



# NFWF

# Sacramento District CA In-Lieu Fee Program

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## PROGRAM AREA



## ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

## BACKGROUND

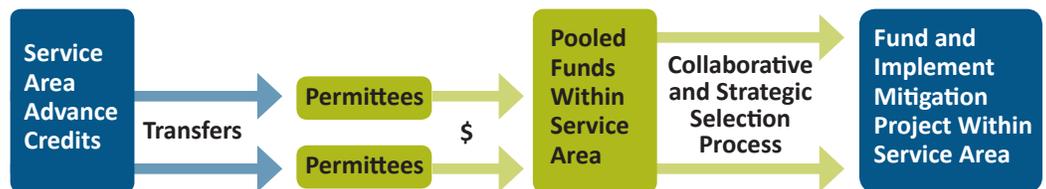
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) was established by Congress in 1984 as a private nonprofit corporation dedicated to supporting the conservation and management of the nation's natural resources. Since its establishment, NFWF has directed hundreds of millions of dollars from federal, state and local agencies, corporations, foundations and individuals to critical projects benefiting the nation's fish, wildlife, and natural resources. A key component of this work is NFWF's Impact-Directed Environmental Accounts (IDEA) program. IDEA receives, manages, and disburses funds designated for specified conservation, mitigation, or restoration purposes arising from judicial and regulatory proceedings.

IDEA developed the Sacramento District California In-Lieu Fee Program (ILF Program), which establishes a collaborative and strategic approach to wetlands mitigation. The ILF Program, approved by the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**, the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**, the **National Marine Fisheries Service**, the **State Water Resources Control Board**, the **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**, and the **Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**, offers permittees an in-lieu fee option to satisfy their compensatory mitigation obligations as determined by the applicable regulatory agencies for impacts to aquatic resources authorized under the Clean Water Act, the Rivers and Harbors Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, and other applicable laws.

The ILF Program provides: 1) Vernal Pool Credits for authorized impacts to vernal pool wetlands in 12 Vernal Pool Service Areas that are based on vernal pool recovery regions identified by the USFWS's Vernal Pool Recovery Plan; and 2) Aquatic Resource Credits for authorized impacts to wetlands (excluding vernal pools), other Waters of the U.S., Waters of the State, and certain species, in 17 Aquatic Resource Service Areas that are based on individual river systems.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org/ilf](http://www.nfwf.org/ilf)

## HOW DOES THE ILF PROGRAM OPERATE?



## PROGRAM PROCESS

- 1 Permittee submits permit application to regulatory agency
- 2 Regulatory agency determines mitigation requirement
- 3 Permittee verifies with regulatory agency use of ILF and number of credits
- 4 Permittee sends project information to NFWF
- 5 NFWF confirms project lies within Service Area
- 6 NFWF Determines Credit cost and contracts with permittee for Credits
- 7 NFWF provides executed Credit Transfer Agreement to regulatory agencies

**PROGRAM BENEFITS**

- Compliant with 2008 Compensatory Mitigation Rule
- Fully transfers permittee’s mitigation obligation
- Consolidates funds to implement larger, multibenefit mitigation projects
- Watershed approach to compensation planning
- Collaborative and strategic process for project selection



The Sacramento River | Credit: Westervelt Ecological Services

**CREDIT TYPES**

The Sacramento District CA In-Lieu Fee Program offers two types of Credits: 1) Vernal Pool Credits for authorized impacts to vernal pool wetlands; and 2) Aquatic Resource Credits for authorized impacts to wetlands (excluding vernal pools), other Waters of the United States, Waters of the State, and certain species.

**CREDIT PRICING**

Credit pricing is based on the type and volume of Credits purchased. The final price for any individual Credit sale will be fixed upon the mutual execution of a Credit Transfer Agreement.

**AQUATIC RESOURCE SERVICE AREAS**



**VERNAL POOL SERVICE AREAS**

