

RATIOS FOR COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Note: These ratios are a starting point, and the Corps may determine site specific conditions warrant adjustments. The ratios provided below give a general idea of what a permit applicant should expect as a compensation requirement, thereby providing some predictability. Corps regulators must make an individual determination on the compensatory mitigation ratios required for specific aquatic resource impacts to ensure that the compensation is proportionate to the proposed loss or degradation of an aquatic resource area.

TYPE OF COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Impacted Wetland or Other Waters of the U.S.	Preservation	Restoration and/or Enhancement
Category I	3:1	2:1
Category II	2:1	1:1
Category III	1.5:1	1:1

Example for using ratio:

An applicant proposes to impact 5 acres of Category II wetlands and it is determined compensatory mitigation is required. The applicant wants to use a mitigation bank for preservation. The applicant would be required to provide mitigation at a 2:1 ratio using the above table, which would result in the applicant purchasing 10 credits (acres) in preservation through the mitigation bank sponsor.

Description of Wetland Categories

Category I

These are wetlands that: 1) provide habitat for threatened or endangered species that has been documented; 2) represent a high quality example of a rare wetland type; 3) are rare within a given region; 4) provide habitat for very sensitive or important wildlife or plants; and/or 5) are undisturbed and contain ecological attributes that are impossible or difficult to replace within a human lifetime, if at all. Examples of the latter are mature very productive forested wetlands unique to an ecoregion that may take a century to develop, and certain bogs and fens with their special plant populations that have taken centuries to develop. The position and function of the wetland in the landscape plays an integral role in overall watershed health.

Category II

They can be important for a variety of wildlife species and can be critical for the watershed depending on where they are located. In contrast to Category I wetlands, Category II wetlands do not provide critical habitat for any T&E species or species of concern. Generally these wetlands are pristine, not fragmented; common but more productive and sustain higher biodiversity compared to Category III wetlands.

Category III

These wetlands are usually plentiful in the watershed often with the least biodiversity. Category III wetlands are not rare or unique and overall productivity and species diversity are relatively low. These wetlands may be impacted by man (or by fire or other natural events) and are not considered to be "pristine" examples and as a result, in some cases require less than 1:1.