

Mitigation and Compensation



Photo by: Robert Burton,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

In general, the term “mitigation” refers to measures taken to lessen or offset adverse impacts from an action. Broadly speaking, mitigation includes: avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction or elimination over time, and compensatory mitigation.

Compensatory mitigation can provide conservation benefits through funding of activities such as habitat replacement and/or restoration.

If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proceeds with a rulemaking to create an authorization system for incidental take of migratory birds, all permitted actions would require compliance with permit terms established to avoid or minimize take. The authorization program may also create a mechanism to obtain meaningful compensatory mitigation for bird mortality that cannot be avoided or minimized. Such mitigation for incidental take could provide conservation benefits through funding of habitat replacement, restoration, or, in certain circumstances, acquisition.

The USFWS would like to establish consistent standards for when compensatory mitigation would be required.

Please offer your comments on:

- What do you think about mitigation techniques meant to avoid or minimize bird take?
- Should the USFWS require compensatory mitigation for all authorized take? (There could be some scaled level of compensatory mitigation for every authorization.)
- Should compensatory mitigation only be required for certain types or levels of take?



Photo by: Sarah Craig



Photo by: Thad Zajdowicz, MD, MPH, FACP



Photo by: Jim Rathert, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



Photo by: Mark Musselman,
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