# Mitigation

Mitigation measures avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce over time or eliminate adverse effects to biological, physical or socioeconomic resources.


Measures or practices incorporated into the proposed action or action alternatives are called *design features*.

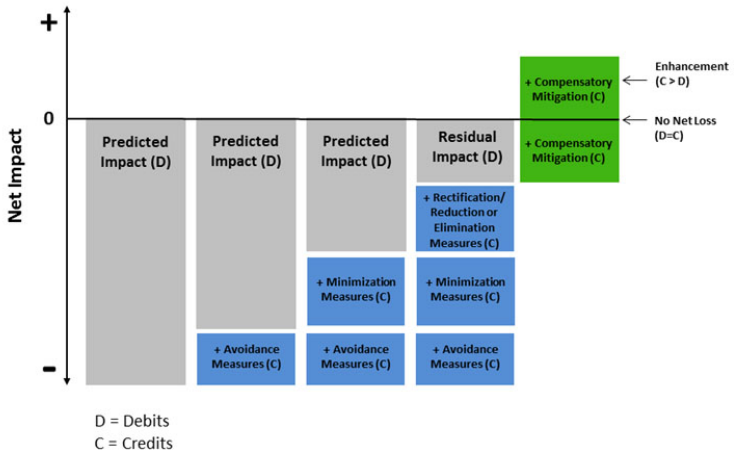
BLM environmental analysis talks about the "mitigation hierarchy," which applies design features and mitigation measures in sequence to determine what *residual effects* will remain.

*Compensatory mitigation* is then developed for residual effects – after all avoidance and minimization measures have been applied.

**A Mitigation "Balance Sheet"**

The supplemental EIS for the Gateway West project applies the Mitigation Hierarchy to resources and values in the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey NCA using a system of debits + credits.

Debits are reasonably foreseeable adverse impacts to raptor habitat, recreation and visitor services, or cultural resources and historic trails.




The first round of credits are the design features and environmental protection measures (EPMs) that avoid or minimize impacts (blue blocks in the graphic *at-right*). Additional credits are gained through compensatory mitigation measures (green blocks) that address adverse effects remaining after all avoidance and minimization measures have been taken.

**Where Credits = Debits, the No Net Loss standard is met.**
**Where Credits > Debits, the Net Conservation Gain/Enhancement standard is achieved.**

**Accountability in Accounting**

Department of the Interior policy requires that compensatory mitigation measures for any authorized action on public lands adhere to five principles (*right*).

The Compensatory Mitigation Framework (CMF) in the Gateway West Final SEIS further specifies how these principles must be put into practice in any Compensatory Mitigation Plan (CMP) proposed for the project.

For example, Durability must be evident in three dimensions: affected resources, administration, and financing. Requiring that mitigation measures be based on the best available science helps ensure their effectiveness.

The Framework recognizes that measuring credits for some resources will require metrics that are more qualitative, or intuitive, than others.

The Framework affirms the policy's basic principle that compensatory mitigation be approached and evaluated at the landscape scale.