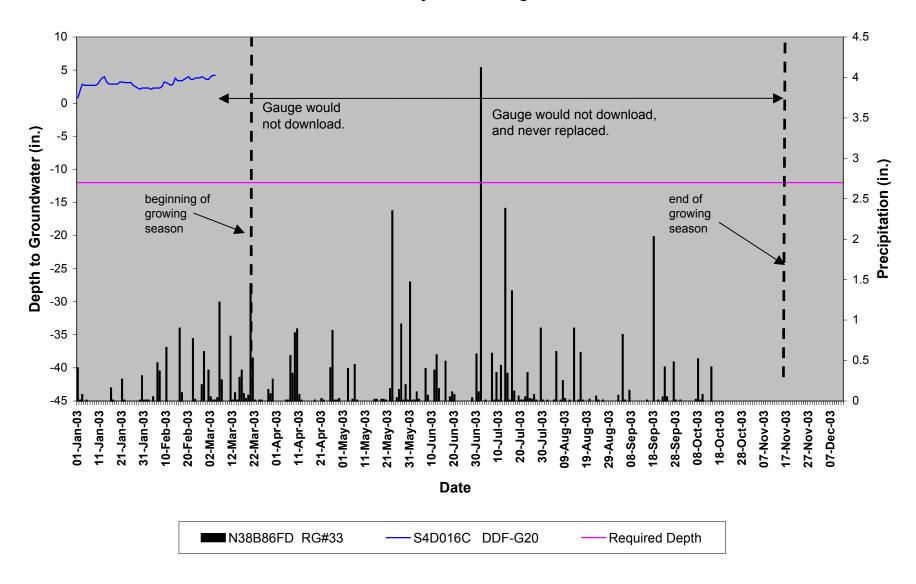


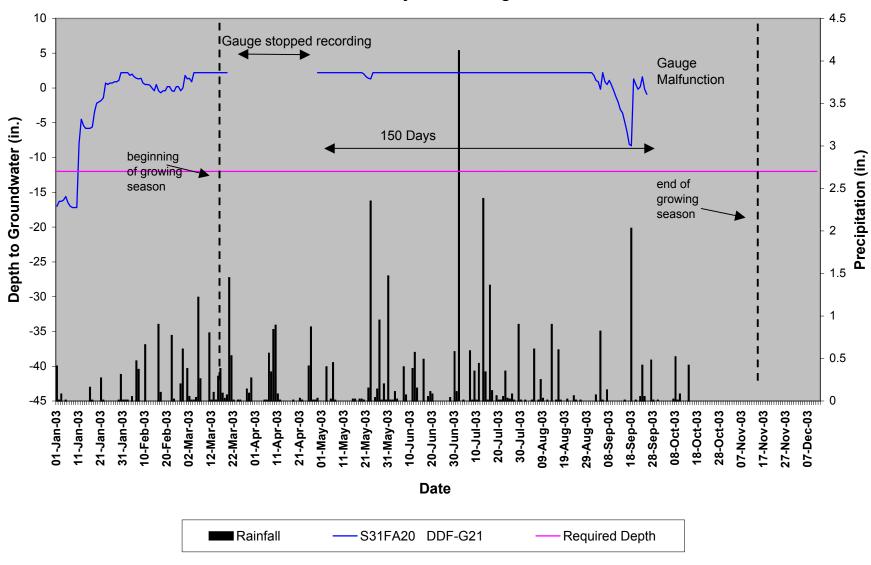


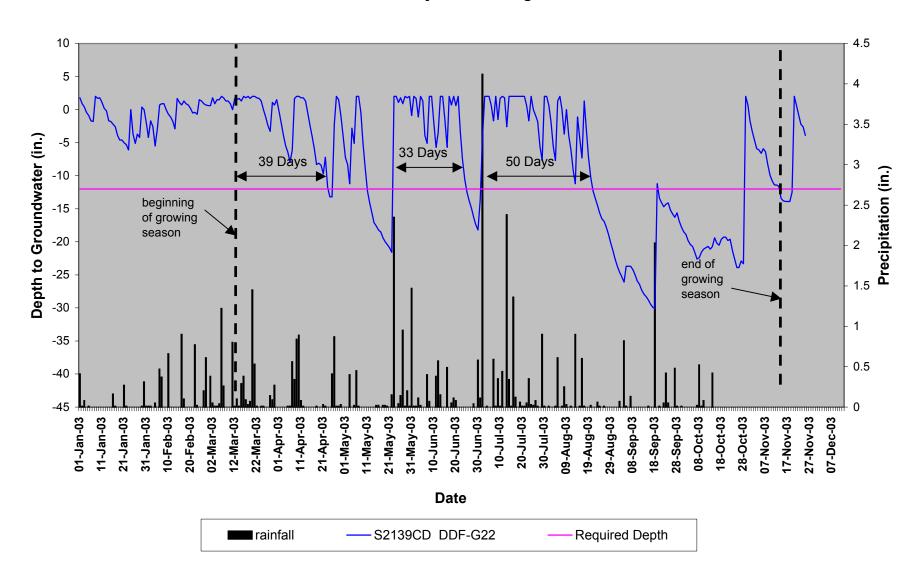


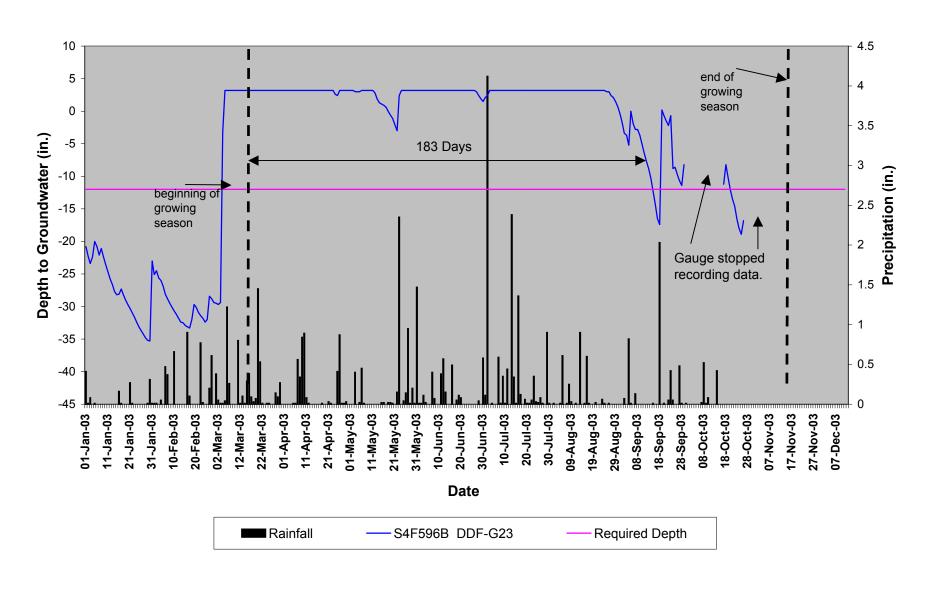


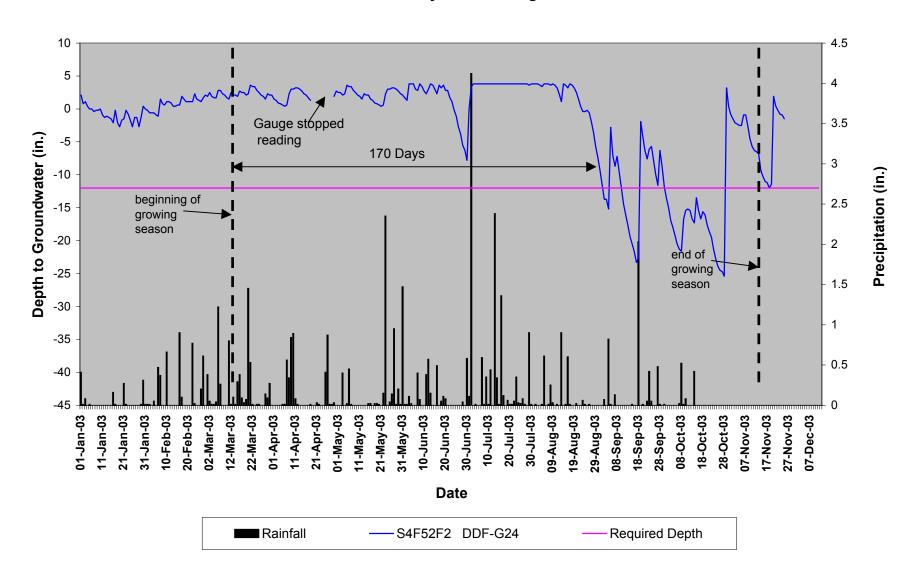


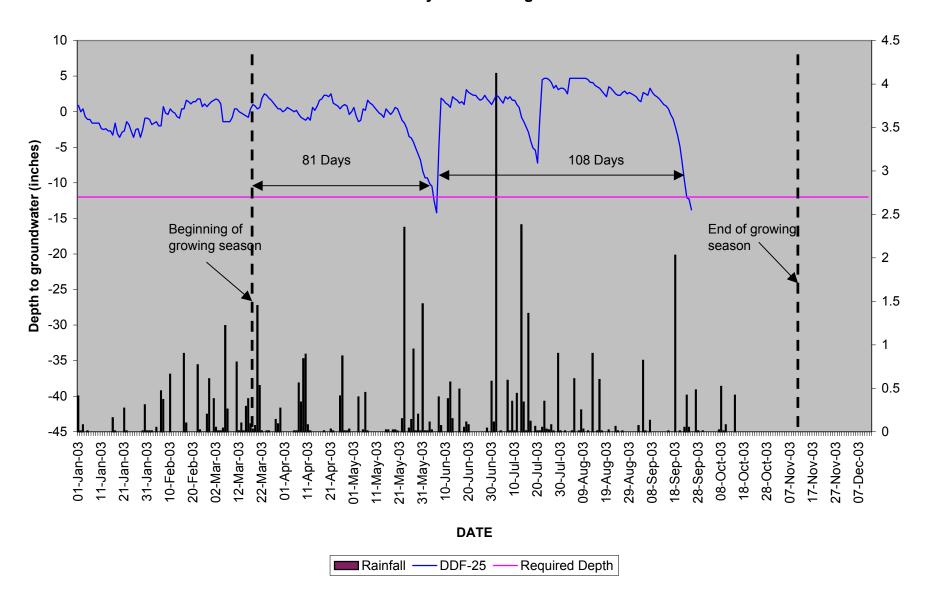


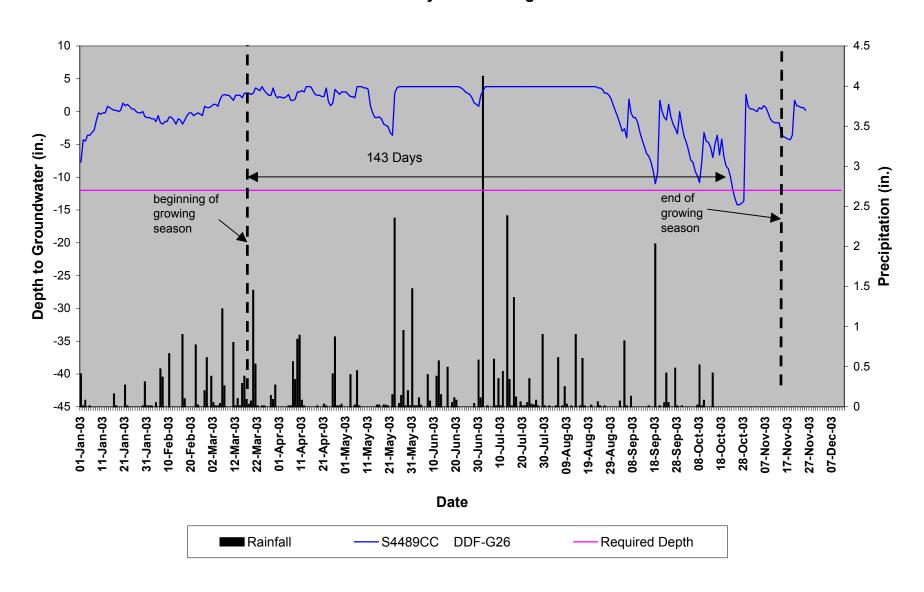


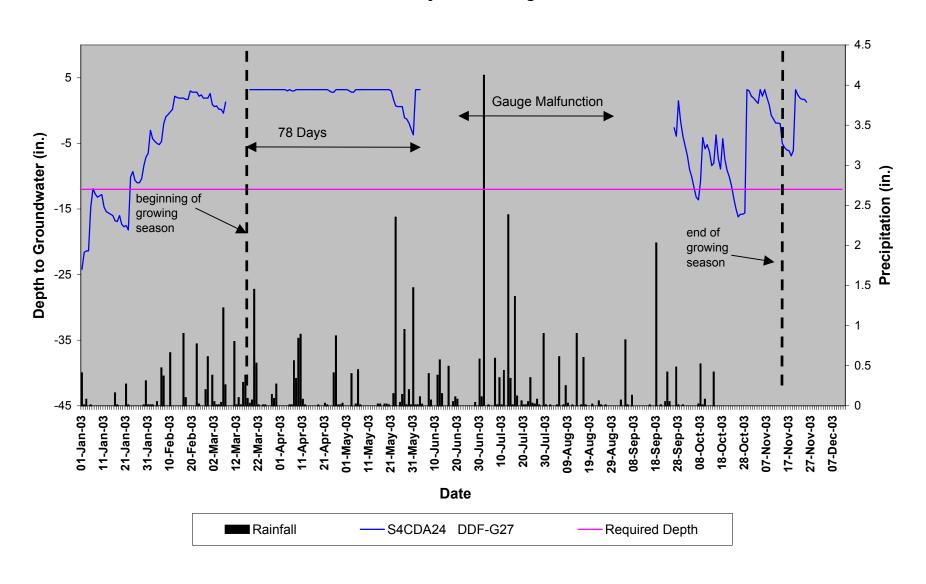


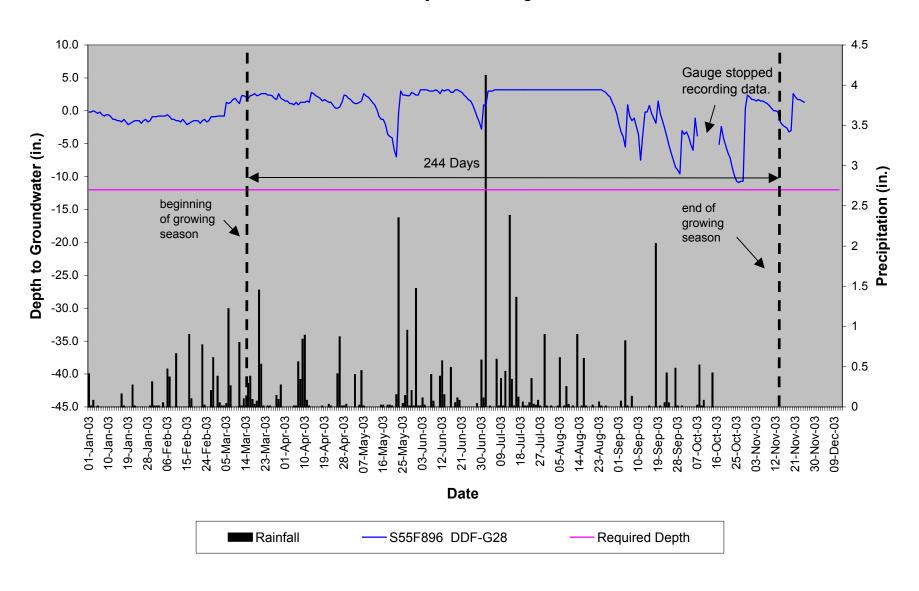


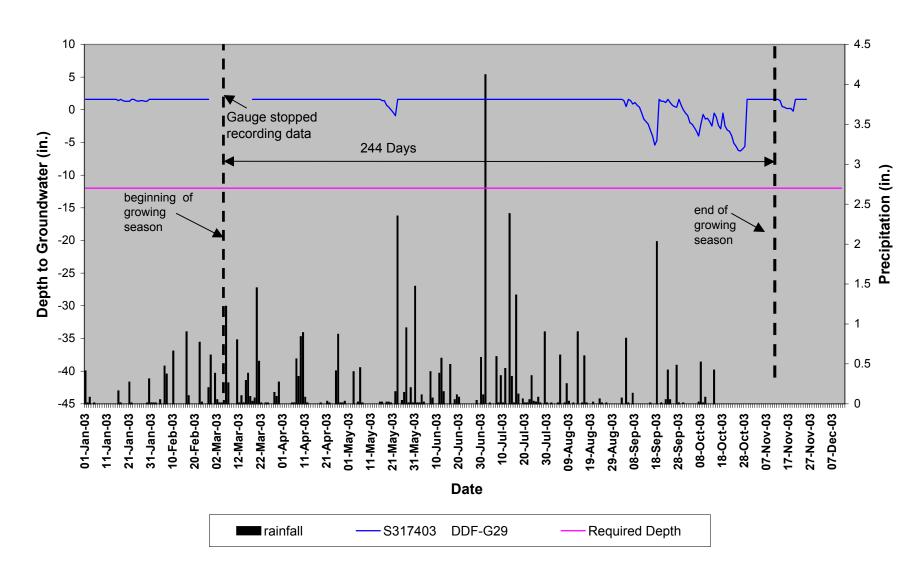


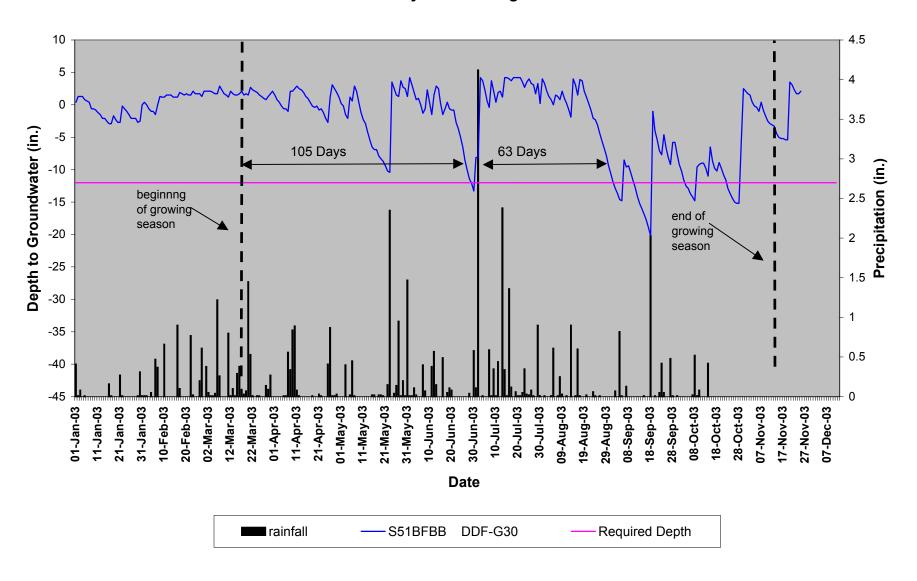


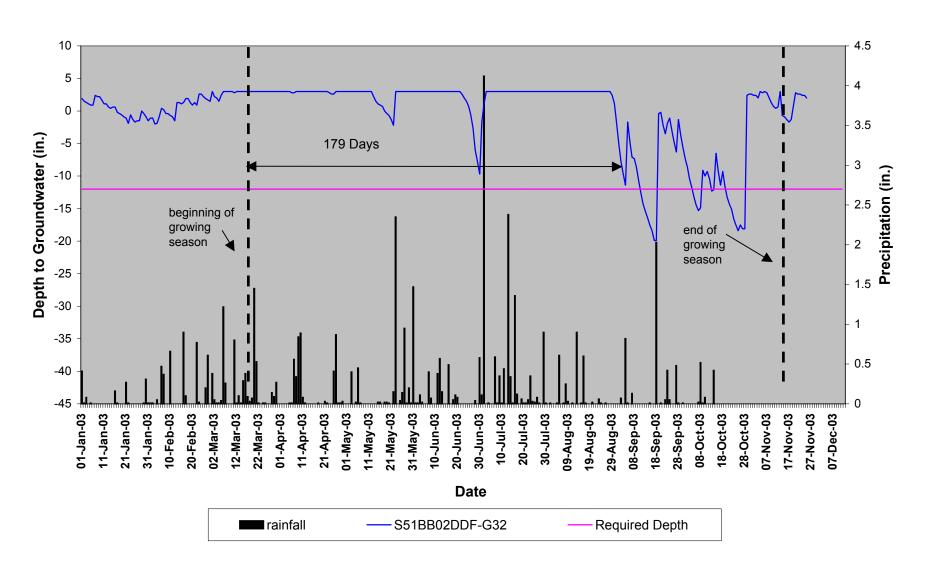


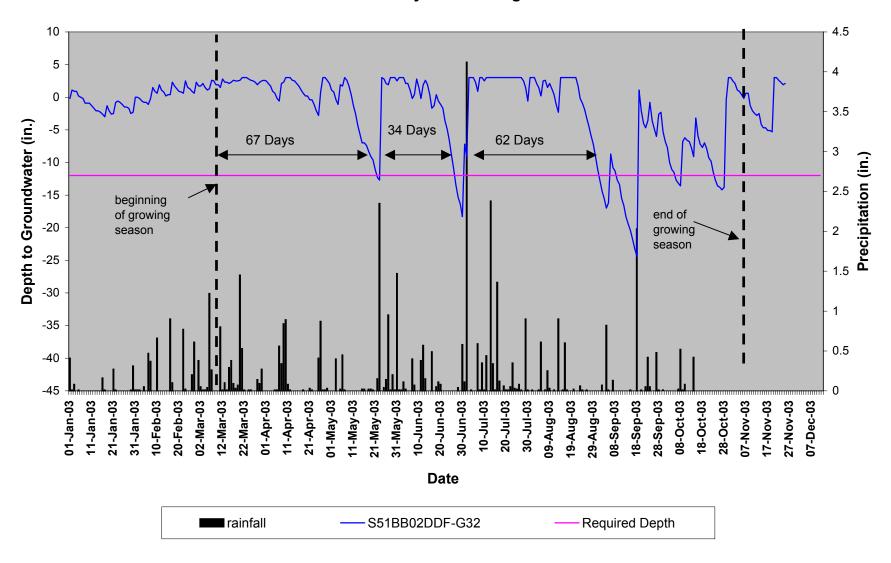


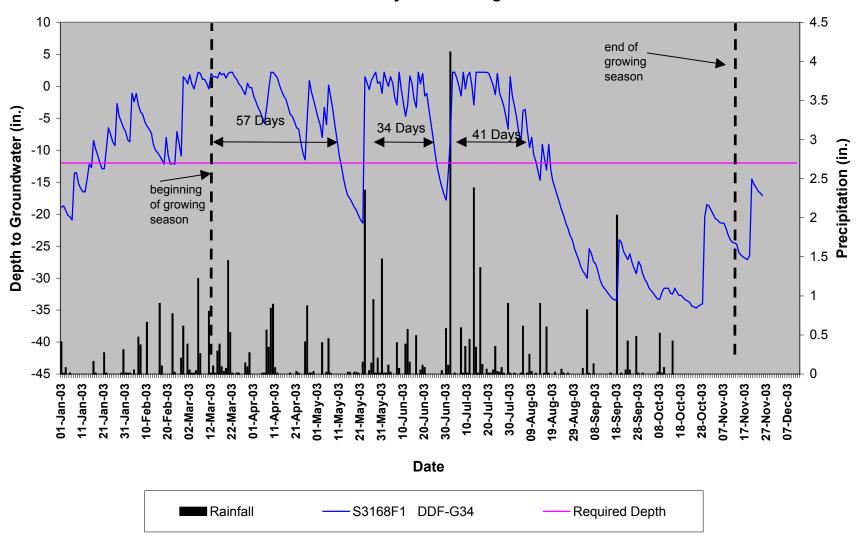


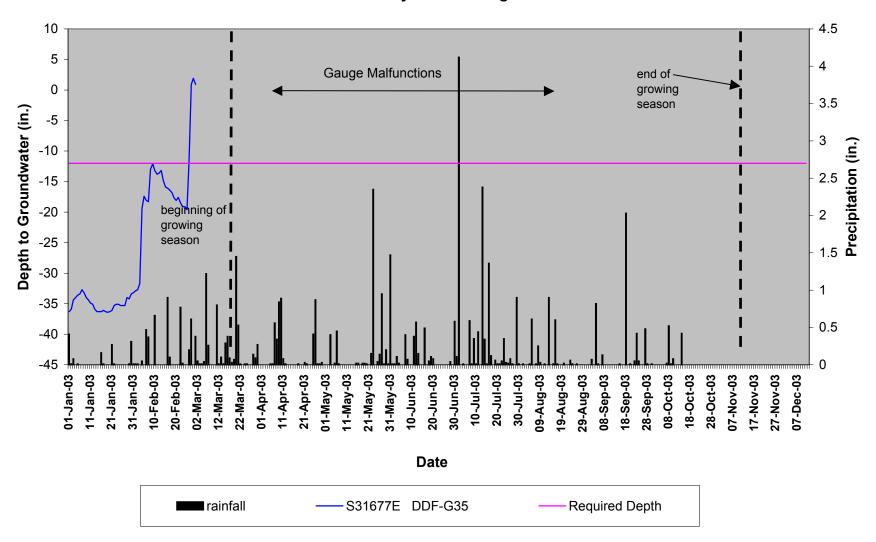


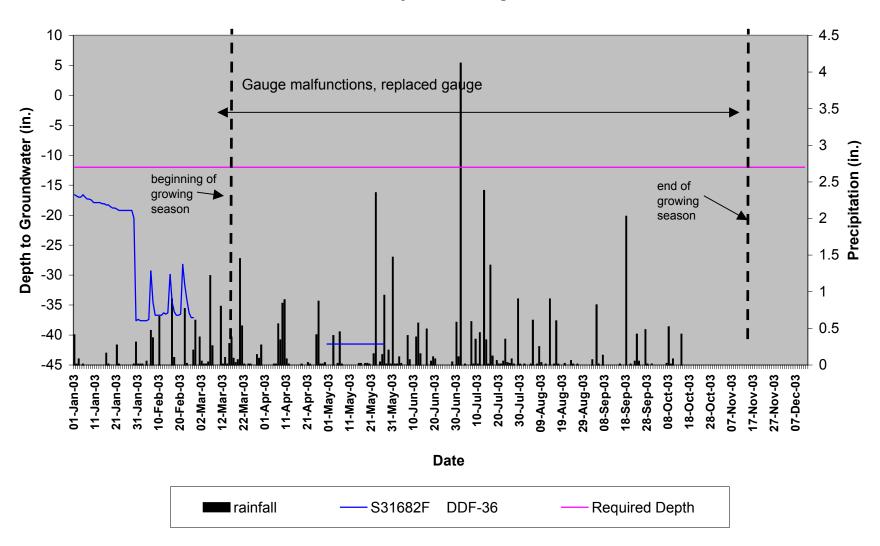




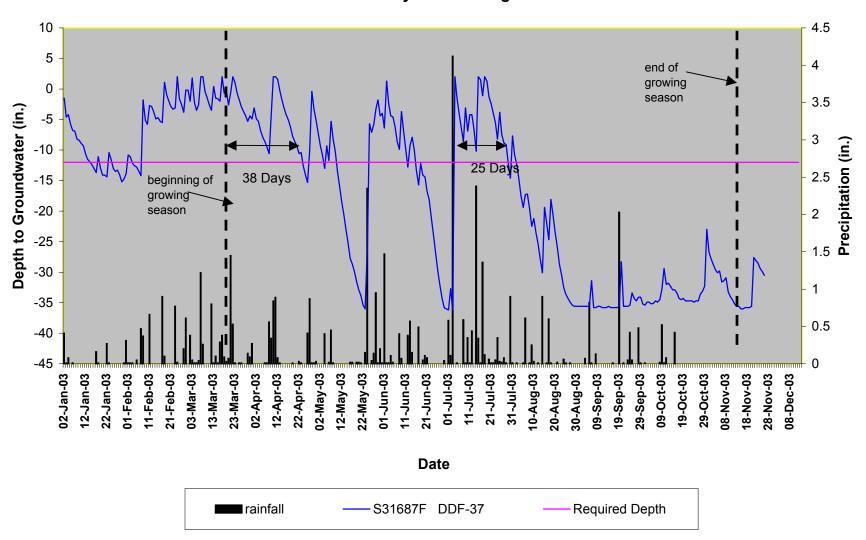


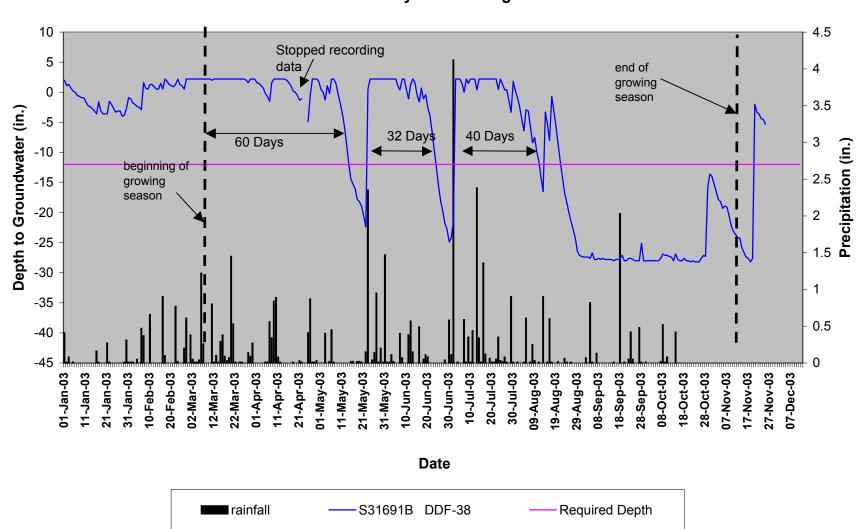


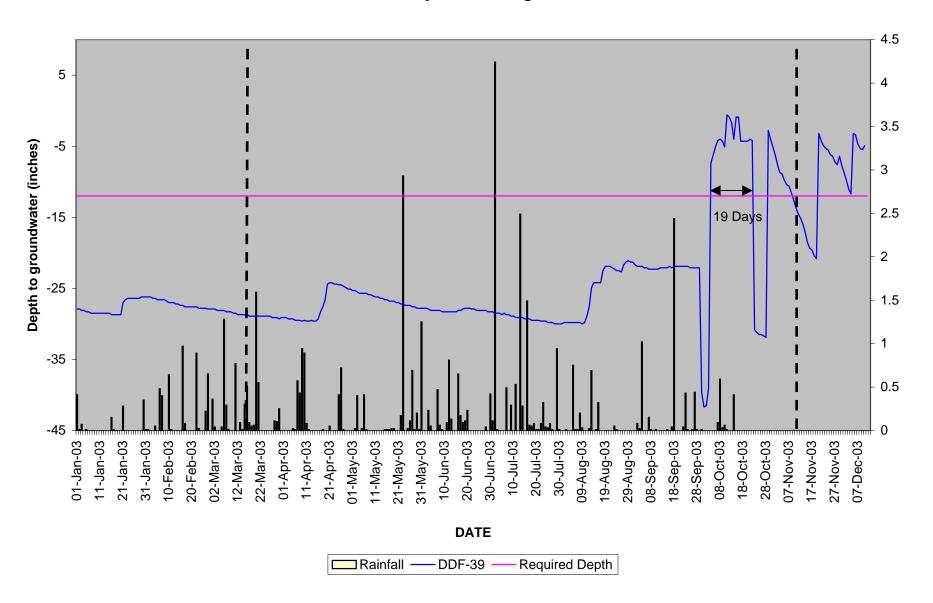


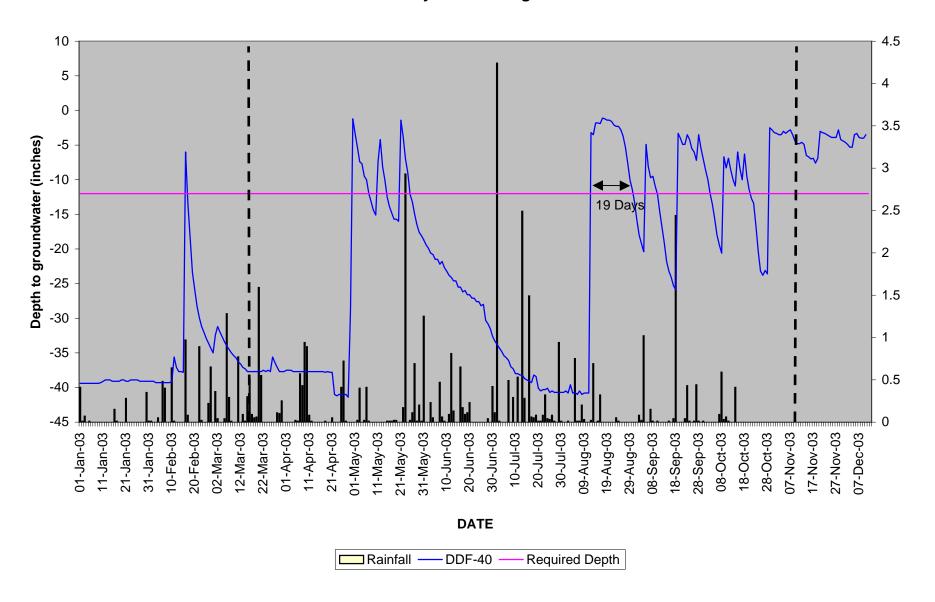


Dowd Dairy Farm - Gauge G37









APPENDIX B

SITE PHOTOS PHOTO AND VEGETATION PLOT LOCATIONS

DOWD DAIRY

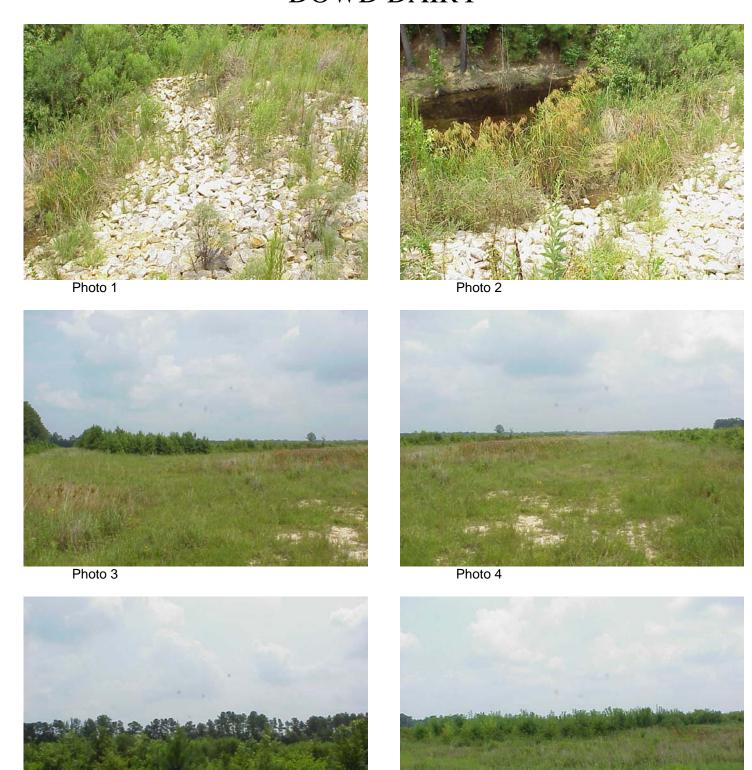


Photo 5

2003

Photo 6

DOWD DAIRY

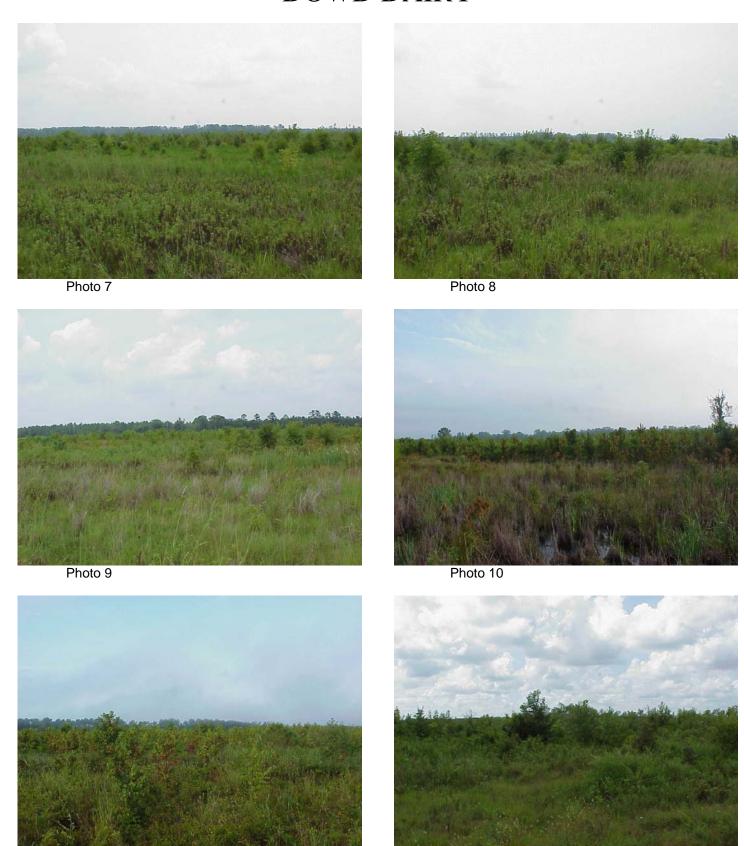


Photo 12

2003

Photo 11

DOWD DAIRY





Photo 14

BLADEN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA DOWD DAIRY FARM MONITORING PLANTING ZONES, VEGETATION PLOT, AND PHOTO LOCATIONS PLANTING PLAN NONRIVERINE WET HARDWOOD (320,25 ACRES) PINE/OAK HICKORY (17.68 ACRES) NONRIVERINE SWAMP FOREST (201.2 ACRES) HEADWATER (SLOPE) SWAMP (12.05 ACRES) ATLANTIC WHITE CEDAR SLOPE (67.76 ACRES) VEGETATION MONITORING PLOTS PHOTOGRAPH LOCATIONS