### Wetland Mitigation Proposal

### Mitigation Plan (Full Application)

Submit this document to the [Corps of Engineers](http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx) and Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) [Local Government Unit](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/partners/directories/WCA_Dir.pdf) (LGU).

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| --- | --- |
| **PROJECT NAME** | **Project Type** |
| **Click to enter text.** | [ ] Wetland Bank [ ] In Lieu Fee Site [ ] Project Specific (PRM)  |

**SPONSOR INFORMATION Agent Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sponsor’s Full Name | Authorized Agent’s Name and Title (if applicable) |
| **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** |
| Company | Company |
|   | **Click to enter text.** |
| Street Address | Street Address |
| **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** |
| City | State | Zip Code | City | State | Zip Code |
| **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** |
| Phone (Primary) | Phone (Secondary) | Phone (Other) | Phone (Primary) | Phone (Secondary) | Phone (Other) |
| **Click to enter text.** |  |  | **Click to enter text.** |   |  |
| E-mail Address | E-mail Address |
| **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** |
| Sponsor’s Relationship to Property |
| [ ] Fee Title Owner [ ] Contract for Deed [ ] Contract or agreement with fee owner [ ] Other: **(describe)** |

**STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION (required if agent is authorized to represent, and sign for, sponsor)**

|  |
| --- |
| I hereby authorize, to act on my behalf as my agent in the processing of this document and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this document.  |
| Signature of Sponsor |  | Date |  |

**PROJECT LOCATION (Include a Site Location Map)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| County | Est. Easement Size (acres) | [Watershed Name/No. or HUC 8](http://maps.bwsr.state.mn.us/banking/) | [Bank Service Area](http://maps.bwsr.state.mn.us/banking/) |
| **Choose an item.** | **Click to enter text.** | **Choose an item.** | **Choose an item.** |
| Latitude: | Longitude: | Section No. | Township No. | Range No. |
| °N   | °W  | **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** | **Click to enter text.** |

[ ]  Check this box if you are only requesting review under WCA.

[ ]  Check this box if this is a Minnesota *Agricultural* Wetland Bank proposal.

**List of Figures**

List and label all figures and appendices in the order in which they are referenced in this submission form.

*The following figures are required (reference them in applicable sections of the narrative):*

* Site Location Map
* Land Use Map of Project Site and Surrounding Properties
* Existing Conditions Topographic Map (include topography of adjacent lands if they contribute to or could be affected by the project) – map should at minimum include contours (1-foot referenced to msl datum), property lines, culverts, bridges, roads, structures, subsurface drainage features, power lines and other utilities, property ownership, existing easements, benchmarks, north arrow, scale, and proposed easement boundary.
* Web Soil Survey Map (or other soil information if Web Soil Survey not available for the area)
* Minor Watershed (DNR 5-digit HUC) Map (show location of site within minor watershed)
* Existing Wetlands Map (approved delineation or estimate based on best available data)
* Existing Conditions Vegetation Map (current dominant vegetative cover of site and surrounding area)
* Map of Proposed Easement Boundaries (preferably overlaid on topo map and/or aerial photo)
* Credit Area Map (see item # 6)
* Proposed Vegetation Conditions Map (based on vegetation establishment plan)
* Seeding/Planting Zone Map – map clearly showing labeled zones where various planting/seeding will be conducted. Use air photo or topographic map as a base.
* Construction Plan and Specifications – plans need to be drawn to scale and must include:
	+ Detailed layout and plan dimensions of all proposed construction elements
	+ Topography of any adjacent lands that could be affected by the project
	+ Profile and detail drawing(s) of all proposed construction elements (dikes, channels, water control structures, etc.) including dimensions, elevations, and grades as applicable.
	+ Construction notes on plans (as needed) to ensure accurate interpretation of drawings and to supplement construction specifications.
* Construction materials and methods specifications
* Monitoring Plan Map showing proposed monitoring locations

*The following figures are recommended, if applicable:*

* Historical Air Photo(s) (representative of pre-altered conditions)
* Site Photographs
* Photographs of Reference Wetland(s) (reflective of post-plan conditions)

**SECTIONS**

Do not leave any of the following sections or subsections blank. If a section does not apply to your project, then enter “not applicable” for that section and explain why.

1. **Regulatory Review Status and Project History**

*Identify and discuss the extent of review and comments received to date on this pending wetland mitigation project. Reference previous reviews and document how comments from local, state, and federal reviewers are addressed by this document.*

1. **Project Participants and Qualifications**

**2.1 Project Sponsor, Ownership, and Long-Term Management**

*Identify the project sponsor who will complete the project, the proposed land ownership, the credit owner(s), the long-term management strategy, and any agreements among these parties. (For example, the bank sponsor and credit owner will be J. Doe who is in discussions with TNC to transfer ownership and long-term management responsibilities once all credits have been sold.)*

**2.2 Sponsor Qualifications**

*Describe how you and/or your agent(s) are qualified to successfully complete the mitigation project proposed and include information describing relevant past activities or previous mitigation projects.*

1. **Proposed Easement Description**

*Discuss the proposed easement boundary in terms of its location (e.g. coincides with property line, follows road or ditch right-of-way boundary, etc.), access to the easement from a public road right-of-way, and reasons for including or excluding certain areas (e.g. excludes field road to allow access to adjacent property, etc.). The proposed easement boundary should be accurately shown and identified on all Mitigation Plan figures and maps.*

1. **Historical Conditions**

*Provide an assessment of historical site conditions from pre-settlement to current condition. Utilize historical aerial photos, soil mapping, onsite investigations, and other available information to describe historical conditions on and near the site including historical wetland types and extent. Attach and reference supporting documents as necessary.*

1. **Existing Conditions**

*Address all of the following subparts. Attach and reference supporting documents as necessary:*

**5.1 General Description**

*Provide a description of existing features on and near your proposed mitigation site including current land uses, landscape features, roads, structures, wells, utility lines, etc. Also discuss and identify the presence of known conservation easements, contracts, or public lands adjacent to your proposed mitigation area.*

**5.2 Vegetation**

*Describe all existing plant communities on and adjacent to your mitigation site. Include information on community composition, dominant species, and location and abundance of invasive or exotic species.*

**5.3 Hydrology**

*Describe and show the location, flow direction, and condition of any drainage systems or hydrology alterations on your mitigation site (e.g. ditches and tile, level grading, wetland fill, slope reshaping, etc.) and demonstrate that sufficient water supply is available to sustain the proposed wetland(s) in the short- and long-term. Also identify public drainage systems, drainage agreements, or other legal documents/agreements (e.g. rights to remove water, soil, minerals, or biomass and/or any flowage easements) that may affect the use or modification of drainage systems or site hydrology. If monitoring well data has been collected, include and summarize this information as well.*

**5.4 Soils**

*Describe existing soil conditions on and adjacent to the site. Include soil maps that identify mapped soils, hydric versus non-hydric status, and results of any onsite soil investigations completed.*

**5.5 Existing Wetlands**

*Include a discussion of existing wetlands on the site including reference to, and approval status of, any wetland delineations or determinations conducted. If offsite hydrology review was used to estimate wetland boundaries include this information as well. Include and reference figures to supplement the narrative.*

1. **Objectives, Need, and Feasibility**

*Address each of the following subparts. Attach and reference supporting documents as necessary:*

**6.1 Objectives**

*Describe your project objective(s) and how they will be achieved. Discuss these objectives in terms of plant communities, wetland types, hydrology, and wetland functions.*

**6.2 Need**

*Describe the need for your project relative to regulatory programs, expected wetland impacts, other mitigation options, and overall watershed conditions.*

**6.3 Technical Feasibility**

*Describe why your project is technically feasible and capable of providing the desired mitigation. Include a description of the expertise and experience possessed by you or your contractors in completing similar projects and a description of proven construction and restoration methods used in comparable landscape positions. Describe any constraints that may prevent full restoration of historical conditions (e.g. access to other lands, encroachment on other lands, drainage maintenance from other properties, etc.). If the project is a wetland creation, discuss historical watershed conditions, current hydrology sources, and how the project will replace or enhance important wetland functions.*

**6.4 Credit Eligibility and Allocation**

*For each map ID on the Credit Area Map, identify state and federal credit actions used and describe why your project is eligible for each credit action identified. Wetland credits are generally allocated based on a demonstrated functional “lift” over existing conditions. Offsite hydrology/wetland determinations, approved wetland delineations, drainage setback tables, and pre-project hydrology monitoring may be required to demonstrate the extent of functional lift. If credit eligibility or allocation is dependent on cropping or cultivation frequency, include detailed assessment results supporting your request. Identify credit areas on a Credit Allocation Map and attach a Wetland Credit Allocation Table.*

1. **Ecological Suitability and Sustainability**

**7.1 Ecological Suitability**

*Describe suitability of the site to achieve the objectives of the proposed mitigation bank, including physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the bank site and how that site will support the planned types of aquatic resources and functions. Proposals involving preservation of aquatic resources must also include the information required under* [*33 CFR 332.3(h)*](https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title33-vol3/pdf/CFR-2012-title33-vol3-sec332-3.pdf)*.*

**7.2 Sustainability**

*Discuss the relative permanence of your mitigation actions in the context of reasonably foreseeable land use and landscape changes and your project’s ability to sustain improved physical, chemical, and biological wetland functions into the future.*

1. **Vegetation Plan**

*Identify and discuss planned actions to restore vegetation including (but not limited to) seeding, planting, invasive species control, and anticipated maintenance/management activities. Include a seeding/planting zone map (a required figure) and correspondingly identify seed mixes, planting materials, planting rates, and installation methods (hand planted, native seed drill, etc.). Include a schedule of anticipated maintenance and aftercare activities for the initial 5 years of the project and beyond as applicable. Identify and discuss any potential issues (invasive species, sedimentation, drown-out, etc.) and potential corrective actions. Attach and reference supporting documents as necessary.*

1. **Construction Plan**

*Address the following subparts and attach and reference supporting documents as necessary:*

* 1. **Design Approach**

*Discuss the general design approach proposed to achieve the planned restoration goals for hydrology such as disable drainage system, divert water, impound water, etc. Provide a detailed description of the proposed construction work to be performed for each wetland area to be restored or created.*

**9.2 Site Capability**

*Discuss the capability of the site to produce and maintain wetland characteristics related to drainage area, wetland area, soils, and topography.*

**9.3 Site Investigations**

*Discuss and provide information about the locations, methods, and results of any subsurface investigations and analysis performed for the project site.*

**9.4 Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis**

*Discuss the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses conducted to define existing site conditions and to design the proposed wetland bank project. Report the following related to hydrology/hydraulics report:*

* *Method of analysis, values used for pertinent variable and computed peak flows and water surface elevations for the 2-year, 10-year, 25-year, and 100-year, 24-hour events and associated wetland storage volumes.*
* *Hydraulic design of existing and proposed water control structures.*
* *Discussion of both upstream and downstream impacts.*
1. **Supplemental Information**

*If your project involves protection of wetlands previously restored via conservation programs/easements, restoration and protection of exceptional natural resource value, or preservation credit actions (WCA rule subparts 6, 8, and 9 respectively), provide a narrative discussion of how the project meets the requirements of the proposed actions. Discuss and reference applicable guidance documents and support materials. If necessary, include any other information relevant to the Mitigation Plan that is not discussed in the other sections of this document.*

1. **Monitoring Plan**

*Describe a plan to annually monitor vegetation and hydrology as it relates to the identified credit release criteria. The monitoring plan should include anticipated transects and sampling point numbers and locations, and a description of the methodology to estimate important measures such as vegetation areal coverage, species diversity, and water table elevations. Plans should identify the proposed frequency and timing of annual monitoring efforts.*

1. **Special Considerations**

*WCA rules (8420.0515) identify factors that must be considered when submitting a wetland replacement/banking plan. Identify and discuss any of these factors that are potentially applicable to the site.*

**Signature**

By signing this form I acknowledge that:

1. I am authorizing the review of my Mitigation Plan by the appropriate regulatory authorities as part of establishing a compensatory wetland mitigation project.
2. I am familiar with the information contained in this submittal and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information is true, complete, and accurate.
3. No areas proposed to receive wetland bank credit were previously restored or created under a prior approved WCA wetland replacement or banking plan.
4. No areas proposed to receive wetland bank credit were impacted under a WCA exemption during the previous 10 years.
5. No areas proposed to receive wetland bank credit will be restored, created, or preserved with financial assistance from public conservation programs or for other unrelated regulatory purposes.
6. All individuals and entities providing funding for this project are aware that this project will provide credits to offset regulatory wetland impacts.
7. The project will be monitored in accordance with the approved monitoring plan.
8. I understand that Mitigation Plan review may require regulatory agency staff to inspect my project site, that agency staff will contact me in advance to schedule a site visit, and I agree (or am authorized) to allow agency staff reasonable access to the property when prior notification is given.

If I am not the fee title owner of property, I have obtained permission from the fee title owner to allow agency staff reasonable access to the property when prior notification is given.

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| **Sponsor’s Signature (Authorized Agent)** |  | **Date** |