RIBITS User Handbook

St. Paul District

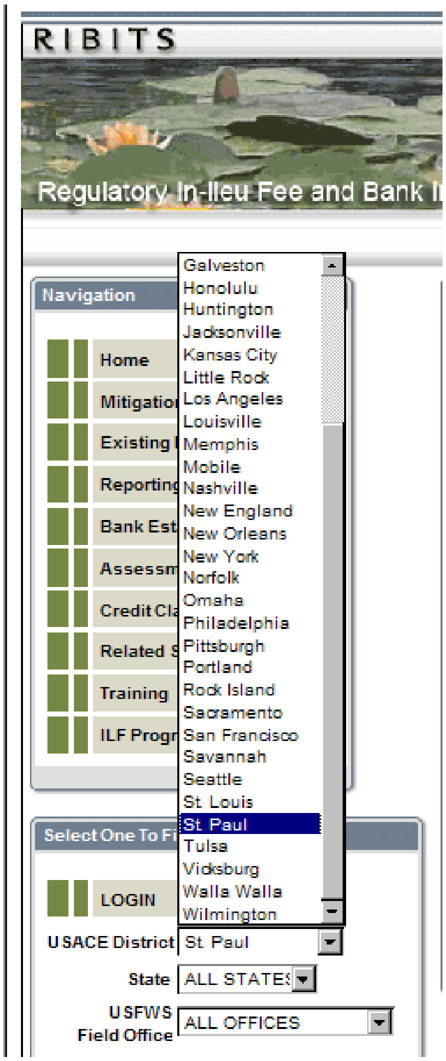
January 2011

RIBITS Background

Federal resource agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), started an initiative several years ago to better track mitigation banking. The product resulting from this initiative is the RIBITS (**R**egulatory **I**n-Lieu Fee and **B**ank **I**nformation **T**racking **S**ystem), which was developed by the Corps Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) and Applied Research Associates, Inc. (ARA). In accordance with a national initiative, most Districts have completed loading mitigation bank data into RIBITS which is intended to bring transparency to mitigation banking (as well as In-Lieu Fee programs in the future) by providing public access to the location of bank sites, bank service areas, available credits and bank points of contract.

Because RIBITS uses Google Earth to display bank locations, you will need to download Google Earth software before utilizing the full features of RIBITS.

RIBITS Instructions for Public Users



The newest version of RIBITS can be found at https://rsgis.crrel.usace.army.mil/ribits/f?p=107 (authorized ORM users can access it from the Applications box on the ORM home page).

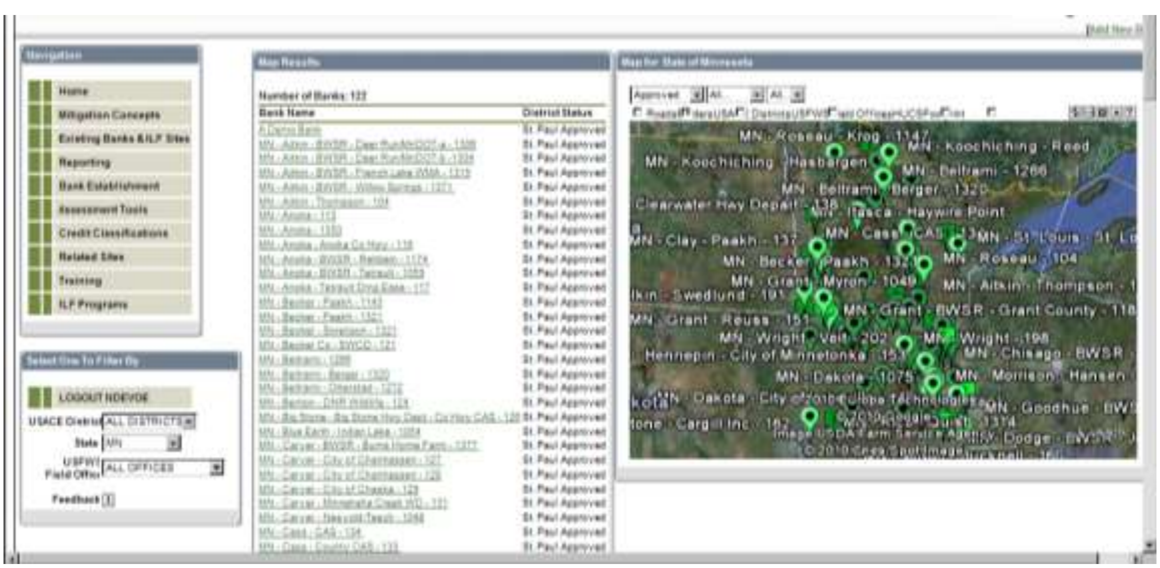
Do not attempt to enter a Username or Password; instead go to the box in the lower left corner of the page labeled “Select One to Filter By”.

Select the Corps District, State, or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Field Office you are interested in from the drop down lists. That will take you to that District, State, or USFWS Field Office’s RIBITS pages.

General navigation around the RIBITS site is accomplished by use of the buttons located within the Navigation box on the left side of the page. Each button provides information on a different aspect of mitigation and mitigation banking. Both National and District-specific guidance is available for each of these topics based on the District selected when entering the site. For example:

- "Mitigation Concepts" includes copies of the Mitigation Rule and a very helpful glossary of terms.
- "Existing Banks & ILF Sites" will provide a list of all publicly viewable mitigation bank and ILF projects within the area selected.
- The "Reporting" button allows the user to prepare and execute queries of the data in RIBITS.
- "Bank Establishment" identifies useful information related to the establishment of mitigation banks that is applicable across the United States and any District-specific guidance.
- "Assessment Tools" provides references to aid in understanding the assessment methodologies utilized in the selected District.
- "Credit Classifications" identify the types of wetland and stream credits available for the specified District.

If you select "Existing Banks & ILF Sites", the system will take a few moments to generate a list of Approved bank sites. If you have not already selected an area of interest as noted on page one, you will be provided with a list of ALL approved banks projects within the Corps. On this screen and on all screens associated with the bank projects which include a Google Earth map box, the system operates a bit slower due to the data pull from Google Earth.

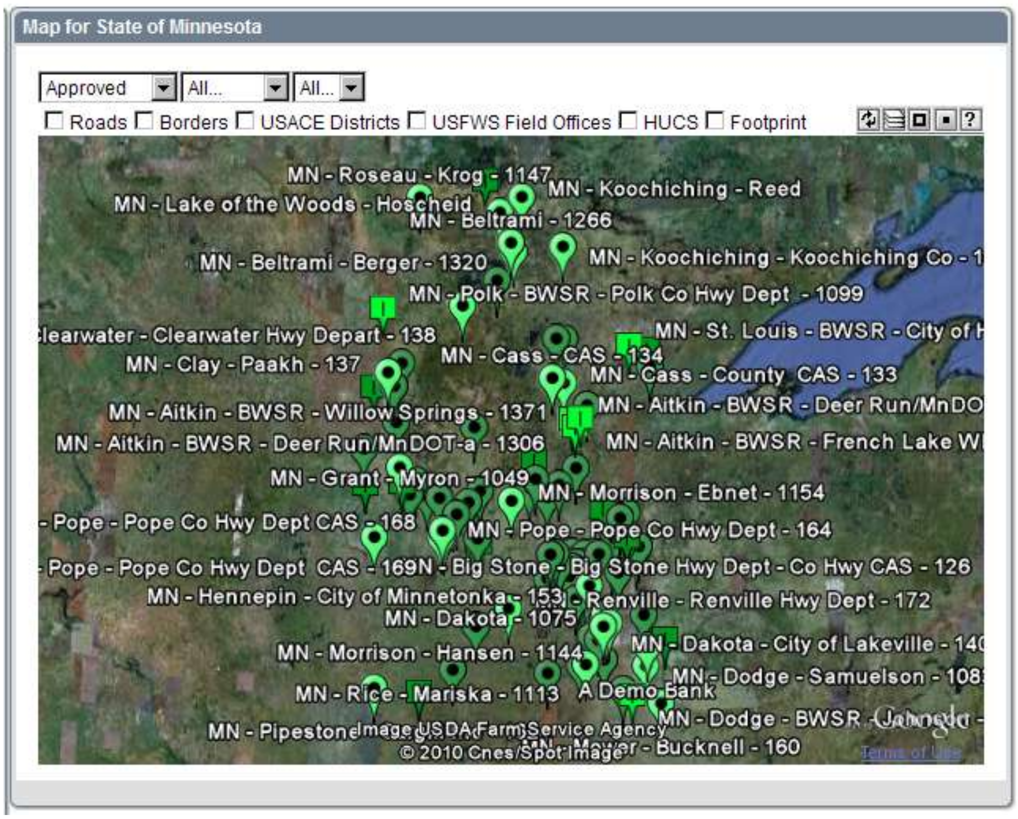


The Google Earth map box includes some features to allow you to filter the banks shown or to make some other features visible.

The filter boxes are dropdown menus. The first filter box (on the left) allows you to view banks based on status. These include “Approved, Suspended, Pending, Sold-Out and Terminated.” As a general user, you will only see banks which have been opened to public viewing and the color of the icon for each bank will identify the basic status of Approved (green), Pending (yellow) and Suspended, Sold-Out or Terminated (red).

The second filter box uses bank type to limit what is viewed. Currently the types are limited to “Wetland, Stream or Species.” In Minnesota, there are only “Wetland” types of banks.

The third filter box is tied to what is selected in the Second filter box. The dropdown will include whatever District specific elements have been created.



The Check-box items are self-explanatory as to what will be visible when they are checked. As is common with Google Earth, different components of the selected features will be visible at different elevations. The “footprint” of each bank, for example, will only become clear once you have ‘zoomed-in’ close enough to view that level of detail.

The small toolbar provides additional ways to manage the Google Earth map box and features. Clicking the “?” will provide the following information:

RIBITS
Regulatory In-lieu Fee and Bank Information Tracking System

Approved Pending Suspended/Sold-Out/Terminated
Maximum Map Size: Regular Map Size

Layers

Check/uncheck to show/hide the corresponding layers:

- **Roads:** Displays road map information for the viewing area, including major highways, county roads, and streets.
- **Borders:** Displays coastlines, states, and counties.
- **Districts:** Displays USACE districts.
- **Hucs:** Displays HUCs.
- **Footprints:** Displays Footprint of Banks.

***Note:** So that the map remains responsive, Districts and Hucs are not automatically updated when you pan and/or zoom the map. If either checkbox for Districts or Hucs is selected, you may press the **Refresh Layers** button to refresh the districts and hucs in the current view.

Keyboard Commands

- Ctrl-click on the map to identify the features under the clicked point.
- Ctrl-click on a district to select the district and display its banks.
- Click on a bank to see its credit ledger.
- Ctrl-click on a bank to toggle the display of its service area.
- Alt-click on the map to return only those banks in the selected district whose service areas overlap the clicked point.

***Note:** Press the **Refresh Banks** button to display all banks for the selected district. Useful to redisplay banks after performing a service area query with the Alt-click command.

Some additional notes on the click commands provided above:

Control - Click on the map to find out details for that point, including the lat/long of the point, the county, and watershed in which the point is located. In order to get the lat/long of a bank, you must click on the bottom of the bank's icon

Click on the icon of a bank and you will get an overview of the bank's credit balance including available credits and the date of the most recent credit transaction..

Control - Click on a bank will provide the Service Area for that bank, but ONLY if one has been loaded

Alt - Click on a point on the map to get a list of the banks whose service area over laps the clicked point. This feature relies on having all bank service areas uploaded into RIBITS.

Clicking on one of the listed banks takes the user to a summary page for that bank. The summary page will include several information boxes containing general information on the bank project, contact information for the bank, the Google Earth interface, and a summary of the credit ledger.

Map Results

Number of Banks: 122

Bank Name	District	Status
A Demo Bank	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Aitkin - BWSR - Deer Run/MnDOT-a - 1306	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Aitkin - BWSR - Deer Run/MnDOT-b -1304	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Aitkin - BWSR - French Lake WMA - 1315	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Aitkin - BWSR - Willow Springs - 1371	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Aitkin - Thompson - 104	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Anoka - 113	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Anoka - 1350	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Anoka - Anoka Co Hwy - 116	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Anoka - BWSR - Rehbein - 1174	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Anoka - BWSR - Tetrault - 1059	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Anoka - Tetrault Drng Ease - 117	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Becker - Paakh - 1143	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Becker - Paakh - 1321	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Becker - Sorenson - 1321	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Becker Co - SWCD - 121	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Beltrami - 1266	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Beltrami - Berger - 1320	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Beltrami - Otterstad - 1272	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Benton - DNR Wildlife - 124	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Big Stone - Big Stone Hwy Dept - Co Hwy CAS - 126	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Blue Earth - Indian Lake - 1054	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Carver - BWSR - Burns Home Farm - 1377	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Carver - City of Chanhassen - 127	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Carver - City of Chanhassen - 128	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Carver - City of Chaska - 129	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Carver - Minnehaha Creek WD - 131	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Carver - Nesvold-Tesch - 1048	St. Paul	Approved
MN - Cass - CAS - 134	St. Paul	Approved

By clicking on one of the action buttons, such as "View Ledger" or "Cyber Repository" located in the upper right portion of the screen, under the "frog", the user can access data specific to that bank.

Once you have clicked on one of these actions, you will be taken to another screen which will have additional action/s buttons available. These will be listed in the same manner as the ones shown above. 'Bank Info" will be a selection on each screen and it will return you to the main bank screen.

View Ledger will take you to the ledger for that specific bank. Here you can see each individual entry in the ledger as well as an overview of transaction usage. Additionally, you can query the ledger using several different filters or text. To see if credits were purchased to satisfy a specific permit, you would type the permit number in the box labeled “Permit No.” To make sure you get the best return, only enter the sequential portion of the permit number and press the “Enter” key on your keyboard. For example, to see if credits have been purchased for SAJ-2005-08502, you just need to enter 8502 in the “Permit No” text box and press the “Enter” key.

Ledger data can be exported by clicking “Export to Excel” in the lower left corner of the ledger.

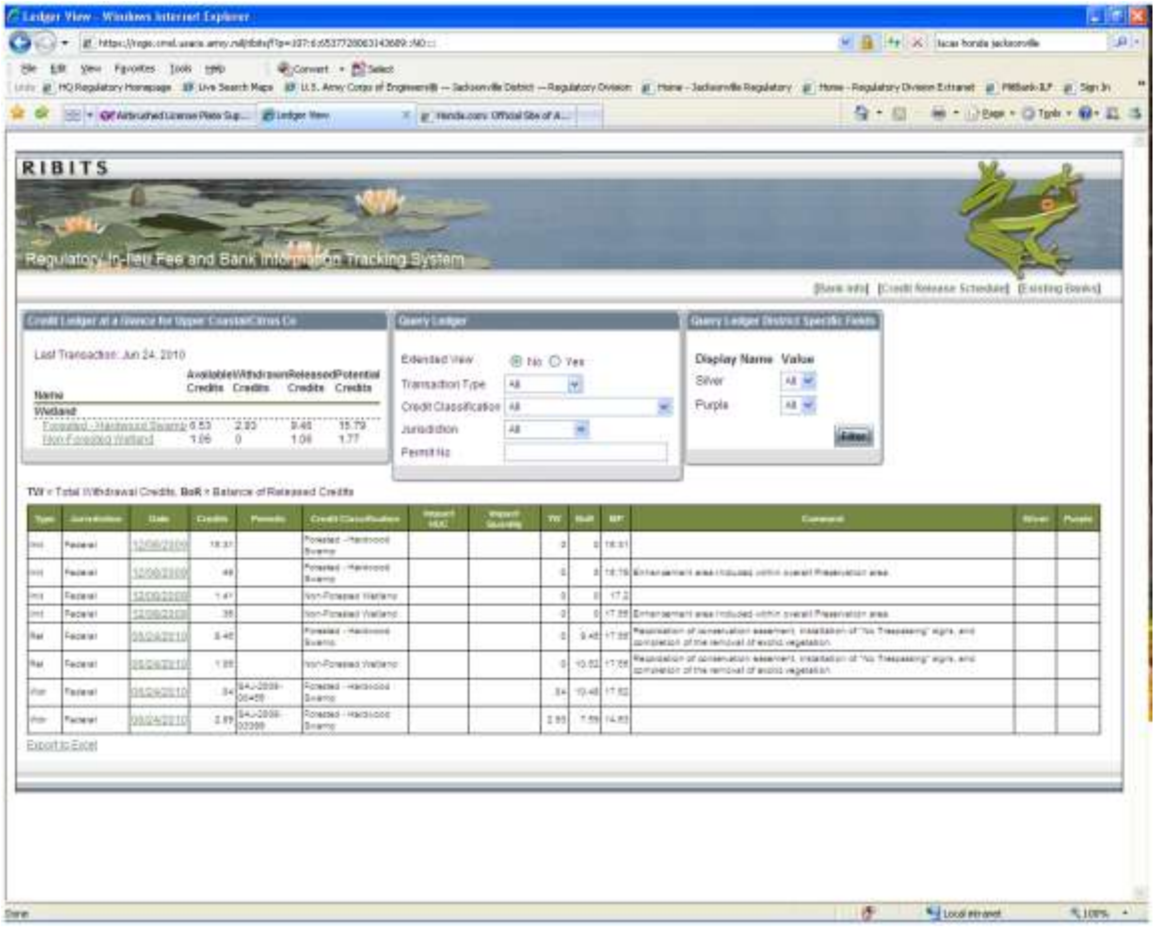
Bank Contact Sheet will take you to a screen where you can view information concerning who is part of the IRT and who is the bank manager for the Corps for that bank site.

Annual Inspections will provide a list of any annual inspections which have taken place.

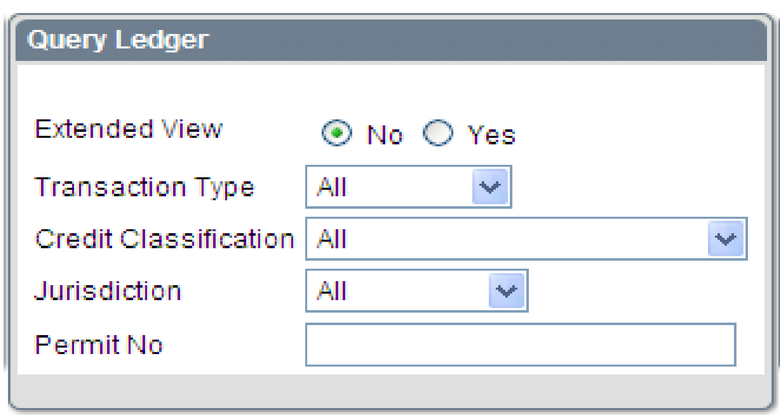
Cyber Repository will take you to a screen where different documents pertaining to that bank/ILF project are stored and can be downloaded.

Photo Gallery – self explanatory.

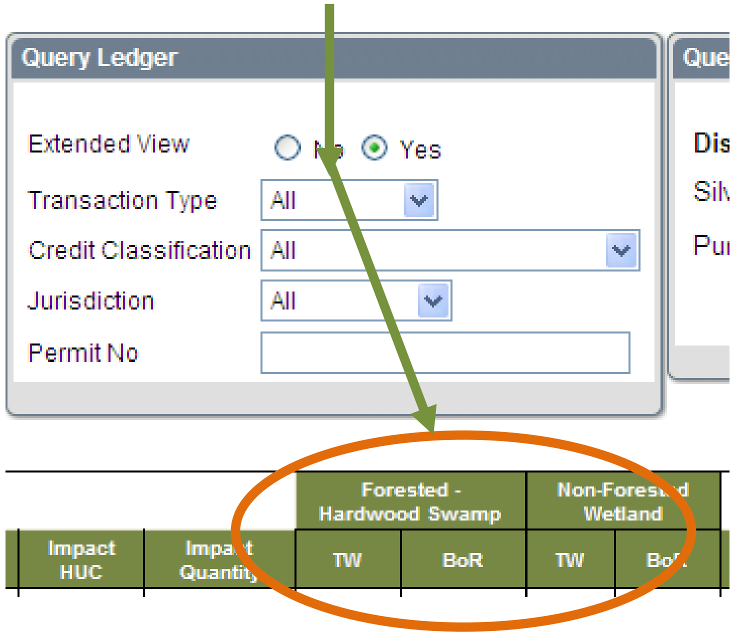
This is the screen you will see when you click **View Ledger**. From here you can view/query the ledger using several different filters or text and export the results to an Excel spreadsheet. The "Export to Excel" button will be located in the lower left corner of the ledger.



Using the options within the "Query Ledger" box, you can search using a variety of different filters which can be used individually or in combination.



Extended View – If you select "Yes" for this option, the ledger view will change to include ledger columns for each specific credit type which has been assigned to that particular bank.



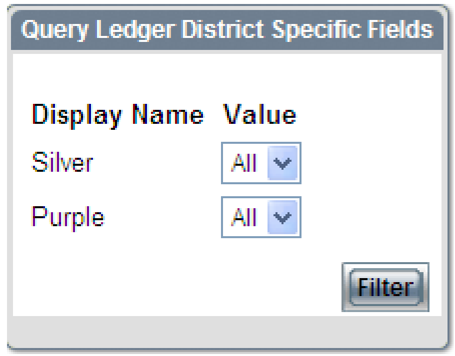
Transaction Type – This is a drop-down selection box. The available selection options include "All, Initiation, Release, Withdrawal, Pending." Once you select an option, the ledger view will be updated to show only those Transaction Types.

Credit Classification - This is a drop-down selection box. The available selection options will be limited to "All" and any specific credit types which have been assigned to that particular bank. Once you select an option, the ledger view will be updated to show only transactions with that specific Credit Classification type.

Jurisdiction - This is a drop-down selection box. The available selection options will include "All, Non Federal, Federal." Once you select an option, the ledger view will be updated to show only transactions which match the selected Jurisdiction type.

Permit No – (For this filter to work, you MUST use the "Enter" key on your keyboard as noted below.) Using this text box, you can search the ledger to see if credits were purchased to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements of a specific permit. In order to use this feature, you would type the permit number in the box labeled "Permit No." To make sure you get the best return, only enter the sequential portion of the permit number and press the "Enter" key on your keyboard. For example, to see if credits have been purchased for SAJ-2005-08502, you just need to enter 8502 in the "Permit No" text box and press the "Enter" key.

Some Districts may add some district specific columns to the ledger. These columns will have a variety of uses, dependent upon the needs of the district. These columns may also be filtered in the same manner as the standard columns of the ledger using the filters within the "Query Ledger District Specific Fields" box. The image below is from the Jacksonville District ledger entries.



The names of the columns and the values within the drop down will vary from district to district. Once you have selected one or more filter options, click the "Filter" button to obtain the results.