



PAYMENT-TO- PROVIDE WETLAND MITIGATION

Frequently Asked Questions

What is payment-to-provide wetland mitigation?

When issuing permits to allow loss of wetlands, the Department of State Lands (DSL) must show that wetlands have been restored or improved elsewhere to achieve our policy goal of no net loss of wetlands. The replacement of comparable wetlands is known as mitigation. When a landowner or developer proposes an unavoidable impact to wetlands, and no other wetland mitigation options are available that will adequately replace the lost wetland, DSL may allow “payment-to-provide” mitigation. (The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not currently accept this option for federal permits.) The price for this mitigation option is set at the statewide average cost of purchasing one credit from established wetland mitigation banks. For 2007, the average price is \$75,000 per acre of wetland impact. Money deposited in the fund is used for projects that produce a net gain of wetland acres and/or functions.

What happens to money paid into the Mitigation Revolving Fund?

The money is deposited into an interest-bearing account dedicated to the restoration, enhancement and creation of wetlands, with first priority going to projects in the same watershed as the permitted wetland impacts. The money also may be used for acquisition of land or easements in conjunction with wetland restoration. DSL invites proposals from landowners, civic groups and watershed councils planning to conduct these kinds of restoration projects.

What sorts of projects are eligible to receive these funds?

DSL is looking for candidate projects that include restoration, enhancement and creation of wetlands, especially when wetland restoration has been identified as a priority in a watershed assessment, or where there could be substantial gains in habitat or other wetland functions. Because this fund supports projects to replace wetland acres lost to development, the projects must show permanent protection of wetland acres to be gained.

How do I apply for funding?

Applications for these funds must include a restoration plan, budget and maintenance and monitoring plan, so that staff can evaluate how well the proposed project meets the selection criteria. A conservation easement or deed restriction will be required for long-term protection of the site. DSL will periodically select projects to be funded, with advice from other resource agencies. Project proposals or inquiries may be made at any time – contact the DSL mitigation specialist at 503-378-3805, ext. 238.

How much money is available from the mitigation revolving fund for restoration projects?

The balance in the revolving fund fluctuates, but at times has accumulated over \$1 million. Each of the watersheds listed below have accumulated at least \$40,000 in mitigation funds now available for restoration projects. However, DSL encourages inquiries from throughout the state in addition to these watershed areas.

McKenzie
Upper Willamette
Coast Fork Willamette
South Santiam
Molalla – Pudding
Tualatin
Lower Columbia

Wilson – Trask - Nestucca
Umpqua
South Umpqua
Coos
Middle Rogue
Sixes