

ARM Fund Workshop: Finding Mitigation Opportunities



The goal of compensatory mitigation is to sustain the functions and values of aquatic resources in the watershed through *protection, restoration, and enhancement*, of wetlands and streams, to compensate for the aquatic resources lost from impacts.

There are 3 types of projects that qualify as mitigation and are eligible for an **Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund** grant or can be included in a town's "Mitigation Priority List"

Land Protection

of a wetland, stream, or vernal pool and its critical buffer

- Acquisition of land by fee-simple purchase
- Conservation easements
- Conservation restrictions preventing development

Wetland Restoration & Enhancement

to increase functions & values of degraded wetlands

- Remove fill
- Restore natural hydrology
- Establish native plant communities
- Remove impervious surface
- Upland buffer stormwater treatment
- Tidal marsh and mudflat enhancement
- Living shoreline creation

Stream Restoration & Enhancement

for aquatic connectivity, habitat, & flood resiliency

- Remove dams
- Culvert upgrades
- Daylighting buried streams
- Habitat enhancements
- Floodplain reconnection
- Bank stabilization with bioengineering
- Remove hard bank armoring

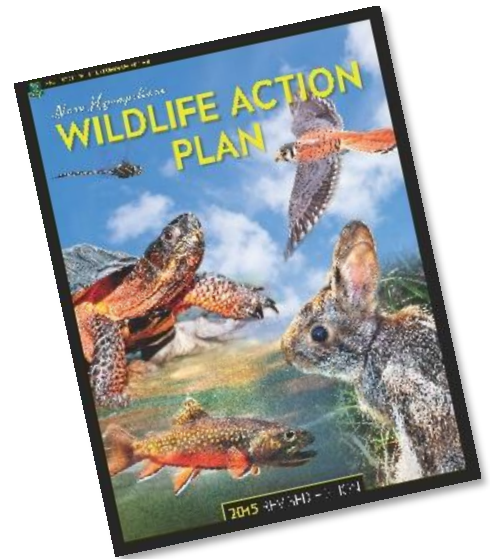
What makes a good mitigation site?

- ◆ Sites important to water supply and water quality, and lie within source water, wellhead, groundwater protection, or high-yield aquifer areas.
- ◆ An area that will benefit an exemplary natural community, threatened, rare, or endangered species.
- ◆ Contains wildlife habitat ranked as statewide (Tier 1) or regional biological significance (Tier 2) by the NH Fish Game Wildlife Action Plan.
- ◆ Contributes to landscape connectivity by adding to existing protected parcels or making new connections between conservation lands.
- ◆ Creates an overland connection between high-value wetlands and streams.
- ◆ Reconnects high-quality stream habitat that is important to fish and other aquatic animals.
- ◆ The site lies within one of the larger, unfragmented blocks of land within its HUC 10 watershed.
- ◆ The project has strong support from the host-municipality, partners, and matching funds.
- ◆ Area is identified as a conservation priority in a local, regional, or statewide conservation plan.
- ◆ Site is under high threat to potential development.

Tips for Creating your Town's Priority Mitigation List

It is important to have a **diverse list** that covers the many types of projects that are accepted as compensatory mitigation in New Hampshire. This will better prepare your town to find a project that will appropriately offset the lost functions and values when a major impact project is being permitted!

- Explore the NHFG WAP and the Natural Heritage Bureau database to identify rare plants, wildlife, and their critical habitats in your community! Highlight parcels that contain Tier 1 and Tier 2 habitat and identify areas that contain, or could potentially contain, threatened or endangered species.
- An inventory of the aquatic resources in your community will identify high quality wetlands, streams, and buffers, and point out those needing some restoration work.



Identifying Matching Funds

There are several other state and federal grant programs that can be used as matching funds with ARM awards

- Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
- NHFG Moose Plates
- NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund
- HSEM Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- NHDES Coastal Resilience Grants
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Grants
- New England Forests and Rivers Fund

- Look for parcels adjacent to existing conservation lands or those that would connect separated conservation parcels.
- Put a conservation easement on existing town-owned land, such as town forests that are not currently protected.
- Find farmlands that could be converted to a riparian buffer.
- Identify deficient stream crossings and prioritize those that would regain the maximum amount of high-quality stream habitat and increase flood resiliency.
- Look for old, high-risk dams that could be removed.
- Use the NHFG Fishery Priority Data to find streams for protection and enhancement to support fish populations.

Questions or Comments?

Contact the *NHDES Mitigation Coordinator* for questions on land preservation and permittee-responsible mitigation:

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Contact the *Mitigation Program Specialist* to discuss stream restoration opportunities:

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