



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
St. Paul District



INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC NOTICE

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Credit Release Schedule Flexibility for Mitigation Bank and In-Lieu Fee Sites

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District (Corps) is sharing the following information to describe the flexibility related to credit releases associated with meeting hydrology performance standards at mitigation bank and in-lieu fee (ILF) sites. Historically, the Corps has limited credit releases for meeting hydrology performance standards to 20% of total projected credits, with most credits tied solely to vegetative performance of sites.

The Corps recognizes that hydrologic restoration is a significant component of some compensatory mitigation projects, and credit releases for these projects can be higher once hydrologic performance standards are met. The flexibility described here does not apply to sites involving vegetative enhancement, creation or preservation only, but rather sites with re-establishment or a combination of re-establishment and rehabilitation.

Re-establishment occurs when wetland hydrology is returned to historic wetlands that were effectively and fully drained. When sponsors submit documentation that supports their project will result in this extent of hydrologic functional lift, sponsors may propose as much as 40% or 45% of total projected credits be released once hydrology performance standards are met. Due to differences in state programs within the District, projects in Wisconsin may propose as much as 40% of credit release when hydrology performance standards are met and projects in Minnesota may propose as much as 45%. When this higher release is appropriate, sponsors should lower proposed percentages for interim vegetation releases accordingly.

Rehabilitation occurs when wetland hydrology is restored on existing wetlands that were historically partially drained. When sponsors submit documentation that

supports their project is generally characterized by an equal proportion of re-establishment and rehabilitation, sponsors may propose as much as 30% (in Wisconsin) or 35% (in Minnesota) of total projected credits be released once hydrology performance standards are met. As above, when this higher release is appropriate, sponsors should lower proposed percentages for interim vegetation releases accordingly.

Finally, when sites are predominantly rehabilitation, with little or no re-establishment, sponsors should propose the release of no more than 20% of total projected credits once hydrology performance standards are met.

The following table illustrates the flexibility described above for three different categories of hydrologic restoration:

Credit Action	Minnesota Hydrology Credit Release	Wisconsin Hydrology Credit Release
Site is predominantly re-establishment	45%	40%
Site is a combination of generally equal proportions of both rehabilitation and reestablishment	35%	30%
Site is predominantly rehabilitation	20%	20%

Sponsors with approved sites involving hydrologic restoration where the hydrology credit has not yet been released may consider proposing a modification of their mitigation Instrument. Before proposing a credit release schedule that includes flexibility described above, sponsors should discuss their proposal with the Corps project manager.

Please contact the St. Paul District Mitigation Coordinator, Leslie Day, (Leslie.e.day@usace.army.mil) with any questions.