

January 2010 US Wetland and Stream Bank Dataset - Method of Data Collection

This wetland and stream banking dataset represents an update of an effort that Ecosystem Marketplace began in 2008. Original methodology for the October 2008-July 2009 data collection effort can be found on p. 4 of the "[State of Biodiversity Markets Report: Methods Appendix](#)." Corrections and additions to this dataset were undertaken during this most recent collection effort from October 2010-January 2011 (~200 hours). Corrections were made based on the list of Approved-Active banks from the reporting query function within the US Army Corps of Engineer's [RIBITS](#) (Regional Internet Bank Information Tracking System) wetland mitigation banking database. All data entries in our dataset include the date of the data used to inform the entry, the data source(s), and the date that we last updated the data.

We started with a full raw dataset containing entries on 950 banks and after using our best judgment to create the most accurate dataset, we removed 118 outdated and unverifiable entries, leaving our final dataset of 832 banks.

Assumptions and Changes to Dataset

- 1) First, RIBITS does not record 'historic' bank data, so information on 'sold out' banks is often not available. In instances where we had collected 'sold out' banks that are not reflected on RIBITS, we kept these banks in our dataset.
- 2) In instances where we had collected 'approved-inactive' banks that are not reflected on RIBITS, we kept these banks in our dataset.
- 3) In instances where we had previously collected 'active' bank data, but we have not been able to update since 2005 or verify on RIBITS, we assumed these banks had changed to 'sold out' status (n=59).
- 4) For 'pending' or 'unknown' banks that we have not been able to update or verify since 2005, we removed these banks from our dataset (n=97 'pending' banks and n=18 'unknown' banks).

Differences between our Dataset and RIBITS

We have more 'sold out' data because RIBITS does not collect historic bank data. As well, there remain some Army Corps of Engineers Districts that do not yet report fully to RIBITS. For example, we collected data on nine banks in the Fort Worth District based on 2009 data from the District. Although we were unable to verify data such as this on RIBITS, we kept these entries in our dataset. We included some banks that will not be on the US ACE system from the state of New Jersey and Michigan, who have assumed authority for wetland banking oversight.

Finally, in our dataset we aggregated individual bank sites within a larger "umbrella" bank as one umbrella bank entry. So for example, if the Virginia Gentleman Umbrella Bank included McAllister Bank Site (10 acres), Black Bayou Bank Site (20 acres), and Bottomland Hardwood Bank Site (20 acres), we would list it as one entry under "Virginia Gentleman Umbrella Bank" with 50 acres (10+20+20 acres), and would include details about the bank site in a 'notes' field.

Contribute to the Dataset

This dataset is an ongoing effort. If you have any corrections or additions, please contact us at: [info \[at\] speciesbanking.com](mailto:info@speciesbanking.com). Thank you.