

Southeast Alaska Mitigation Fund

In Lieu Fee Compensatory Mitigation Program



Regulatory overview

SAMF

- Brief Overview
- Goals
- How it works

SEAKFHP

Regulatory overview

Clean Water Act Section 404 Program

2008 Federal Rule- Compensatory Mitigation of Aquatic Resources

- Consolidates existing reg and establishes equivalent standards for all types of mitigation under the CWA (Bank, ILF, Permittee Responsible).
- Requires the use of improved science and results-oriented standards to increase the quality and effectiveness of wetland and stream restoration and conservation practices.
- Increases public participation and innovative market-based tools to guide compensatory mitigation decisions.

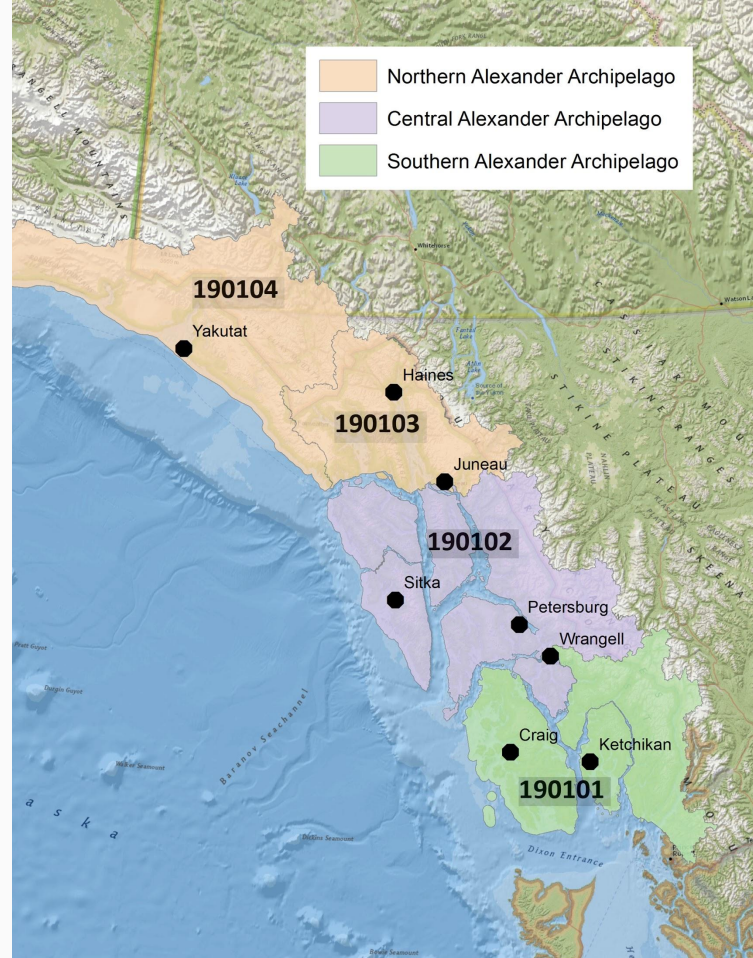
- It does NOT change when compensatory mitigation is required, but it does change where and how it is required.

Southeast Alaska Mitigation Fund

In Lieu Fee Mitigation Program

Mitigation Fund

- First ILF Fee Program to be approved after 2008
- First ILF program in Alaska to offer restoration, enhancement, creation
- New science-based decision making tools



SAMF Service Area Map- depicts the four 6 Digit HUC watershed in Southeast Alaska. The shaded regions represent the three service areas of the Southeast Alaska Mitigation Fund

Goal

To provide compensatory mitigation for permitted impacts regulated under Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 within Southeast Alaska.

“Maintain the physical, biological, chemical integrity of aquatic resources”.

SAMF Goals (nonregulatory)

Support Local Economy and Jobs

Restore impaired priority wetland and streams in and around our communities

Support a transparent and compliant regulatory program



Photo courtesy the Takshanuk Watershed Council

SAMF goals (nonregulatory)
cont.

Build the capacity of the CWA Section 404 program in Alaska

Outreach and Education

Trainings/workshops

Developing science based tools

Advance Alaska specific
standards, policies and guidances



Klukwan Alaska. Photo courtesy of the Chilkat Indian Village

How SAMF works externally-

SAMF, Permittees, Corps

- Permittee uses SAMF's debit method to determine debits at impact site to determine how many credits needed to offset impact.
- Permittee buys credits (advance) from SAMF and SAWC assumes liability.
- SAMF aggregates credit sales and generates enough funds to implement restoration site.
- Site performance criteria is met and longterm monitoring begins.

SAMF and Mitigation Fund Partners

- Project identification
- Project development
- Project implementation
- Long-term monitoring
- Long-term management
- Land ownership and site protection

Types of projects

- Stream bank stabilization
- Stream channel creation or reconfiguration
- Plant/enhance riparian vegetation
- Flood plain restoration/reconnection
- Wetland restoration, enhancement and creation
- Fish habitat restoration and/or enhancement (e.g. instream structures)
- Fish passage restoration and/or enhancement

Site Identification

To accomplish the first step --*identify top priority watersheds within the service area based on ecological assessments and other sources-*

SAMF Instrument

To accomplish the second step – identify potential mitigation sites that can be efficiently implemented to generate credits and improve watershed conditions within the guidelines of the Final Rule –

The SAMF Site Selection Decision-making Factors consist of the following six elements:

- 1. Potential to Meet the SAMF Goals*
- 2. Project Appropriateness within a Watershed Context*
- 3. Readiness/Feasibility*
- 4. Project Lead Capacity*
- 5. Cost Effectiveness*
- 6. Other Benefits*

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Move the conversation forward on policy, standards, guidances:

- Promote fish habitat
- Peer reviews on science based decision making tools

Assimilate and contribute research and resources to ensure impacts to sensitive fish habitats are paired with the best compensatory mitigation outcomes for southeast Alaska.

Final Thoughts

Thanks!

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