



**NORTH DAKOTA
Agricultural
Mitigation**

Ag Wetland Trade

North Dakota Agricultural Mitigation (NDAM), is the sponsor of the Ag-Wetland Trade, a USDA-NRCS approved and grant-funded wetland bank.

The goal of NDAM's Ag Wetland Trade is to work with North Dakota landowners to establish wetland banks on their properties by restoring, enhancing or creating wetlands to sell to agricultural producers who propose to impact wetlands under the Swampbuster provisions.



HOW IT WORKS

The Ag Wetland Trade will provide a platform for USDA program participants to purchase wetland mitigating credits to offset wetland losses from drainage or other field improvements. NDAM is on the search for willing landowners with potential to host wetland bank sites for mitigation credits. Bank sites need a Certified Wetland Determination through the NRCS form-1026 process. After identifying potentially suitable sites, Stantec and NDAM will coordinate bank development and determine an estimate of credit yield from the property as well as approximate establishment costs. In exchange for allowing the development of an easement-protected wetland bank on their property, the landowner will receive 80% of the revenue from the sale of the credits. NDAM will collect the remaining 20% credit revenue to cover bank site management, maintenance, and other associated program expenses.

WETLAND CREDIT TRADING

Credit sales will be conducted in cooperation between the sponsor (NDAM) and bank site hosts (landowners). The cooperative credit sale process will include setting a minimum price for the credits and accepting the proposed bid prices for the sale of credits.

ABOUT NDAM

North Dakota Agricultural Mitigation

NDAM is a newly established, not for profit organization comprised of regional agricultural groups including the North Dakota Corn Growers Association, North Dakota Farm Bureau, North Dakota Farmers Union, North Dakota Grain Growers Association, North Dakota Soybean Growers Association, and the U.S. Durum Growers Association.

NDAM's mission is to provide North Dakota agricultural producers with an efficient and cost-effective program for mitigating wetland conversions while providing incentives for landowners volunteering to restore, enhance, or create wetlands. NDAM is contracting with Stantec to provide engineering and technical services for the program.

About Stantec

Stantec is an environmental consulting and engineering firm providing technical assistance for the project. Stantec has local experienced wetland scientists, soil classifiers, engineers, and surveyors on staff that will facilitate the development and establishment of bank sites and work with landowners through every step of the process.

IN COOPERATION WITH:



PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the sponsor (NDAM) and landowner hosts for the wetland banking process are outlined below:

Sponsor (NDAM):

- Investigation of potential bank site and estimate of credit yield
- Preparation of bank site design
- Facilitation of NRCS approval of bank site plans
- Oversight of implementation of bank site plans (restoration construction and vegetation establishment)
- Retains authority and responsibility for all Ag Wetland Trade credit transactions.
- Credit marketing, sales, and credit ledger tracking
- Posting and maintaining operational life and long-term financial assurances
- Long-term management of mitigation bank
- Establishing and holding the conservation easement

Landowner Host:

- Allows NDAM and Stantec to access site to conduct investigations to prepare bank site plan
- Signs conservation easement and due diligence agreement, and complies with list of restricted uses identified in these documents
- Completes the restoration work according to NRCS approved bank site plan
- Agrees to complete the establishment within an agreed-upon timeline (6-9 months)
- Pays the costs associated with restoration construction and vegetation establishment (Provide documentation of these costs to NDAM)
- Determine wetland credit sale asking prices
- May use up to 25% of wetland credits for their own operation
- Maintenance work during the establishment period (likely 3-4 years)
- Retains ownership of land and is responsible for associated taxes



CONTACTS

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