

# Just a Buzz Word? No Net Loss in a Changing Landscape

Land Use 2021

April 26, 2021

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America's Wetlands an Action Agenda (1988)

- Area & Function
- Future Loss & Restoration



An underwater photograph showing a school of fish swimming over a riverbed. The water is dark green, and there is a large area of bright red sediment or silt on the riverbed. The fish are silvery and appear to be in motion.

## A Policy Failure?

### Canada's NNL Policy for Fish

- 63% Net Loss (0.7:1)
- 25% Achieved NNL (1.1:1)
- 12% Net Gain 12% (4.8:1)
- Limited ability to replace function

Quigley and Harper (2006) Effectiveness of Fish Habitat Compensation in Canada in Achieving No Net Loss, Environmental Management 37:351-366

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# Implementation Challenges

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- Restoration failure
- Scientific Uncertainty
- Time lags
- Lack of follow up/poor implementation
- Non-compliance
- Lack of standardized accounting
- Mechanisms for securing offset benefits
- Contested Values



# Compared to What?

- Functional
- Historic

<https://www.ducks.ca/places/prairie-pothole-region/>

<https://www.oldscollege.ca/about/campus/botanic-gardens/constructed-wetlands/constructed-wetlands-image-gallery.html>

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# Baselines and Additionality

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- Counterfactual scenario
  - Historic versus BAU
- Timing
- Restoration versus Avoided Loss
- Site versus Landscape
- Crowding Out

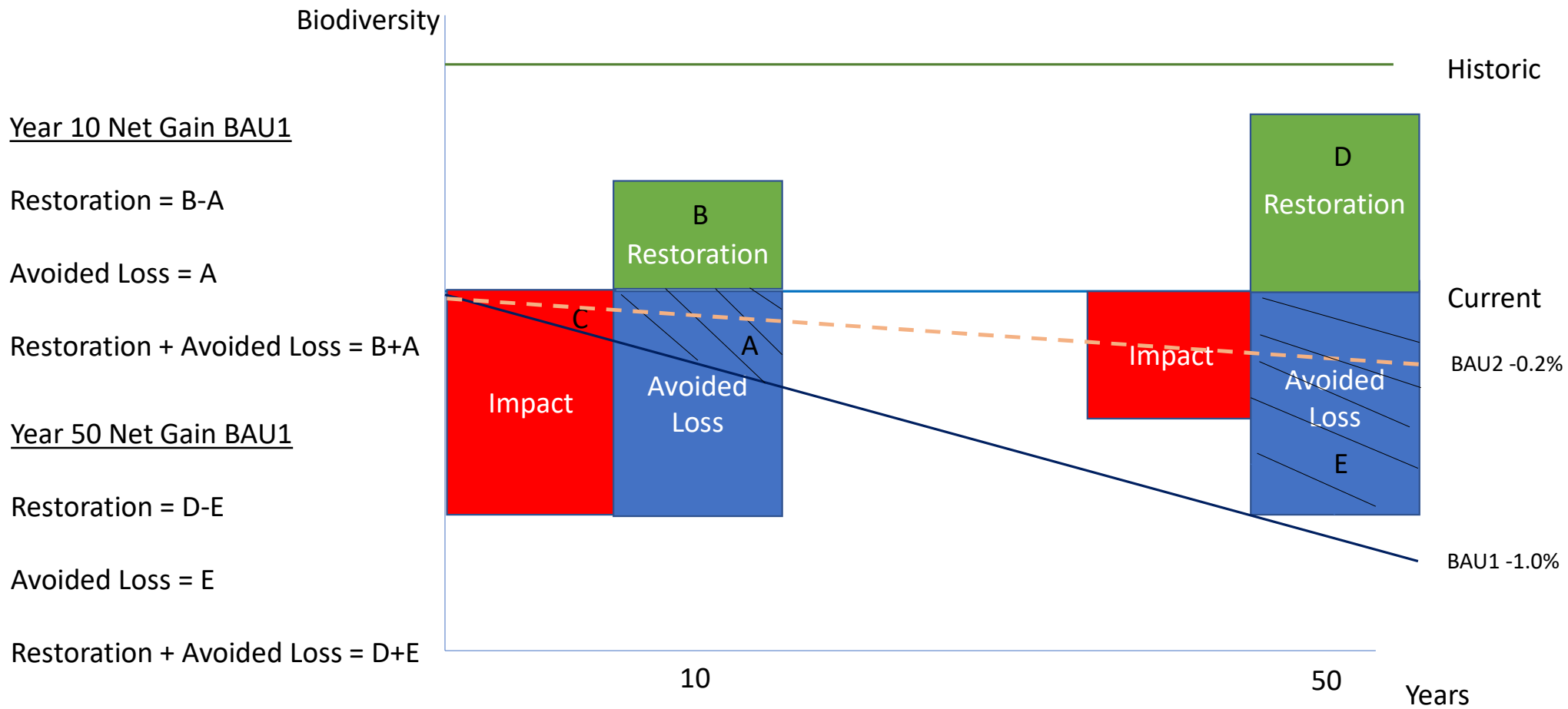
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## Behavioral Considerations & Additionality

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- Asymmetric Information
- Credit Stacking
- Permanence

# Additionality – The Accounting Problem







## No Net Loss

**We look at the present through a rear-view mirror. We march backwards into the future.** Marshall McLuhan

Ureta et al. (2020) Baseline Nature, EPE: Nature and Space, DOI: 10.1177/2514848619898092