Goodman Property Stream Restoration Project Lenoir County, NC

2012 Annual Monitoring Report Year 4



NCEEP Project Number D000616 Neuse River Basin

Submitted to NCDENR/Ecosystem Enhancement Program 2728 Capital Blvd. Raleigh, NC 27604

Date: December, 2012

Monitoring: Albemarle Restorations, LLC P. O. Box 176 Fairfield, NC 27826



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Executive Summary

The Goodman Stream Restoration Site is located on Pruitt Road approximately 5 miles west of Kinston in Lenoir County, North Carolina. It was constructed by Albemarle Restorations, LLC, under contract with EEP to provide compensatory stream mitigation credits in the Neuse River Basin. Construction activities in accordance with the approved restoration plan began February 11, 2009 and were completed on March 26, 2009. Tree and shrub planting on the site occurred on March 27, 2009. An emergent wetland seed mixture was sown the same day. All planting was done in accordance with the approved restoration plan

Eight water level monitoring gauges are installed in pairs at strategic positions throughout the site to measure surface and subsurface water levels. Two additional gauges are installed in the stream preservation area to act as reference gauges and to provide for a comparison of water levels and flow in a naturally occurring riparian headwater system. A rain gauge is installed on the site and checked against cooperator data from the Kinston area. Total rainfall deficit through October, 2012 was 7.81" but enough rain fell during the summer months to provide good hydrology and continuous flow for much of the year.

Three flow events were video documented in 2012, one each in March, May and November. The data from the water level monitoring gauges coincides with and confirms the flow of water through the project.

Six vegetative monitoring plots are installed in the project area and permanently monumented. The plots are situated in such a way as to provide vegetation survival data within the swamp run and upslope from it. Each plot is a 10m X 10m square, as recommended by the CVS-EEP protocol for recording vegetation sampling. The success criterion for the fourth year of monitoring is 260 stems per acre and all of the plots were successful in 2012.

Table ES-1. Project Success Summary							
	St	Stems per Acre on Each Plot			Percent		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	Success
Year 1 (2009) Success	454	454	330	330	577	536	100%
Year 2 (2010) Success	412	330	247	289	454	495	67%
Year 3 (2011) Success	371	330	330	371	289	412	83%
Year 4 (2012) Success	371	371	330	371	289	412	100%

Table ES-1 shows the levels of success attained by each of the vegetation plots.

Overall average stems per acre for the project: 357

I. <u>Project Background</u>

1.0 **Project Objectives**

The goal of the Goodman Property Stream Mitigation Project was to restore a diverse riparian headwater swamp run system typically found in the middle to upper reaches of first or zero order tributary systems. The project is to serve as compensation for stream loss in the Neuse River Basin. The restoration plan was developed and implemented to restore topography and hydrology that more closely resembled that of similar undisturbed land. The original swamp run had been channelized and straightened to improve drainage from the agricultural land surrounding it. Restoration resulted in the development of a swamp run that followed a historical and more natural path. Tree and shrub planting was designed to restore a wetland forest ecosystem that is typically found in the immediate area characteristic of similar soils, topography and hydrology.

The specific objective of the project was to restore a diverse riparian headwater swamp run system to provide the following ecological benefits:

- 1) Water quality improvements, including nutrient, toxicant and sediment retention and reduction, increasing dissolved oxygen levels, as well as reducing excessive algae growth, and reducing surface water temperatures in receiving waters by providing permanent shading in the form of a shrub/scrub and forested headwater wetland system.
- 2) Wildlife habitat enhancement by adding to the existing adjacent forested areas to create a continuous travel corridor between habitat blocks and provide a wide range of habitat areas (open water, emergent, shrub/scrub and forested) for amphibians, reptiles, birds, insects and mammals.
- 3) Flood flow attenuation during storm events to help reduce sedimentation and erosion downstream, and improve long term water quality within the Neuse River.
- 4) Passive outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the landowner and the surrounding community.

2.0 <u>Project Structure, Restoration Type, and Approach</u>

Table I lists the estimated linear feet of stream restored and preserved on the Goodman Property. The mitigation plan provides for the **restoration** of 4,325 linear feet of swamp run and the **preservation** of 3,205 linear feet of existing swamp run. Prior to restoration, the 20.6 acre easement area was used entirely for agriculture production, primarily tobacco, corn, soybeans and cotton. Construction activities, in accordance with the approved Restoration Plan, began February 11, 2009 and were completed on March 27, 2009. A mix of native trees and shrubs were planted on site on March 27, 2009 to restore habitat and create a species diverse swamp run system. Additionally, an emergent wetland seed mixture was applied concurrent with the finish grading to provide immediate habitat and water quality benefits. All planting and grading was conducted in accordance with the approved restoration plan.

Table I. Project Restoration ComponentsGoodman Property Stream Mitigation Site/EEP #000616				
RestorationPre-ExistingPost ConstructionCredit RatioTotalTypeLinear FeetLinear Feet(Restoration/Preservation: WMU's)WMU's/SMU				
Stream Restoration (Swamp Run)	0.0 linear feet	4,325 linear feet	1:1	4,325 SMU's
Stream Preservation (Swamp Run)	0.0 linear feet	3,205 linear feet	1:5	641 SMU's

3.0 Location and Setting

The Goodman Stream Restoration Site is located on Pruitt Road a mile south of U. S. Rte. 70 and approximately 5 miles west of Kinston in Lenoir County, North Carolina. The easement area is situated in the middle of the Goodman property and replaces channelized pattern drainage that previously ran through the property. This channelized drain connected naturally occurring headwaters to Falling Creek. With the newly restored system, the headwaters flowing into the project will be slowed providing erosion control and sediment retention. Once the vegetation canopy becomes established, water quality and temperature will be protected for the entire length of the drainage into Falling Creek. The project area is surrounded by agricultural land with very few residential units.

Figure 1 is a location map for the project site. Directions to the site are as follows: from Kinston, travel west on US Hwy 70 approximately 5 miles and turn left (south) on Pruitt Rd. Access to the site is approximately 1 mile south of intersection on right. Access to the project is tightly controlled by the landowner and can be made via a padlocked red metal pipe gate or through the water treatment plant of Sanderson Farms.



Figure 1. Goodman Stream Restoration Site Location west of Kinston, NC

4.0 <u>Project History and Background</u>

Table II provides the history of data collection and actual completion of various milestones of the Goodman Property Stream Restoration Site.

Table II. Project Activity and Reporting History Goodman Property Stream Mitigation Project/EEP #000616				
Activity or Report	Data Collection Complete	Actual Completion or Delivery		
Restoration Plan	August 2008	October 2008		
Final Design -90%	August 2008	October 2008		
Construction	N/A	March 2009		
Temporary S & E mix applied to entire project area	N/A	February 2009		
Permanent seed mix applied to entire project area	N/A	March 2009		
Containerized and Bare Root Planting	N/A	March 2009		
Mitigation Plan/As-built	May 2009	June 2009		
Year 1 monitoring	September 2009	February 2010		
Year 2 monitoring	September 2010	November 2010		
Year 3 monitoring	September 2011	November 2011		
Year 4 monitoring	September 2012	December 2012		
Year 5 monitoring				

Points of contact for the various phases of the Goodman Stream Project are provided in Table III.

Table III. Project Contacts					
Goodma	Goodman Property Stream Mitigation Site/EEP #000616				
Designer	Designer Ecotone, Inc. (Scott McGill 410-692-7500)				
Primary Project design POC 1204 Baldwin Mill Road					
	Jarrettsville, MD 21804				
Construction Contractor	Armstrong, Inc. (Tink Armstrong 252-943-2082)				
Construction contractor POC	P. O. Box 96				
	25852 US Hwy 64				
	Pantego, NC 27860				
Planting Contractor	Carolina Silvics, Inc.				
Planting contractor POC	908 Indian Trail Road				
Edenton, NC 27932					
	Mary-Margaret McKinney (252-482-8491)				
Seeding Contractor	Armstrong, Inc. (Tink Armstrong 252-943-2082)				
Seed planting contractor POC	P. O. Box 96				
	25852 US Hwy 64				
	Pantego, NC 27860				
Seed mix sources Ernst Conservation Seeds, LLP, Meadville, PA					
Nursery stock suppliers	ursery stock suppliers Arborgen, Blenheim, SC, Native Roots, Clinton, NC				
Monitoring Performers	Woods, Water and Wildlife, Inc. (Ashby Brown 757-651-3162)				
Wetland and Vegetation POC	P. O. Box 176				
	Fairfield, NC 27826				

Background information for the Goodman Stream Project is provided in Table IV.

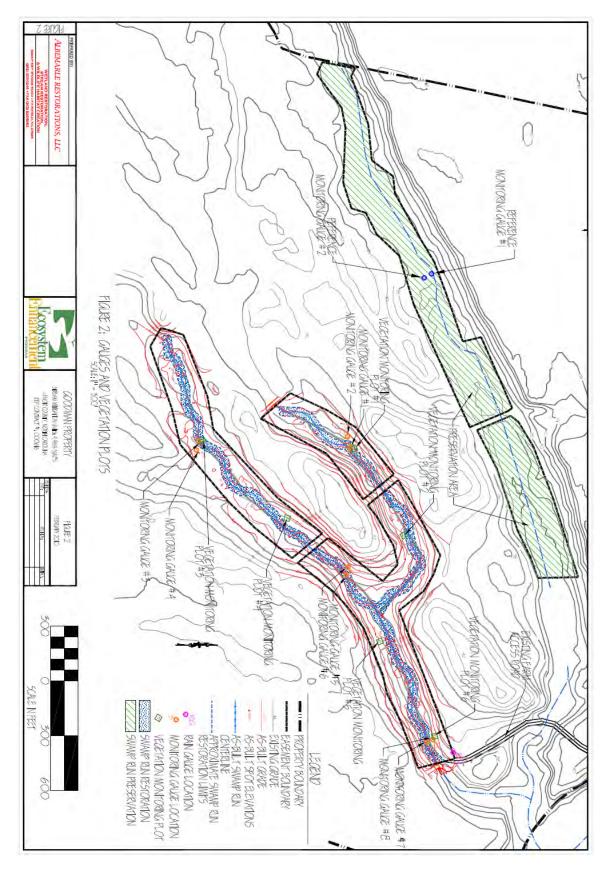
Table IV. Project Background Goodman Property Stream Mitigation Site/EEP #000616			
Project County	Lenoir County		
Drainage Area	20.6 acres w/in easmt. bndy. (+/-246 total)		
Drainage impervious cover estimate (%)	0		
Physiographic Region	Coastal Plain		
Ecoregion	8.3.5 Southeastern Plains		
Rosgen Classification of As-built N/A			
Cowardin Classification	PSS, PFO		
Dominant Soil Types	Portsmouth, Wickham, Keenansville		
Reference site ID	Falling Creek, Lenoir County		
USGS HUC for Project and Reference	03020202		
NCDWQ Sub-basin for Project and Reference	03-04-05		
NCDWQ classification for Project and Reference	С		
Any portion of any project segment 303d listed?	No		
Any portion of any project segment upstream of a 303d listed segment?	No		
Reasons for 303d listing or stressor?	N/A		
% of project easement fenced Gate at access path			

5.0 Monitoring Plan View

Eight water level monitoring gauges have been installed at key locations across the project suspended in two-inch pvc pipe that is set approximately eighteen inches vertically in the ground. The gauges have been situated in pairs to assess the groundwater levels throughout the year and to help substantiate evidence of water flowing through the restored swamp run. Two more gauges are installed in the preservation area to serve as references to a naturally functioning swamp run system. In addition, there is a rain gauge onsite to record precipitation.

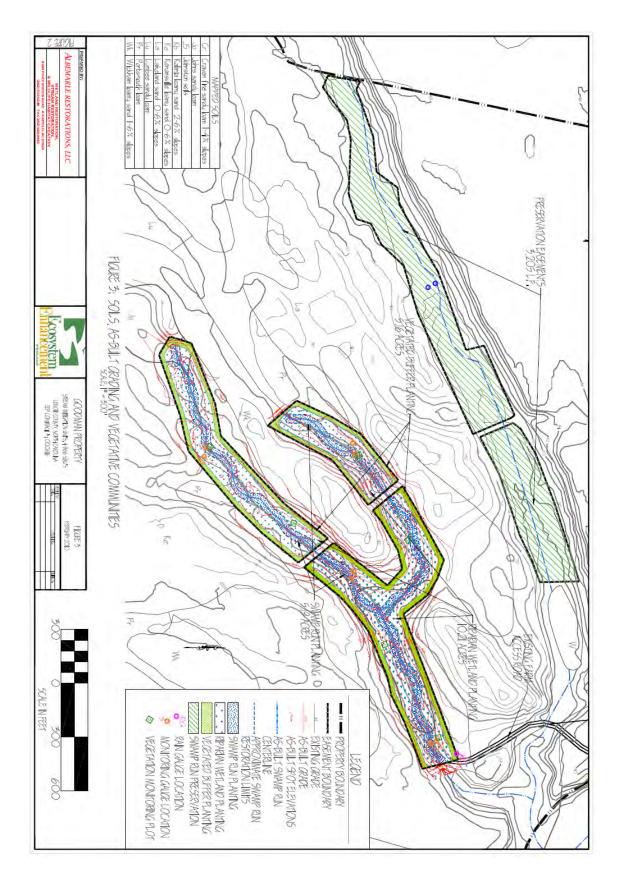
Six permanent vegetation sampling plots are installed, each 10 meters square according to the CVS-EEP protocol for vegetation sampling. The plots are situated in such a way as to provide for tree and shrub sampling within the swamp run and upslope from it as well. These plots will provide tree and shrub survival data across the site's varying elevations and soil conditions. Vegetation monitoring is accomplished through annual surveys of the six permanent sampling plots. For each site, the data recorded matches that required of the *CVS-EEP Protocol for Recording Vegetation*, v 4.2, 2008, level 1-2.

Figures 2 and 3 provide plan views of the site showing the location of all monitoring features including gauges, sampling plots and the rain gauge.



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II. <u>Project Condition and Monitoring Results</u>

1.0 <u>Vegetation Assessment</u>

The vegetation success criterion was developed in accordance with the CVS-EEP protocol. The Goodman project was designed to function as a bottomland hardwood plant community. The project was planted with a mixture of tree and shrub species that would resemble that of naturally occurring swamp runs and adjacent riverine wetlands in the local area. The run and upper banks were planted heavily to oaks with tupelo, cypress and other tree and shrub species in the mix. The site was also seeded immediately after construction with an approved wetland seed mix. The tree and shrub species mix was based on the vegetation found at the reference site and all species are classified from FAC to OBL (Table V). The average survival rate for the project in 2012 was 357 stems per acre.

,	Table V. Species by Community Type				
Goodmai	Goodman Property Stream Mitigation Project/EEP #000616				
	Forested Wetland 20.6 Acres				
	Trees				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Wetland Indicator Status			
Bald Cypress	Taxodium distichum	OBL			
Water tupelo	Nyssa aquatica	OBL			
Swamp Black Gum	Nyssa biflora	FAC			
Willow Oak	Quercus phellos	FACW-			
Swamp Chestnut Oak	Quercus michauxii	FACW-			
Water Oak	Quercus nigra	FAC			
River Birch	Betula nigra	FACW			
Green Ash	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	FACW			
	Shrubs				
Common Name	Scientific Name	Wetland Indicator Status			
Button Bush	Cephalanthus occidentalis	OBL			
Virginia Sweetspire	Itea virginica	FACW+			
Wax Myrtle	Myrica cerifera	FAC+			

1.1 <u>Vegetation Discussion</u>

The survival rate on plot 5 continues to be slightly less than that on the remaining plots but it remains above the minimum number of stems allowed at year 5 (289 actual vs. 260 required). Due to the proximity of plot 5 to the stream channel, this plot rarely suffers from a lack of moisture. As a result, the herbaceous vegetation here is extremely dense. Trees on this plot were very difficult to locate during the survival checks in 2011 and again in 2012 and it is entirely possible that some stems were missed. Light supplemental planting was done early in 2011 on the portion of the project around plots 3 and 4 to bring the stocking up to adequate levels (greater than 320 stems per acre). The planting consisted of 200 stems each of: *F. pennsylvanica, M. cerifera, Q. michauii* and *T. distichum.* As can be seen by the survival rates in 2012, the supplemental planting did adequately correct the problem.

2.0 Flow Assessment

Refer to Figures F1 through F5 for the following discussion of evidence of flow within the swamp runs. These charts contain combined data for each of the four pairs of gauges set up in the project site (1-8) and the pair in the reference area (9 & 10). For each pair, one gauge is set in the stream channel and the other is set upslope to capture water levels and runoff from higher elevations as it drains downslope into the stream channel. Gauges 7 and 8 are the exception; gauge 7 could not be set up in the channel and is located approximately three feet outside the channel and approximately six inches higher in elevation than the bottom of the stream channel.

Each of the four pairs of gauges in the project area indicates prolonged, continuous flow during nearly the entire data collection period from Nov. 8, 2011 through November 13, 2012. On three separate occasions, March 6, May 16 and November 13, 2012, flow was video documented on site. The videos are included on the CD accompanying this report and show good flow throughout the entire project.

After four years of monitoring, it has become readily apparent that the southern branch of the project mirrors the reference site in duration of flow, showing sometimes shorter periods of flow or water depths that more closely approximate those in the reference area. The southern branch is fed strictly by rainfall and runoff from the adjacent field, while the northern branch is stream fed. A comparison of the flow patterns found in Figures F2 and F5 will illustrate this point. Since the northern branch of the project is stream fed, it should be expected to mirror the reference area, but in fact it shows better flow patterns than the reference area.

There was a cumulative rainfall deficit of 7.81" through the end of October, 2012. But the hydrology charts and Figures F1-F5 all indicate that flow was continuous for much of the year due to frequent rains that were heavy enough and often enough during the hottest part of the year to sustain the watershed.

The area of the project around plot 3 continues to be fed by runoff from the adjoining agricultural field in at least two locations. In fact, water flowing into the project from the southern field has actually carved a small lateral channel through the project that connects to the main run. Given the heavy herbaceous cover along the southern branch, this portion of the project is providing a necessary buffer to any runoff from the field. The Plan View in Appendix D gives some indication as to the areas where runoff from the field enters the project.

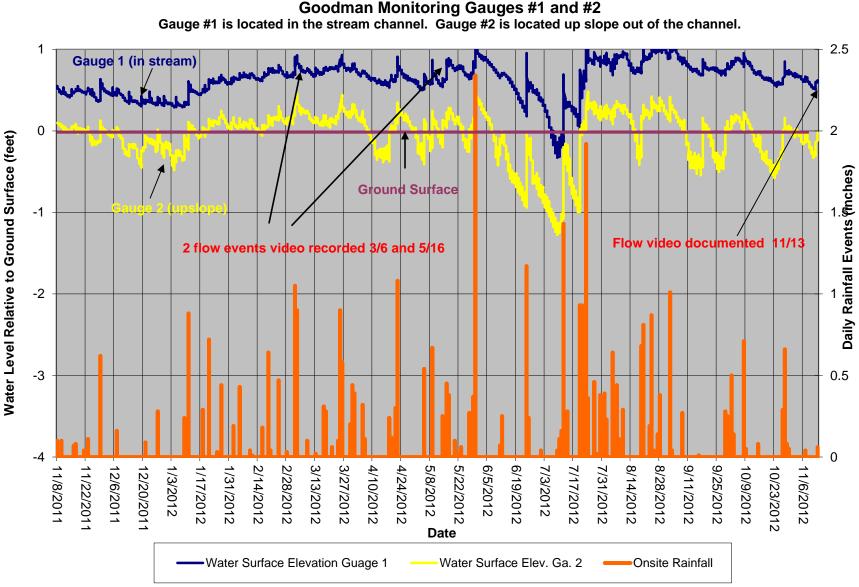
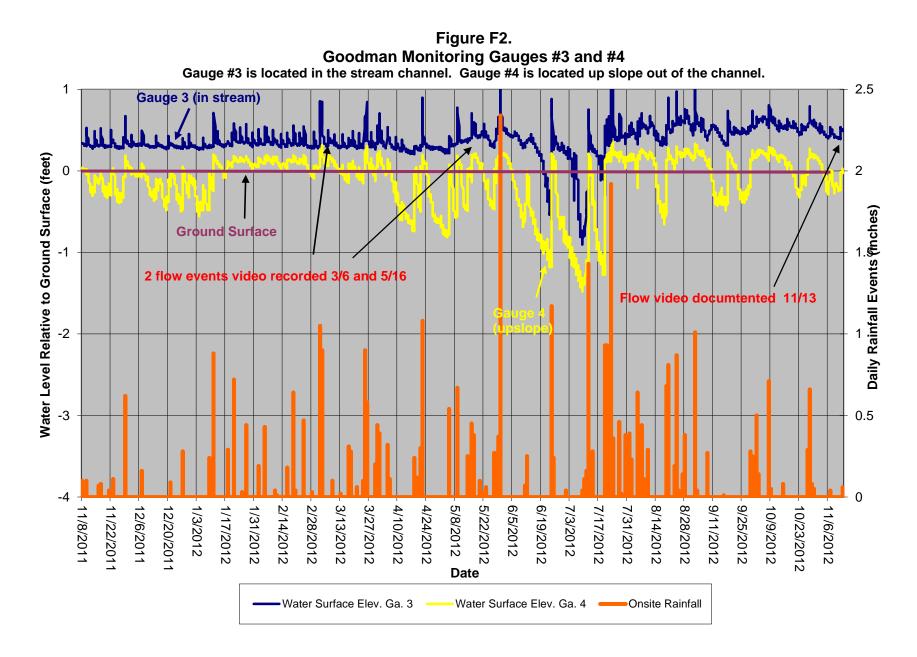


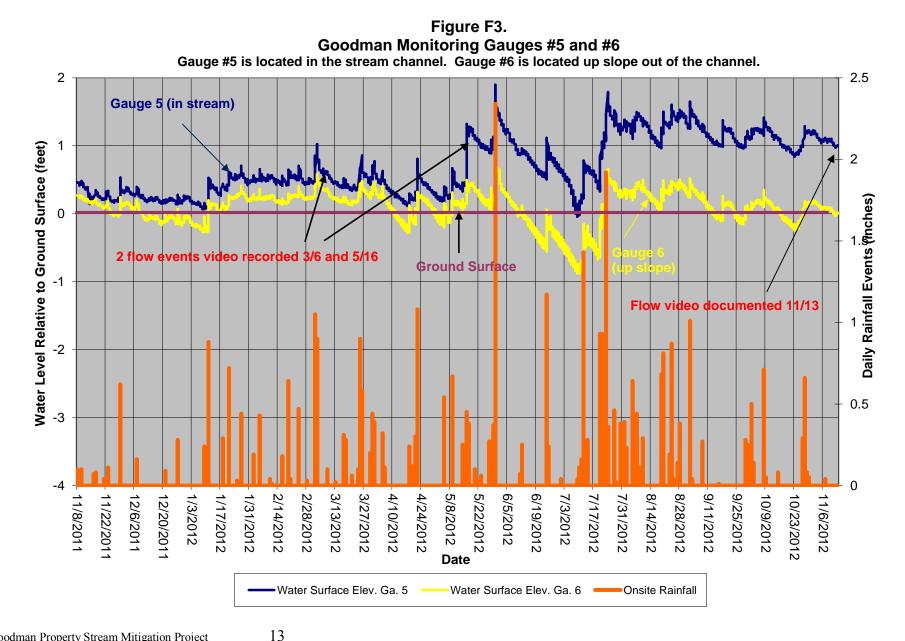
Figure F1. Goodman Monitoring Gauges #1 and #2 Gauge #1 is located in the stream channel. Gauge #2 is located up slope out of the channel.

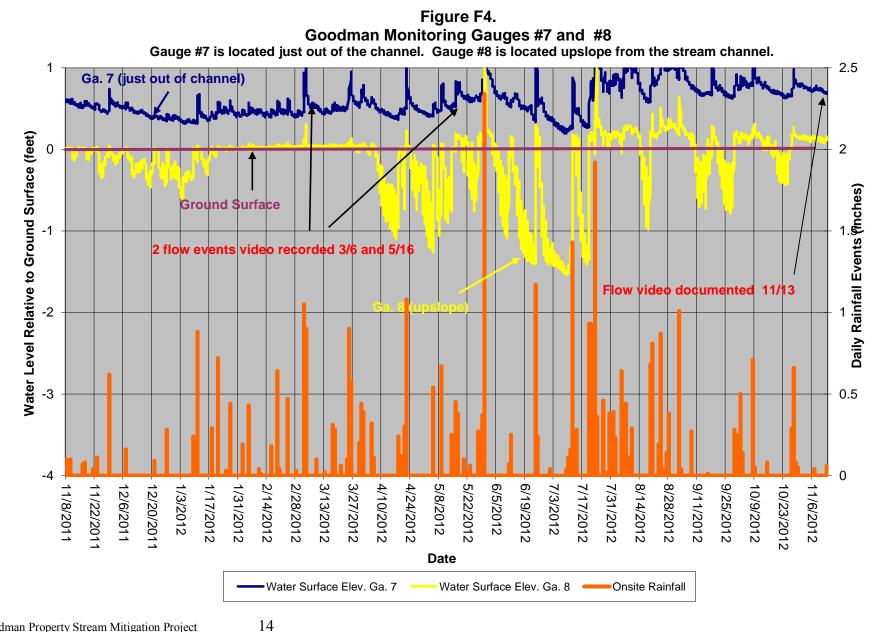
Goodman Property Stream Mitigation Project Albemarle Restorations, LLC 2012 Monitoring - Year 4 of 5

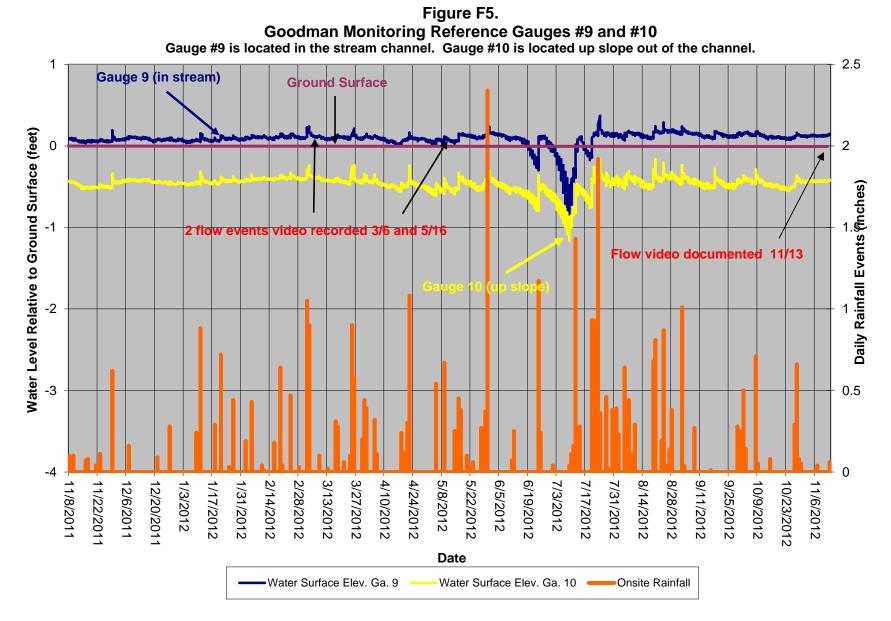
11



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2.1 <u>Monitoring Plan View</u>

Figure 4 in Appendix D provides an overview of the watershed success of the project. The northern branch is directly connected to an existing, functioning swamp run upstream, but the southern branch relies solely on rainfall and field drainage. Drainage from the field into the southern branch has been noted in at least two different locations as shown on the Plan View.

Table VI. Vegetation Criteria Success by Plot Goodman Property Wetland Mitigation Project/EEP #D000616				
VegetationVegetationVegetationPlotSuccess MetStems per AcreMean				
1	Y	371		
2	Y	371		
3	Y	330	100%	
4	Y	371	Success	
5	Y	289		
6	Y	412		

3.0 Project Success Discussion

The third year of monitoring on the Goodman project saw a rainfall pattern that produced excellent documented flow on three separate occasions. Tree survival and growth was good over the majority of the site. Overall, the project is functioning as designed and intended and tends to mirror the reference site in functionality. Listed below are the success indicators from the Mitigation Plan. Those shown in <u>blue</u> were observed and/or video or photo documented during the visits to the project since its completion.

- <u>A natural line impressed on the bank</u>
- <u>Shelving</u>
- Changes in soil characteristics
- Destruction of terrestrial vegetation
- <u>Presence of litter and debris</u>
- <u>Wracking</u>
- Vegetation matted down or absent
- <u>Sediment sorting</u>
- Leaf litter disturbed or washed away
- <u>Scour</u>
- Deposition
- Bed and bank formation
- Water staining
- Change in plant community

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Channel and bank development continue to in 2012 and have become even more pronounced at the end of the fourth year of monitoring especially at the headwater end of the southern run. Additionally, lateral channels are developing where there is enough runoff from the adjacent field to promote it. There are small areas of shelf formation, scouring, minor sediment deposits and lateral channel formation that are all indicators of successful stream development. Nearly the entire lower half of the project supports submerged aquatic vegetation for the majority of the year. The upper half of the project will support it during the wetter months of winter and spring.

III. <u>Methodology Section</u>

Year 4 monitoring for the Goodman project occurred in 2012. Monitoring and vegetation sampling procedures were established in the mitigation plan for this project and no deviations were made.

Appendix A

Vegetation Data Tables

Site Photos

1. Vegetation Data Tables

Table 1. Vegetation Metadata				
Report Prepared By	Ashby Brown			
Date Prepared 11/8/2012 17:32				
DESCRIPTION OF WORKSH	EETS IN THIS DOCUMENT			
Vigor by Spp	Frequency distribution of vigor classes listed by species.			
Damage by Spp	Damage values tallied by type for each species.			
Damage by Plot	Damage values tallied by type for each plot.			
ALL Stems by Plot and spp A matrix of the count of total living stems of each species (planted and natural volunt combined) for each plot; dead and missing stems are excluded.				
PROJECT SUMMARY				
Project Code	D000616			
project Name	Goodman			
Description	Goodman Stream Mitigation			
River Basin	Roanoke			
Sampled Plots	6			

Table 1. Vegetation Metadata

	Species	CommonName	4	3	2	1	0	Missing	Unknown
	Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush	4	1					
	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash		1	1			1	
	Itea virginica	Virginia sweetspire	1	2				1	
	Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo		6	1				
	Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak		2	1				
	Quercus phellos	willow oak	4	3	1		1		
	Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	15	6					
	Myrica	wax myrtle	2						
TOT:	8	8	26	21	4		1	2	

Table 2. Vegetation Vigor by Species

Table 3. Vegetation Damage by Species

	Species	CommonName	Count of Damage Categories	(no damage)
	Cephalanthus occidentalis	common buttonbush	0	5
	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	0	3
	Itea virginica	Virginia sweetspire	0	4
	Myrica	wax myrtle	0	2
	Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo	0	7
	Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak	0	3
	Quercus phellos	willow oak	0	9
	Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	0	21
TOT:	8	8	0	54

Table 4. Vegetation Damage by Plot

	plot	Count of Damage Categories	(no damage)
	Plot 1 - year: 4	0	9
	Plot 2 - year: 4	0	9
	Plot 3 - year: 4	0	8
	Plot 4 - year: 4	0	9
	Plot 5 - year: 4	0	9
	Plot 6 - year: 4	0	10
TOT:	6	0	54

	Species	CommonName	Total Stems	# plots	avg# stems	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Cephalanthus	common	_						_		
	occidentalis	buttonbush	5	4	1.25	1	1	1	2		
	Fraxinus pennsylvanica	green ash	2	2	1				1	1	
	Itea virginica	Virginia sweetspire	3	2	1.5				1	2	
	Myrica	wax myrtle	2	1	2	2					
	Nyssa biflora	swamp tupelo	7	1	7		7				
	Quercus bicolor	swamp white oak	3	1	3				3		
	Quercus phellos	willow oak	9	4	2.25	4	1		2		2
	Taxodium distichum	bald cypress	21	4	5.25	2		7		4	8
TOT:	8	8	52	8		9	9	8	9	7	10
	Average Stems per Acre						371	330	371	289	412
	Average Stems per Acre for the Project: 357										

Table 5. All Stems by Plot and Species

No natural stems were seen or tallied on any of the vegetation plots. All the stems shown in this table were planted. There are some natural stems at the headwater end of the project, but they do not occur yet in any of the permanent monitoring plots. Natural seed sources surrounding the project are far enough away that natural seeding will be slow to occur.

Table 6. Vegetation Problem Areas

Feature/Issue	Plot	Probable Cause	Photo #		
None to report	N/A	N/A	N/A		



Tree growth at around plot 4 is very good (Nov. 2011)

View of the same area in the 4th year of monitoring (Sept. 2012)



Dense herbaceous cover at Plot 5 (Sept. 2012)



Stem diameter on a cypress in the run (March 2012)







Headwater terminus of the southern run (Nov. 2012)



The video documentation of flow events on CD's that accompany this report do a much better job than still photos at not only documenting flow, but explaining the functionality of the project, showing the extent of overbank flooding and offering a general visual description of the project. They also show the outer reaches of the runs where water from the field can feed into the project area.

Appendix B

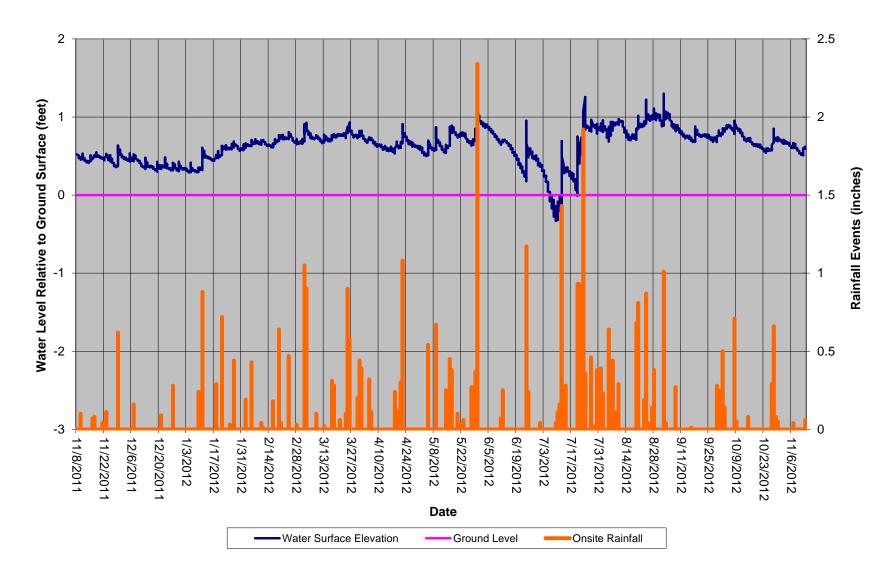
Geomorphologic Raw Data

Not used in this report

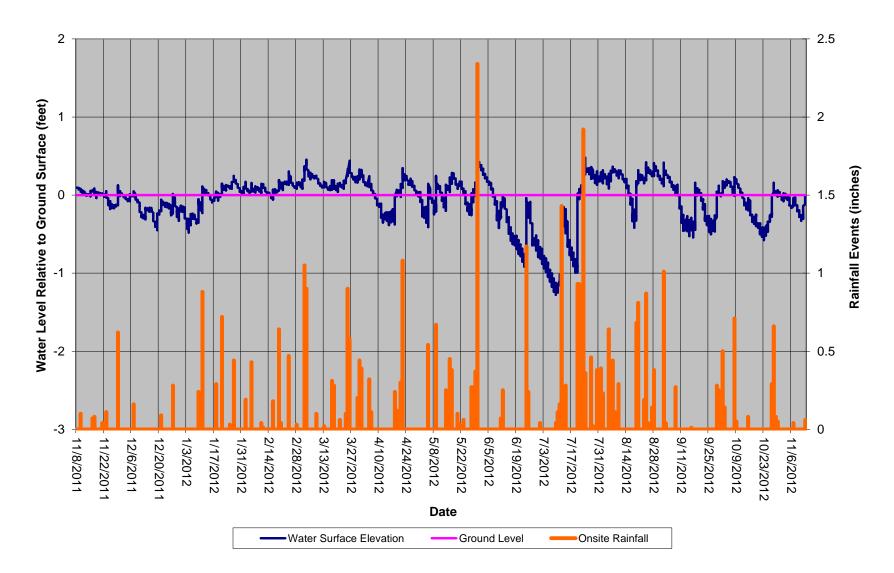
Appendix C

Hydrologic Data Tables

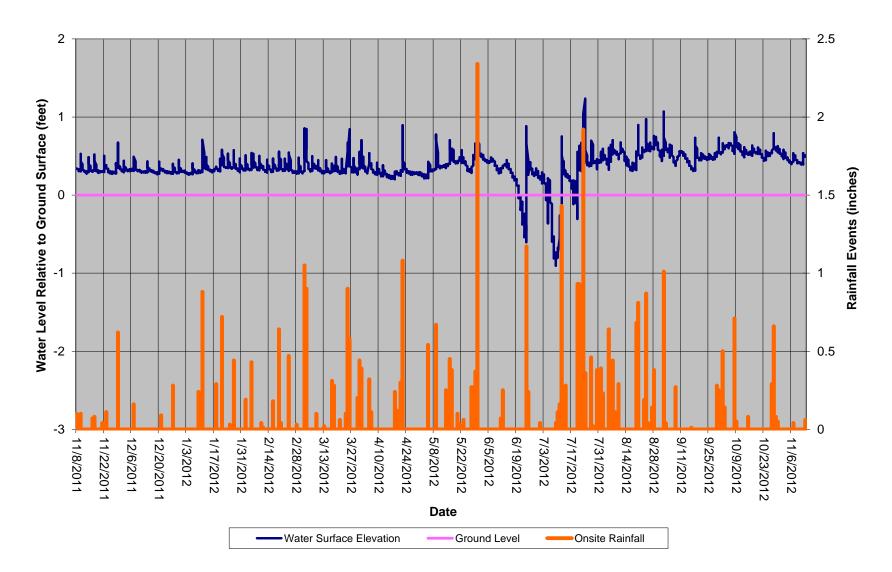
Goodman Monitoring Gauge #1 (2250035)



Goodman Monitoring Gauge #2 (2250034)



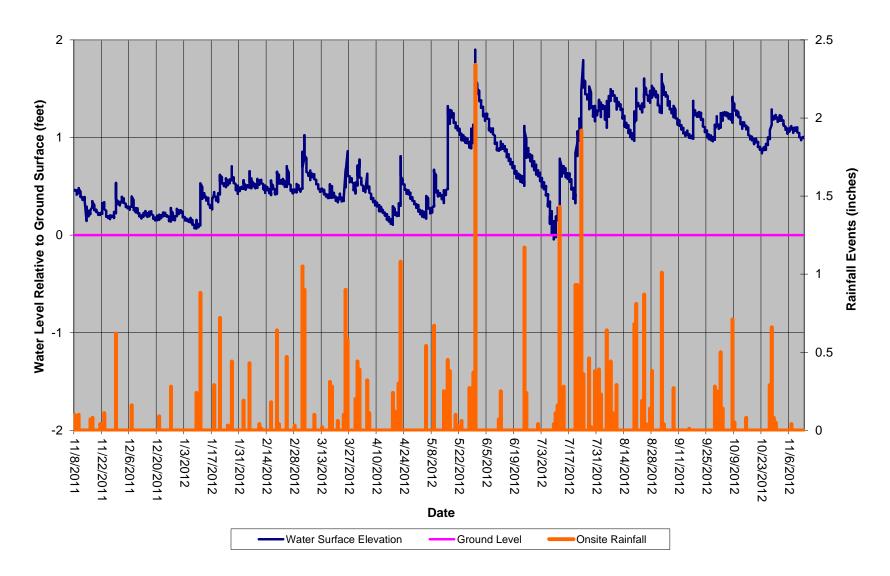
Goodman Monitoring Gauge #3 (2250033)



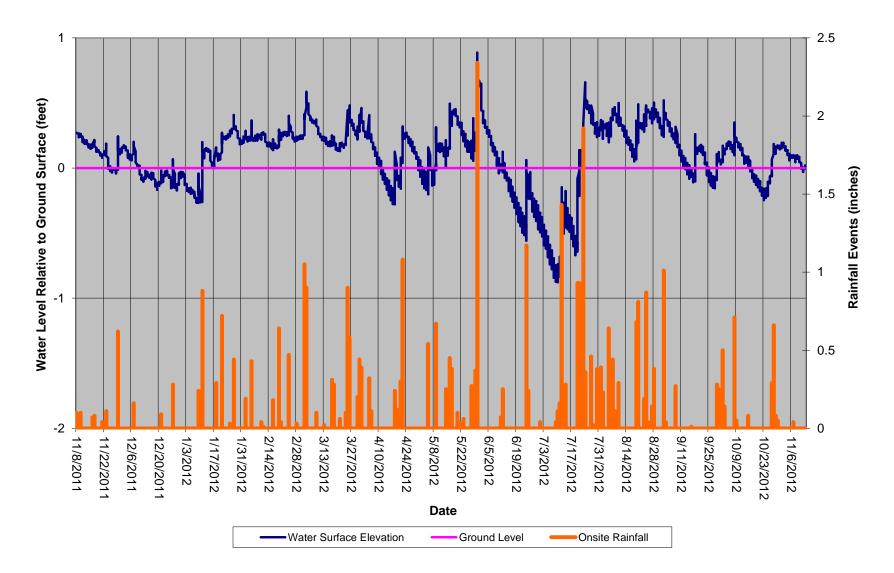
2.5 1 Water Level Relative to Ground Surface (feet) Y-2 THAM ! my my my N Λ NYI R Rainfall Events (inches) 1.5 -1 1 -2 0.5 -3 0 - 10/23/2012 - 11/6/2012 - 11/8/2011 - 5/8/2012 - 8/28/2012 11/22/2011 12/6/2011 12/20/2011 1/3/2012 1/17/2012 1/31/2012 2/14/2012 3/13/2012 5/22/2012 6/5/2012 6/19/2012 7/3/2012 7/17/2012 7/31/2012 8/14/2012 9/11/2012 9/25/2012 10/9/2012 2/28/2012 3/27/2012 4/10/2012 4/24/2012 Date -Water Surface Elevation Ground Level Onsite Rainfall

Goodman Monitoring Gauge #4 (2255504)

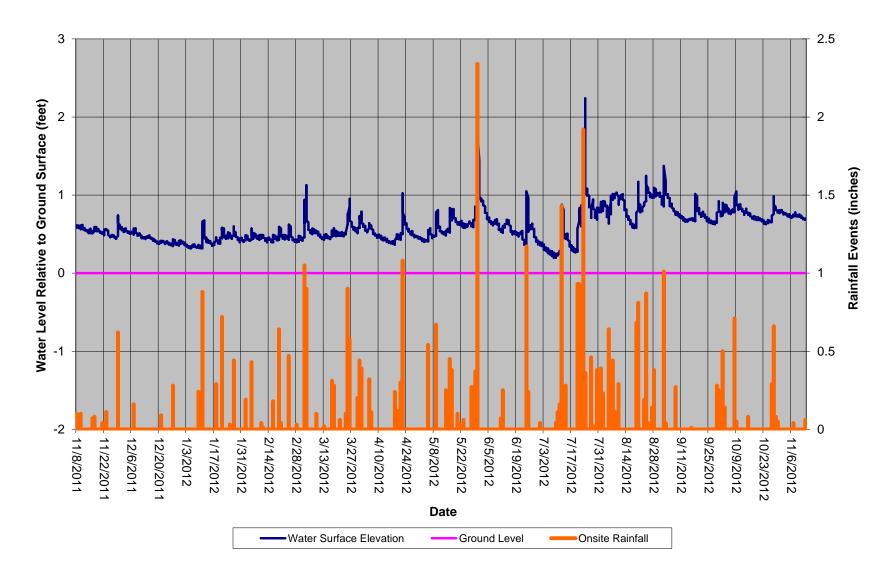
Goodman Monitoring Gauge #5 (2255503)



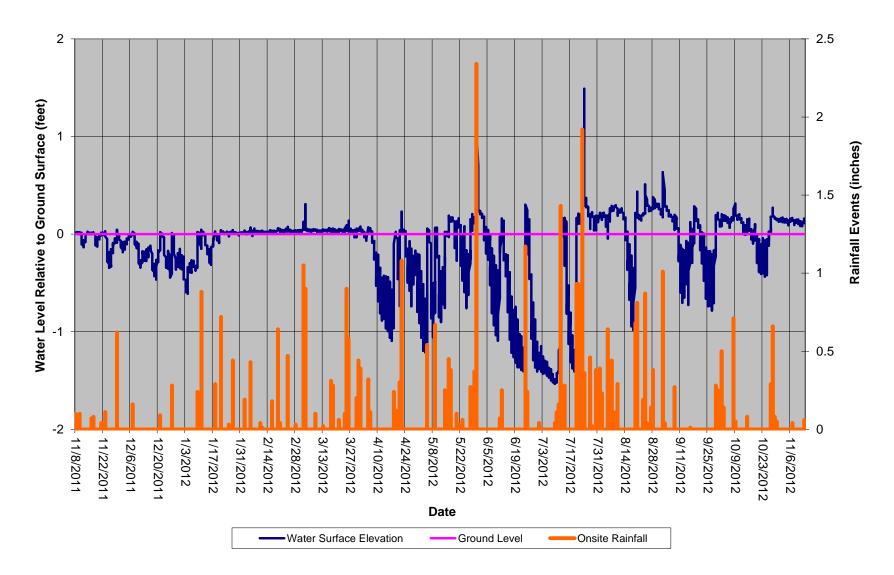
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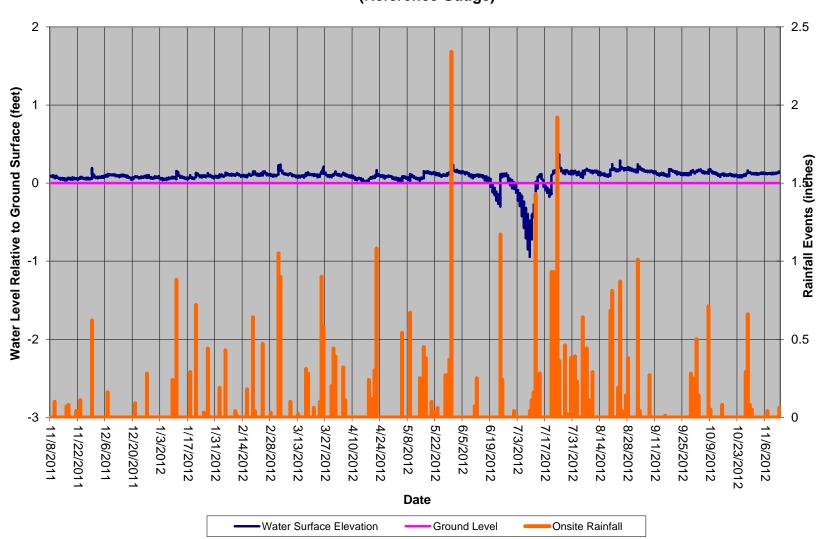


Goodman Monitoring Gauge #7 (2255501)

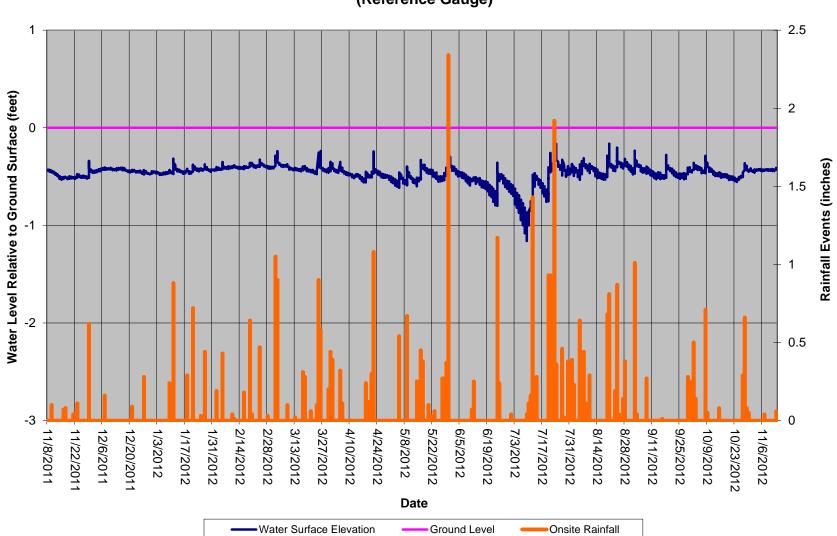


Goodman Monitoring Gauge #8 (2342651)

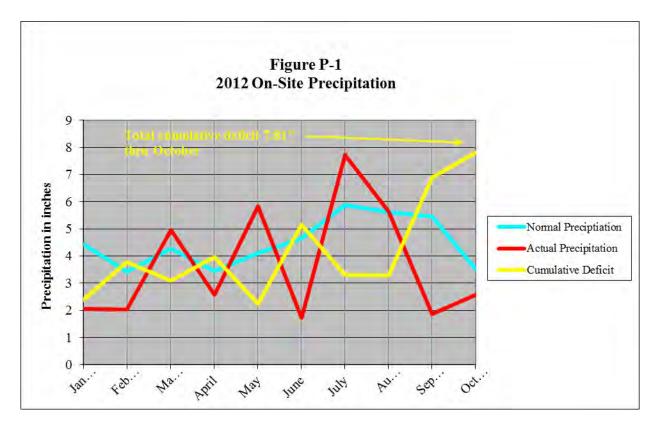




Goodman Monitoring Gauge #9 (2255498) (Reference Gauge)



Goodman Monitoring Gauge #10 (2255499) (Reference Gauge)



Accumulated rainfall deficit through October 2012 was 7.81 inches. Due to enough prolonged periods of heavier precipitation, several flow events were observed and recorded during 2012.

Appendix D

Problems/Success Plan View

