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Range and Character of Wetland Mitigation Banking Programs in the United States

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This poster will present findings on the range and character of wetland mitigation banking programs in the United States. The poster is based on data collected and analyzed as part of a project supported, in part, by the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. During summer and fall of 2003, primary data was collected using intensive interviews with wetland bank managers responsible for almost half of the nation's mitigation banks. A stratified, random sampling approach was used to select potential participants for the study from the approximately 380 mitigation banks identified as possible participants. After sending out a pre-notification letter, the researchers contacted the bank managers in order to conduct the in-depth interviews. Altogether about 140 interviews were undertaken representing about 250 established or proposed mitigation banks. Each interview took about one-half hour to complete. These interviews followed a specially prepared script, used qualitative interviewing protocols, were audio recorded, and subsequently transcribed. The more than 2400 pages of transcripts were sorted and coded using iterative data analysis methods including ATLAS.ti software. The result of this analysis is a rich picture of the breadth and scope of wetland banking programs including detailed information on their sizes and types, original land uses of the bank sites, monitoring and service area requirements, as well as demographic information on the bankers themselves. The poster includes some insights on mitigation banking clientele, bank failures, bank funding, processing time, and interaction with regulatory agencies.