

“Mitigation that Works” Forum
subgroup on

Advance Mitigation

Washington Department of Transportation

Army Corps of Engineers

Washington Department of Ecology

Advance Mitigation

What is it?

- Compensatory mitigation implemented before, and in anticipation of, future impacts to aquatic resources.
- Used by one applicant for only their anticipated impacts.

What is it not?

A substitute for a bank where credits can be sold to anyone.

Advance Mitigation

- Developed to provide mitigation value where impacts are generally predictable but the details of the project(s) are not well understood.
- Project is in planning stages.
- Mitigation site is established prior to permitting.

Advance Mitigation

What are the environmental benefits?

- Reduces temporal impacts (functions are replaced before impacts occur to existing aquatic resources)
- Allows development of mitigation at larger sites with more ecological value
- Risk to environment is reduced because it cannot be used unless performance standards are being met

Advance Mitigation

What are the permit processing benefits?

- Should reduce permit processing times
- Potential mitigation has been pre-identified
- Has already been constructed
- Functional value is known
- Documentation and acceptance by agencies can be easier.

Other Benefits of Advance Mitigation

- Cost savings because mitigation is constructed at current costs.
- There may be cost savings for applicant if the required mitigation ratios are lower.

Advance Mitigation

Some of the questions that need to be answered:

- What information is needed to identify projects proposed to use advance mitigation?
- How should the value of an advance mitigation project be determined?
- Baseline information requirements
- Approval process for future use

Advance Mitigation

What recommendations can the Forum provide?

- Support the need for advanced mitigation in the tool box
- Direction to Agencies to develop guidelines for advance mitigation
- Support the need for staffing to work on development of the guidelines