

Wetland Compensatory Mitigation: Program Update Site Selection



Critical Methods in Wetland Delineation
March 9, 2016

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Mitigation in the Permit Process

Mitigation does not guarantee a favorable permit decision

**** Applicants must still avoid/minimize wetland impacts****

DNR requires that mitigation is completed prior to the permit decision being issued

- Required credits have been purchased
- Permittee-responsible plan has been finalized

Mitigation requirements coordinated with Army Corps



Mitigation Hierarchy

Mitigation Preferences/Options:

1. Purchasing credits from an established wetland mitigation bank
2. Purchasing credits from the WI Wetland Conservation Trust (In-Lieu Fee) mitigation program
3. Permittee-Responsible mitigation



Permittee-Responsible Mitigation

Last in hierarchy preference but...

Can be considered at any level in the hierarchy if it is ecologically preferred over bank or ILF credits and the chosen site has the potential to be successful site based on established performance standards in the mitigation plan





Hierarchy Considerations

- Timing: Is there a temporal loss of wetland function?

Def: Temporal Loss* The time lag between the loss of aquatic resource functions caused by permitted impacts and the replacement of aquatic resource functions at the wetland mitigation site.

- Location: Is the mitigation in the same watershed/mitigation service area as the impact?
- Type/Function: Is the mitigation credit of the same wetland type as the type of wetland being impacted?

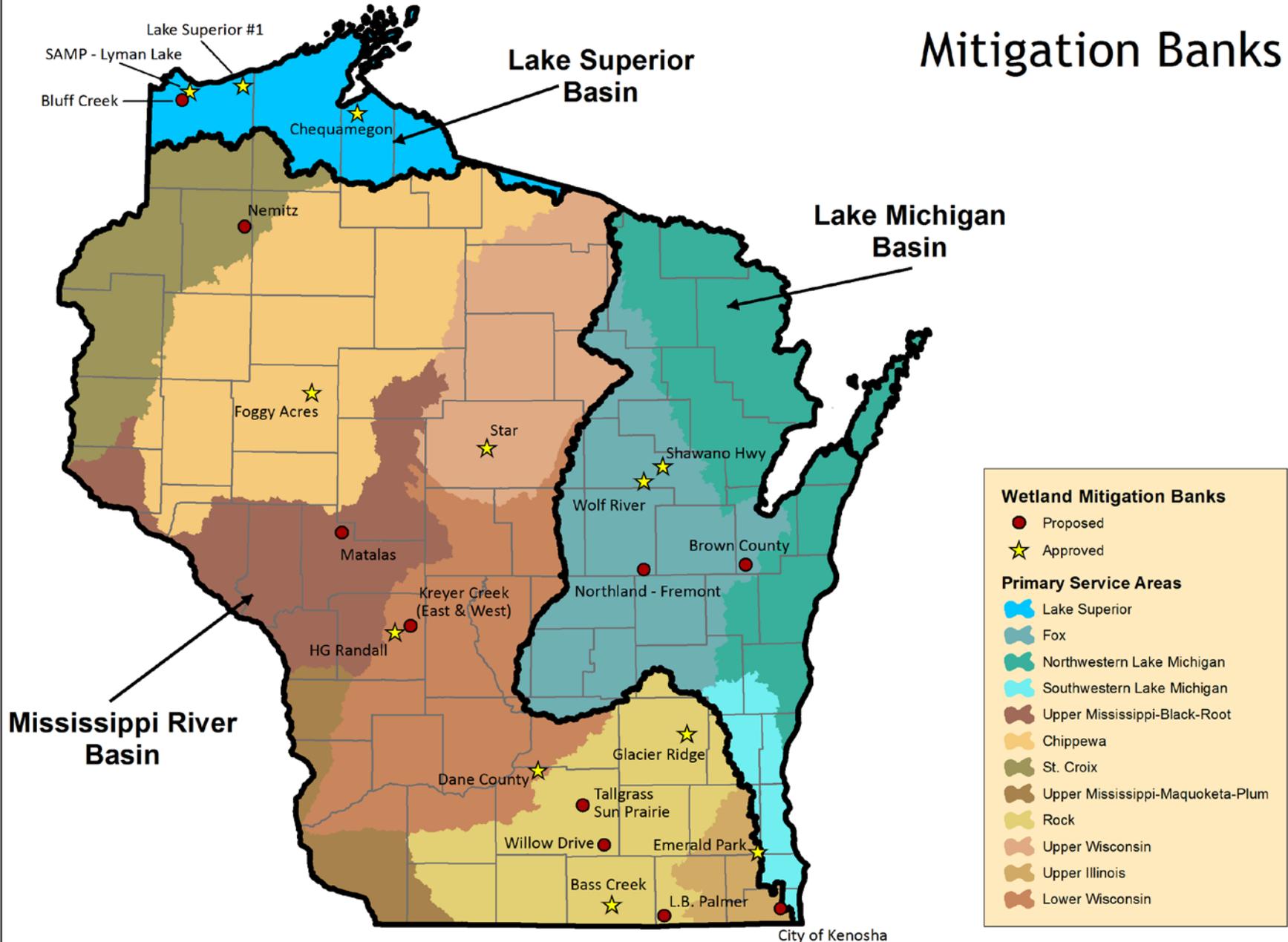
Def: In-Kind* A resource of similar structural and functional type to the impacted resource.



Mitigation Banking Update

- Bank credits in short supply today
- 2015 monitoring reports currently being reviewed for a number of existing banks to determine if additional credits can be released
- A number of new banks are currently in various states of review. Could see 3 new banks approved this spring
- WWCT (ILF) credits available when bank credits are not

Mitigation Banks



Wetland Mitigation Banks

- Proposed
- ★ Approved

Primary Service Areas

- Lake Superior
- Fox
- Northwestern Lake Michigan
- Southwestern Lake Michigan
- Upper Mississippi-Black-Root
- Chippewa
- St. Croix
- Upper Mississippi-Maquoketa-Plum
- Rock
- Upper Wisconsin
- Upper Illinois
- Lower Wisconsin



Selecting a Suitable Site

- a) The site contains drained hydric soils
- b) The site is not too small and fits into the ecological landscape; generally these sites are contiguous with existing wetland resources or where aquatic resources previously existed
- c) The site chosen has a good potential to maximize functional lift or otherwise provide functional gains over existing conditions
- d) Ditches, tiles and other features which impact hydrology that are contained within the property boundaries can be disabled or manipulated without negatively impacting neighboring properties



Site Selection (continued)

- e) The site is not likely to receive continual inputs of undesirable vegetative species (invasive and/or non-native species).
- f) Upland buffers can be included that will provide adequate wetland protection from adjacent present and future land uses.
- g) The work proposed will not result in an adverse impact to federal or state endangered, threatened or special concern species.
- h) The work proposed will not threaten or degrade high quality upland habitat such as prairie remnants and oak savannahs.



Site Selection (continued)

- i) The site offers the opportunity to provide or enhance wetland functions and services as well as ecological or hydrological functions and services missing in the surrounding landscape or **watershed**, such as those identified in regional habitat conservation plans.
- j) The site has a suitable reference wetland which can be used to assess the predicted final product of the proposed compensation site.
- k) The site will not require long-term maintenance of structures to sustain targeted community types, functions and services



Site Selection Resources

- Maps, including DNR Surface Water Data Viewer
 - WI Wetland Inventory
 - Potentially Restorable Wetlands Layer
 - Hydric Soils map
 - Reed Canary Grass Cover map
 - Original Vegetation Cover map
 - Historic Aerial photos and FSA slides
 - Tile Maps (if available)



Site Selection

Hydrology is the key!



Questions?

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