

US Wetland Mitigation Banking — CWA Section 404 Compensatory Mitigation

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Largest statutory wetland offset market: 1,800+ mitigation banks in RIBITS (2013), restoring aquatic habitats across the US under CWA Section 404. Banking established as preferred mechanism 1995; 2008 rule set performance standards. Ecological effectiveness mixed by region.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	1/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	2/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	2/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[US Army Corps of Engineers \(USACE\) / US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[EPA — Mitigation Banks under CWA Section 404](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[USACE RIBITS Database](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

[Wikipedia — Mitigation Banking](#) — accessed 2026-06-22

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