U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conservation Banking

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Vernal Pool Information Network
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Why are we here?

Viable ecosystems are the foundation for sustainable environments (natural & man-made) and healthy economies;

Ecosystem services are being lost.

Conservation banking is one valuable tool for conserving species, habitat, and biodiversity which contribute to functioning ecosystems.

What is a conservation bank?

"A site or suite of sites containing natural resource values that are conserved and managed in perpetuity for specified listed or other at-risk species and used to offset impacts occurring elsewhere to the same type of resource."

2003 FWS Conservation Banking Guidance

+	−
Net Conservation Benefit	Offset Unavoidable Impacts

Conservation Banking is one of several ecosystem services markets used to conserve ecosystem services.

Ecosystem Services

Benefits derived from nature

Ecosystem Services Market

Platform where services (as credits) are bought, sold or traded

Compliance/Regulated

Wetland/Stream Mitigation
Conservation Banking
Total $2-3 bill./yr (2011)

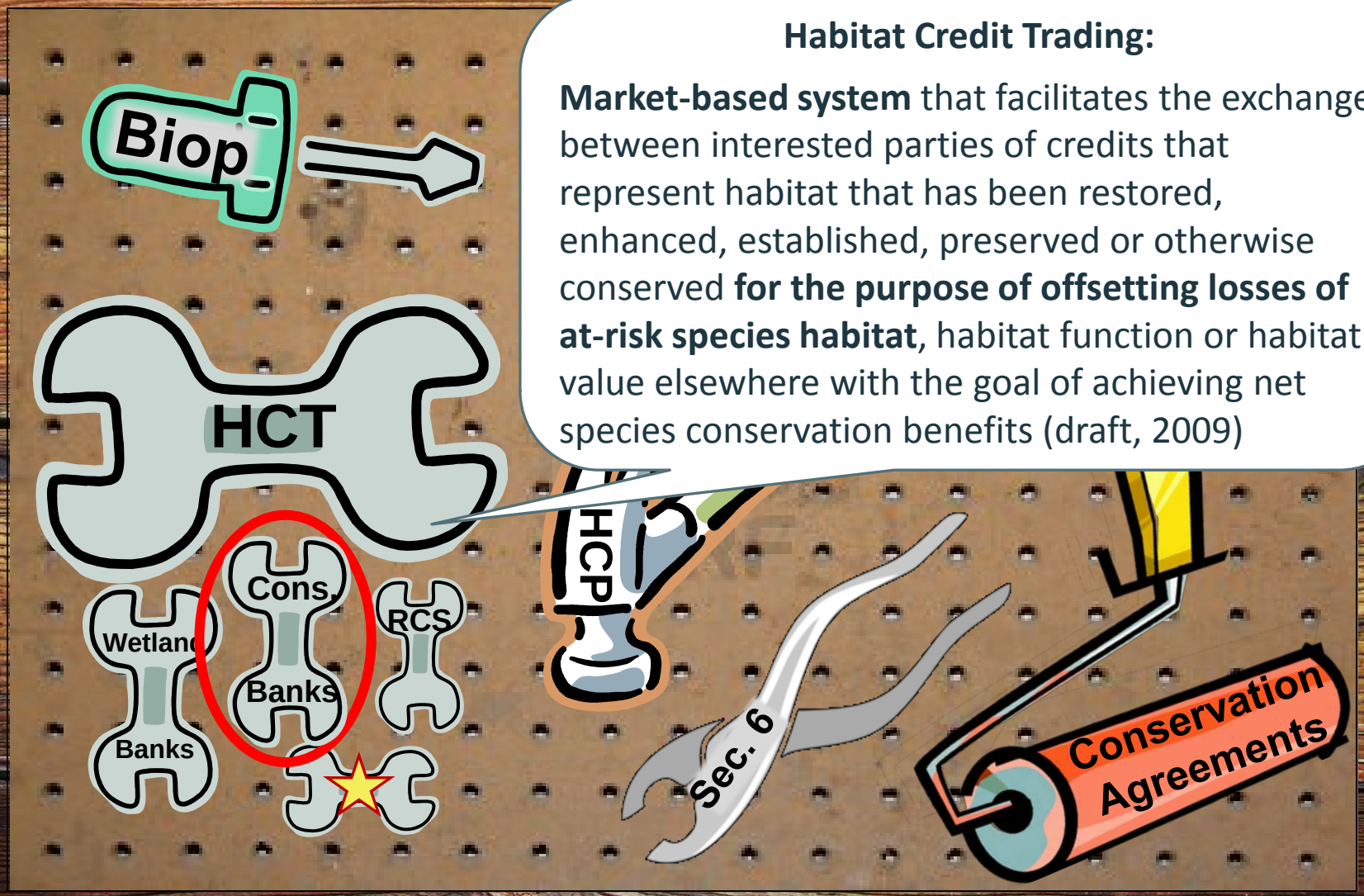
Payments/Incentives

Farm Bill Programs
Partners Programs
Tax Relief

Voluntary

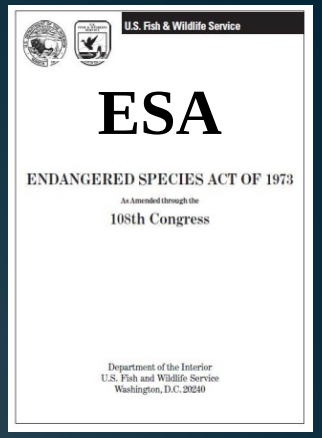
Carbon Market
$400 mill. (2009)
Pre-Compliance

ESA



Habitat Credit Trading:

Market-based system that facilitates the exchange between interested parties of credits that represent habitat that has been restored, enhanced, established, preserved or otherwise conserved **for the purpose of offsetting losses of at-risk species habitat**, habitat function or habitat value elsewhere with the goal of achieving net species conservation benefits (draft, 2009)



Project

Agency Consultation

Avoidance Measures

On-Site Minimization Measures

On-Site Mitigation Measures

Off-Site Mitigation Measures

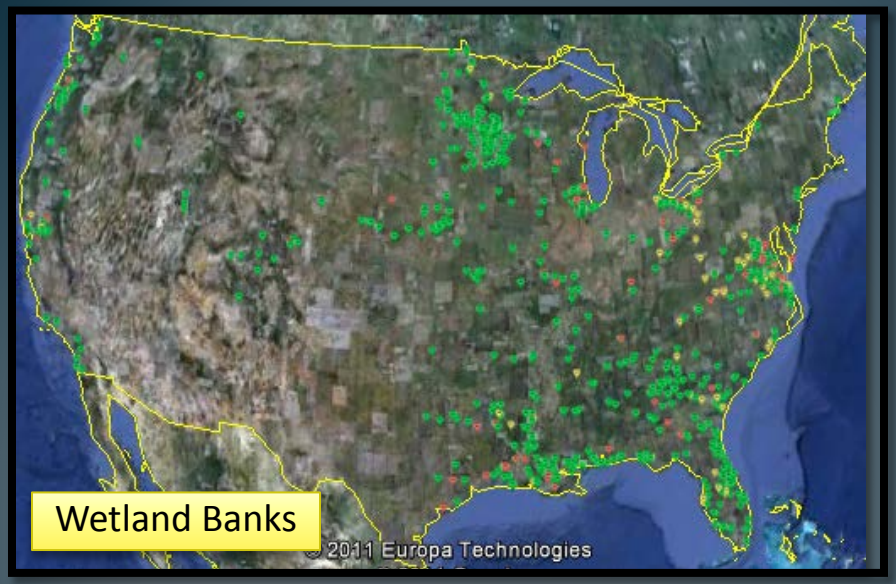
Conservation Bank

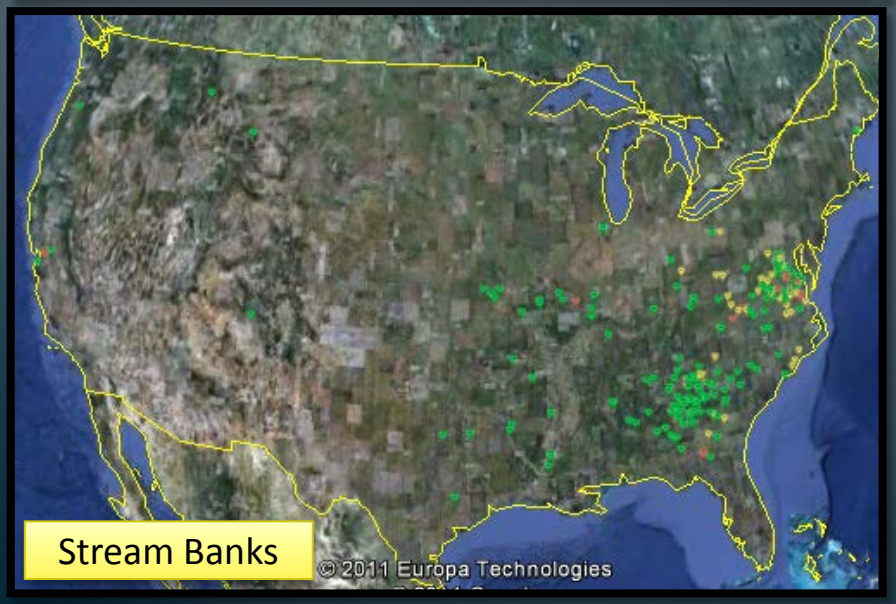
SPECIES CONSERVATION (Recovery)

>120 FWS Approved Conservation Banks (5 NMFS)
>40,000 hectares (1992-2011)
>60 listed species

Data from: *Madsen 2011, RIBITS 2012*

Wetland/Stream Mitigation Banks





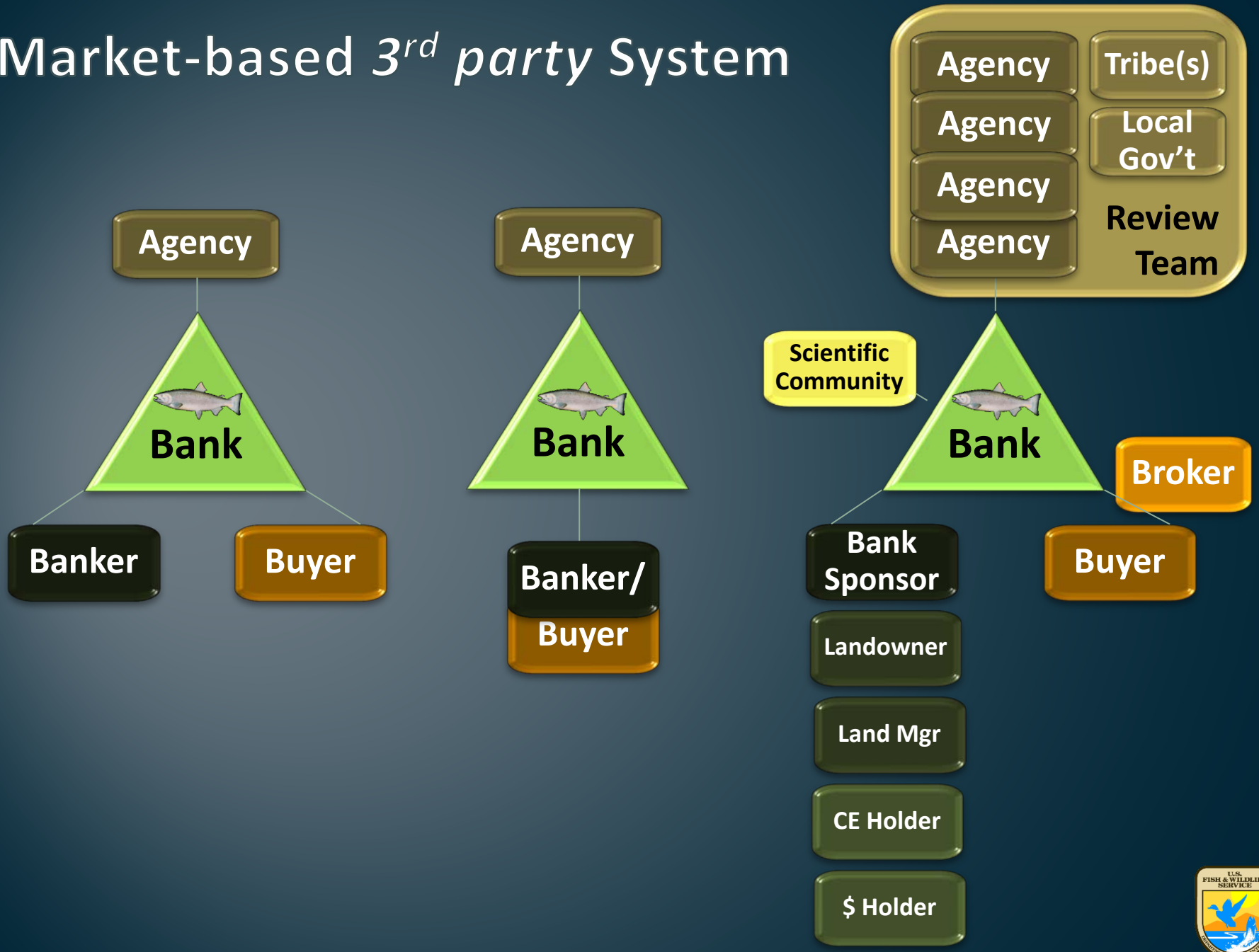
- >1100 total banks* (257 stream)
- >450,000 acres (1982-2011)

Data from: *Madsen 2011*

*Includes inactive & pending banks

Conservation Bank		Wetland Mitigation Bank
Species or Mitigation Bank	Aliases	Wetland or Stream or Mitigation Bank
Conserve at-risk species	Purpose	Replace aquatic resource function loss
ESA (§ 7, 10) CB Guidance, FWCA, NEPA, other	Legal Authorities	CWA (§ 404) 33 CFR § 320-332 (Mitigation Rule)
CBRT	Review Team	IRT
	Chair	
Proposal/Prospectus --?-- CBA (CBI, CBEI, BEI, MBI) CBRT Review Agency Approval	Establishment Process	Prospectus Public Review MBI (BEI) IRT Review Agency approval
Acres, Species Functional habitat	Credits	Acres, Stream miles Functional acres, Functional miles
Preserv./creation is species dependent No mitigation type preference Private land siting preference Federal funds cannot generate credits Potential to stack Carbon	Policy in Practice	Clear preference against preservation Preference for banks <in lieu<per res. Public or private land siting Federal funds cannot generate credits Cannot stack Carbon

Market-based 3rd *party* System



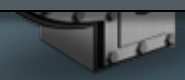
Conservation Banks Require Assurances

Real Estate

Perpetual Conservation Easement

(or alternative for public lands)

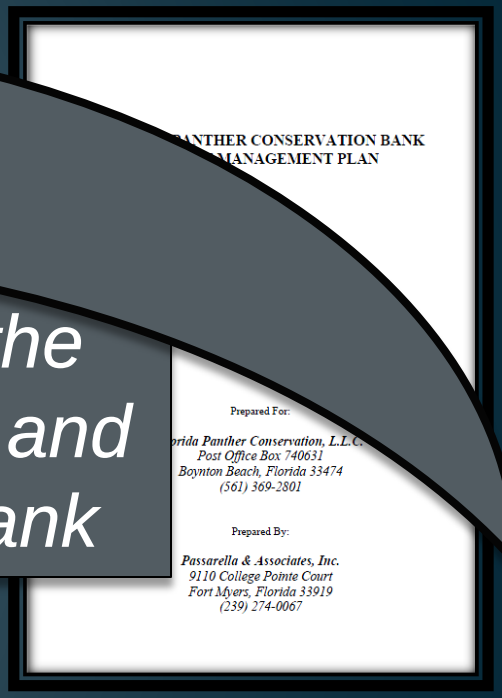
Financial



Financial mechanism sufficient to fund long-term management, monitoring and reporting

(non-wasting endowment preferred)

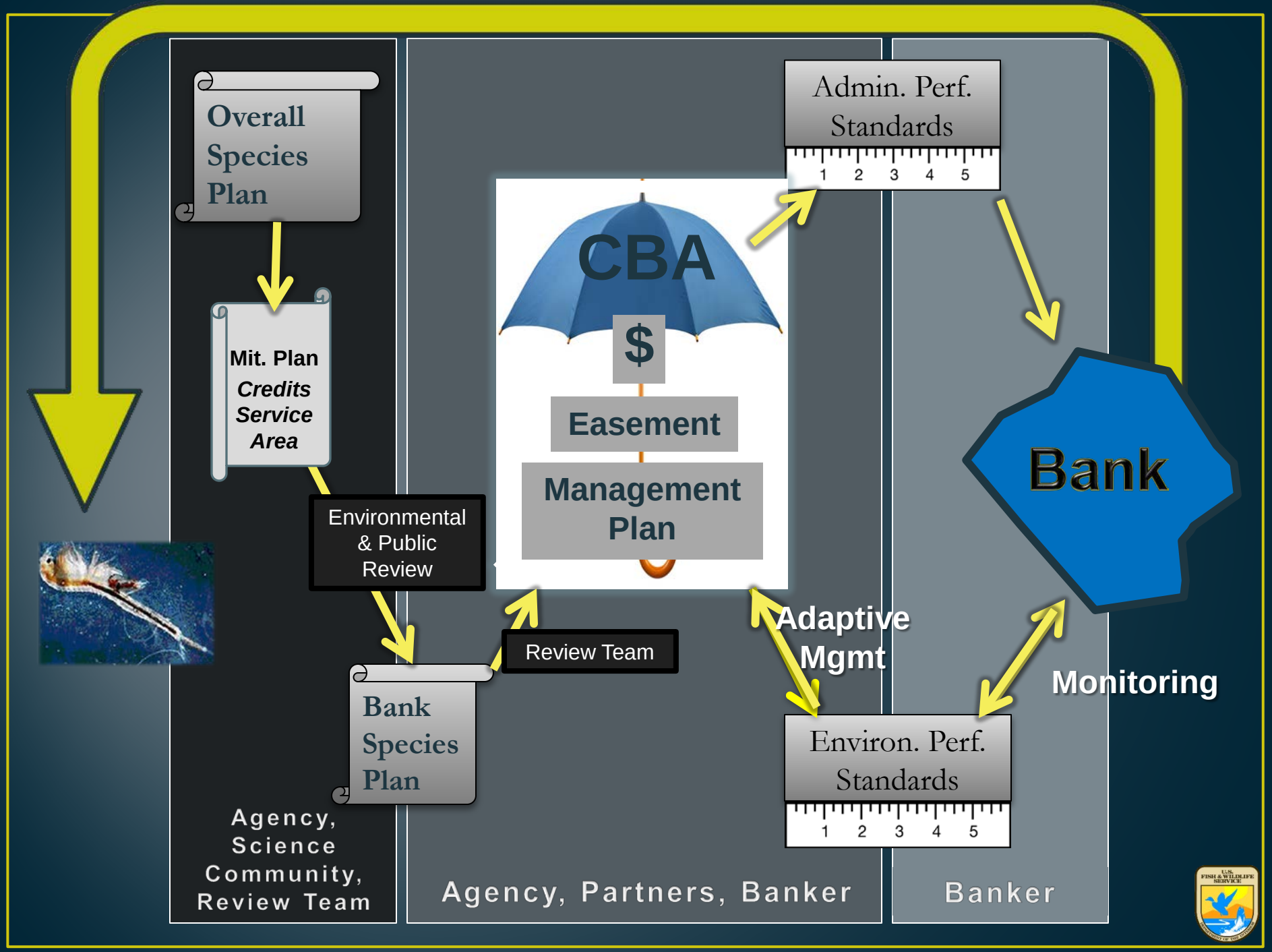
Biological



Long-term Management Plan with Performance Standards, Monitoring, etc.

CBA

the legal document for the establishment, operation and use of a conservation bank


Overall Species Plan
Mit. Plan
Credits
Service Area
Environmental & Public Review
Bank Species Plan
Review Team
Agency, Science Community, Review Team
CBA
$
Easement
Management Plan
Admin. Perf. Standards
1 2 3 4 5
Adaptive Mgmt
Environ. Perf. Standards
1 2 3 4 5
Agency, Partners, Banker
Bank
Monitoring
Banker

RIBITS

Navigation

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Filter View & Login

[Login...] [Feedback]

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OR

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CA

Folders For Bank Elsie Gridley Multi-Species Conservation Bank

	Folder Type	Created
Ledger -	Unspecified	08-JUL-09
Maps -	Maps	08-JUL-09
Monitoring Report 2008 -	Annual Monitoring	15-APR-10
BEI Final 2006 BEI Final approved by agencies in 2006.	Banking Instrument	25-APR-12
As-Built Drawings As-Built Drawings by Phase	Unspecified	25-APR-12
Photos Site Visit 2-10-2011 -	Site Inspection	25-APR-12
Credit Releases -	Unspecified	25-APR-12
Photos April 21, 2010 -	Site Inspection	25-APR-12
Photos May 15, 2009 -	Site Inspection	25-APR-12
Monitoring Report 2009 -	Annual Monitoring	16-MAY-12
Monitoring Report 2010 -	Annual Monitoring	16-MAY-12
Monitoring Report 2011 -	Annual Monitoring	16-MAY-12
Monitoring Report 2012 -	Annual Monitoring	16-MAY-12

1 - 13

Documents for Elsie Gridley Multi-Species Conservation Bank

	Created	Updated
Elsie Gridley BO May 2005.pdf USFWS Biological Opinion issued on May 2, 2005 for Phases 1 and 2 of the Elsie Gridley Mitigation Bank.	15-FEB-11	15-FEB-11

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U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Why do Conservation Banking?

As opposed to permittee responsible mitigation…

Economies of Scale

Biological Benefits

- Aid in recovery (outcome-based & traceable)
- Preserve ecosystems
- Avoid piecemeal mitigation & time lag issues
- Contributes to conservation strategies; science

Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp

Business Benefits

- Streamlined permit/mitigation process
- Transfer of liability
- Provides assurances (mgmt, financial)
- Reduce agency time monitoring mitigation sites
- Reduce need for enforcement
- Multi-land use compatibility
- Revenue

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RIBITS http://geo.usace.army.mil/ribits/index.html

USFWS Conservation Banking
http://www.fws.gov/endangered/landowners/conservation-banking.html

Conservation Banking Training Course
http://www.conservationfund.org/course/conservation_banking_training_course

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