



CRAM SURVEY UPDATE CWMW AUGUST 2017

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SURVEY BACKGROUND

- EPA WETLAND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANT
 - PURPOSE(S):
 - IDENTIFY CURRENT REGULATORY USE
 - DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS RE: REGULATORY USE
 - TWO COMPONENTS
 1. ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE
 2. IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS
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ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

- OBJECTIVES

1. IDENTIFY THE WHO, WHERE, AND WHAT OF CRAM USE
 2. IDENTIFY THE COMPONENTS OF CRAM THAT ARE WORKING WELL, NOT WORKING, OR NEED TO BE DEVELOPED
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ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE

- SURVEY SENT TO ALL TRAINED CRAM PRACTITIONERS AND TRAINERS LISTED THE CRAM WEBSITE
 - 1350 INDIVIDUALS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE
 - OPEN OCTOBER 2016
 - 397 INDIVIDUALS RESPONDED (29% RESPONSE RATE)
 - 233 NON-REGULATORS WITH CRAM EXPERIENCE
 - 79 REGULATORS WITH CRAM EXPERIENCE
 - 82 WITH NO CRAM EXPERIENCE
 - 3 DISAPPEARED INTO THE ETHER



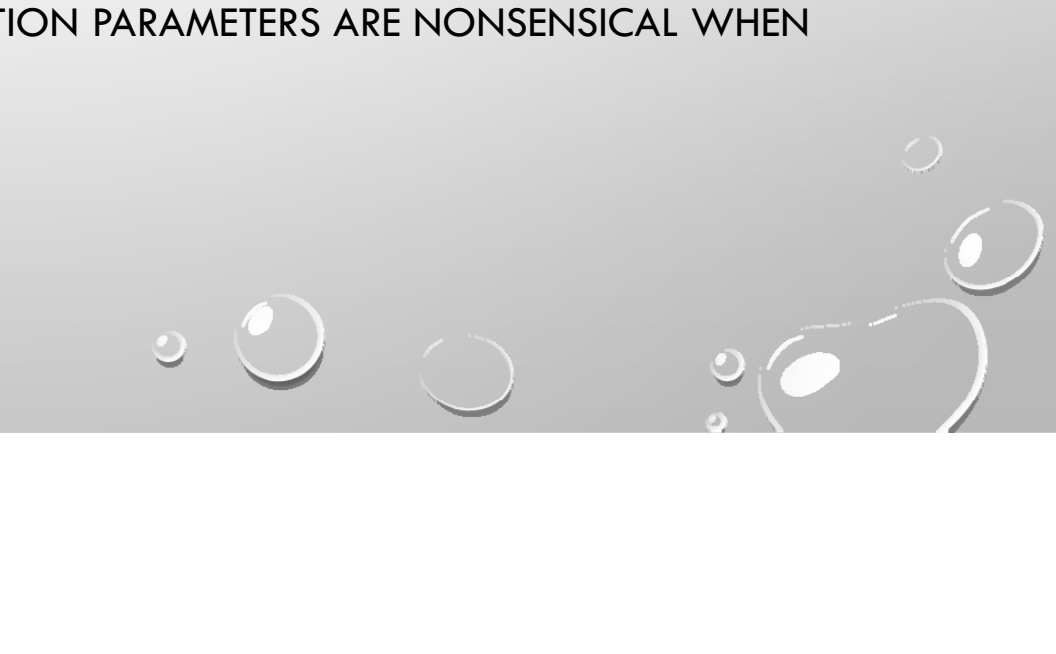
DISCLAIMER

THE INFORMATION THAT WILL BE PRESENTED
DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OR
OPINIONS OF THE PRESENTER



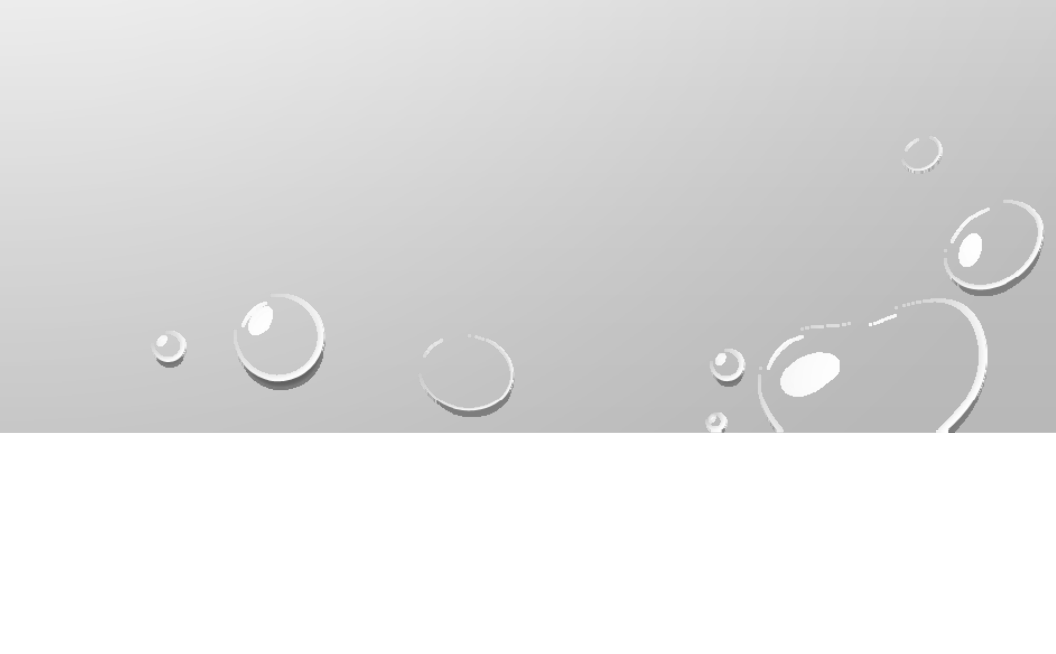


CONCERNS ABOUT METRICS

- SUBJECTIVITY OF SOME, UNSPECIFIED, METRICS (SPECIFICALLY IN RIVERINE MODULE)
 - BANKFUL IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE
 - MORE GUIDANCE AND PHOTOS WOULD HELP
 - BIOTIC STRUCTURE ATTRIBUTE
 - DIFFICULT, TIME CONSUMING, AND 'NOT REALISTIC'
 - HORIZONTAL INTERSPERSION IS DIFFICULT TO SCORE CONSISTENTLY
 - A COUPLE OF THE HYDROLOGY AND VEGETATION PARAMETERS ARE NONSENSICAL WHEN APPLIED TO VERNAL POOLS
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CONCERNS ABOUT SCORING TABLES

- WHAT CONSTITUTES A 'SIGNIFICANT' STRESSOR?
 - SCORING TOPLEXITY FOR DEPRESSIONAL
 - 'THE JUMP FROM D TO B, OR C TO A IS DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND'
 - WANT MORE EXAMPLES OF VERNAL POOL PROFILES
 - DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE CONSISTENCY WHEN A DIFFERENT PERSON IS DOING THE ASSESSMENT EACH TIME (ESP. BIOTIC STRUCTURE)
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CONCERNS ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF THE METHOD/INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION

- SOME PRISTINE SITES SCORE LOW (ESPECIALLY FIRST ORDER STREAMS)
- METHODOLOGY NOT DELIVER MEANINGFUL RESULTS FOR MITIGATION/RESTORATION SITES
 - 'FOR LARGE MITIGATION SITES AND BANKS, IT IS MORE APPROPRIATE TO USE A STATISTICALLY ROBUST MONITORING PROGRAM (I.E. LEVEL 3 MONITORING PER THE EPA MONITORING LEVELS). FOR SMALLER SITES, IT USUALLY DOES NOT ADDRESS THE SPECIFIC NEEDS.'
- METHOD IS TOO SUBJECTIVE AND SCORES ARE 'UNRELIABLE'
 - ONE OF THE MOST COMMON COMMENTS
- REGULATORY AGENCIES DO NOT REALIZE THE LIMITATIONS OF CRAM AND INSIST ON APPLYING IT WHERE IT IS INAPPROPRIATE
 - 'AN EXAMPLE IS WHERE WE ARE BEING REQUIRED TO USE CRAM ON A 300+ ACRE RESTORATION PROJECT. THIS APPLIES TO ALL OF THE MODULES.'
 - 'REQUIRING MULTIPLE CRAM ASSESSMENTS OVER A SHORT TIME SPAN. CRAM IS NOT DESIGNED TO DETECT DIFFERENCES ON THAT SHORT A TIME SCALE.'
 - '... NOT AT ALL READY TO BE USED AS A REGULATORY TOOL'

COMPONENTS OF CRAM THAT NEED TO BE DEVELOPED

Regulator and non-regulator ranking of priorities to improve CRAM based on average rankings. 1 is highest priority and 6 is lowest priority

	Regulator Prioritization Rank	Non-Regulator Prioritization Rank
Develop a quantitative stressor index that measures the proximity, intensity, and duration of ecological stress	1	3
Develop CRAM reference curves for watersheds	2	4
Develop a standard CRAM reporting template	3	1
Develop digital field data sheets	4	2
Improve content in the CRAM Technical Bulletin	5	6
Develop new modules to address additional wetland classes	6	5

Questions/Comments

