

**Objectives and Test Questions for the Presentation by Matt Schweisberg on  
“An Ecological Framework for Reviewing Compensatory Mitigation – Biology (Mostly Plants)”**

**Objective #1** - This presentation will provide an overview of how biotic structure is affected/influenced by abiotic factors, primarily ecological processes. Participants will learn how a compensatory mitigation plan that addresses the key ecological processes is essential to ensuring the project meets its stated goals and objectives.

**Objective #2** - Participants will understand the role of appropriate ecological reference and data requirements to understand the trajectory of the development of targeted vegetative communities.

**Objective #3** - This presentation will cover specific information and resources recommended to support the project’s goals, objectives, monitoring program, and performance standards. This includes, but is not limited to, available data sources, hydrologic and biological connections, temporal considerations, changing conditions, and stressors that will drive the trajectory of development of vegetation contributing to the success of a mitigation project.

**Five test questions**

1. Which of the following are factors that will affect targeted plant communities/species? (check all that apply)
  - A. Watershed conditions
  - B. Landscape position
  - C. Hydrologic Regime and Connections
  - D. Air Quality
  - E. Soils

*Answer: A, B, C, and E*

2. What should you be identifying when reviewing a mitigation site and its ecological reference when designing your compensatory mitigation project? (check all that apply)
  - A. Vertical and horizontal structure
  - B. Dominant and non-dominant species
  - C. Natives and non-native invasive species
  - D. Patch types
  - E. Stressors

*Answer: All*

3. The following are on-line information sources that can be used when evaluating proposed vegetation plans (check all that apply):
  - A. National Wetland Plant List
  - B. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Plant Materials Program

- C. Local, experienced botanists
- D. Regional Invasive/Noxious Plant Lists
- E. Herbarium data, manuals and/or handbooks

*Answer: All*

4. Select the factors to be considered when designing a vegetation monitoring program (check all that apply):
- A. Predatory animal species
  - B. Invasive species management
  - C. Vegetative succession timing
  - D. Hydrologic regime
  - E. Survival rates
  - F. Cost
  - G. Climate Variability

*Answer: B - G*

5. What information should be included in Mitigation Plans to support the proposed goals and objectives of a mitigation project (check all that apply)?
- A. Biological Connections – adjacent land uses and sources of invasive species
  - B. Soil Conditions – compaction, salinity, organic matter, hydric soil rating,
  - C. Key hydrologic processes – diagrams supporting data, hydrologic impacts (e.g. drain tiles, discharges, physical barriers, etc.), frequency of flood events
  - D. Proximity to other aquatic resources
  - E. Stressors and other reasonably foreseeable land uses

*Answer: All*