

Impacts on wetlands and methods of mitigation

Forested wetlands



A forested wetland is a forest where the soil is flooded for at least a portion of the growing season. Trees and other vegetation have adapted to tolerate flooded conditions.

Shrub wetlands



Shrub wetland includes areas dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet tall. Vegetation includes shrubs, young trees, and trees and shrubs stunted because of environmental conditions.

Emergent wetlands



Emergent wetlands are dominated by herbaceous (non-woody) vegetation and range from meadows without surface water to marshes and shallow open waters that normally have surface water.

Impacts to wetlands

- Many wetlands will be temporarily impacted during construction, after which restoration will be undertaken along with monitoring to confirm recovery of the wetland.
- Some wetlands will be permanently filled to construct pumps and valves.
- Forested and shrub wetlands (woody plant dominated) within a narrow corridor of the pipeline right of way will be permanently converted to emergent wetland.

Mitigation methods

- Replacement credits are calculated at different amounts for temporary, permanent fill or permanent conversion type impacts.
- Unique, rare, or sensitive wetlands identified as “special wetlands” must be replaced at higher mitigation rates.
- Post construction monitoring along the corridor is required to ensure aquatic resources are restored or compensated from project impacts.