

# Wetland Mitigation Study

**A multi-year project to evaluate and improve wetland compensatory mitigation in Washington**

**Phase 1: Evaluating Compliance**

**Phase 2: Evaluating Success**

**Phase 3: Implementing Compliance Tracking**

# Wetland Mitigation Study

## Phase 1: Compliance *45 projects*

- Implemented ..... 93%
- Implemented to plan..... 55%
- Attained the assessed performance standards..... 35%
- *In full compliance with all three of the above..... 29%*

# Wetland Mitigation Study

## Phase 2 : Success

*24 projects*

- Total acreage of impacts **58.79 acres**
- Range of impacts:
  - 12 projects < 1 acre
  - 10 projects 1-2 acres
  - 2 projects > 10 acres

# Wetland Mitigation Study

## Phase 2

Mitigation acreage:	Required	Attained
Creation/restoration	42.96	38.21
Enhancement	87.94	71.65
Preservation	77.5	NA

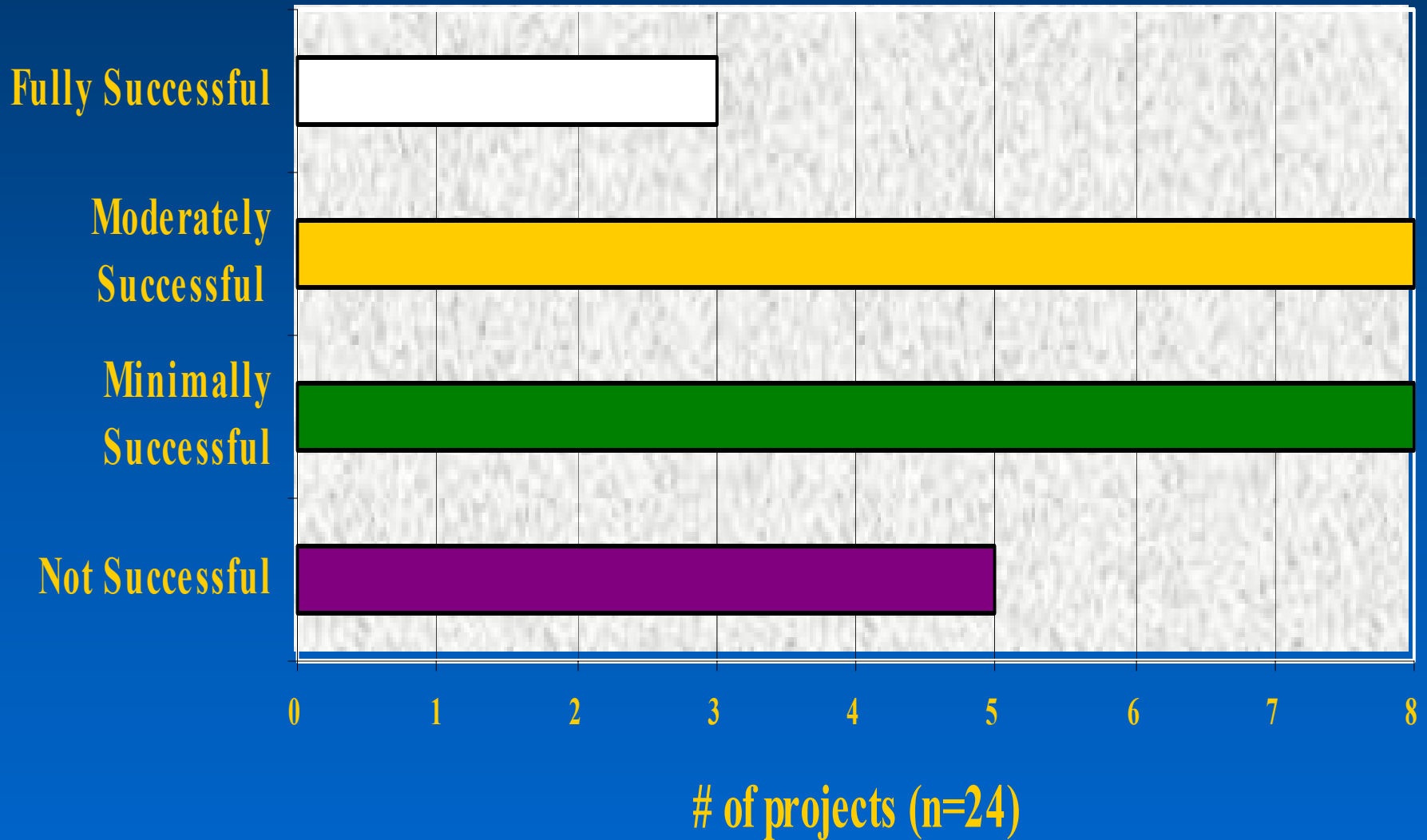
**Net Loss of area >>>  $58.79 - 38.21 = 20.58$**

# Factors Used in Determining the Level of Success

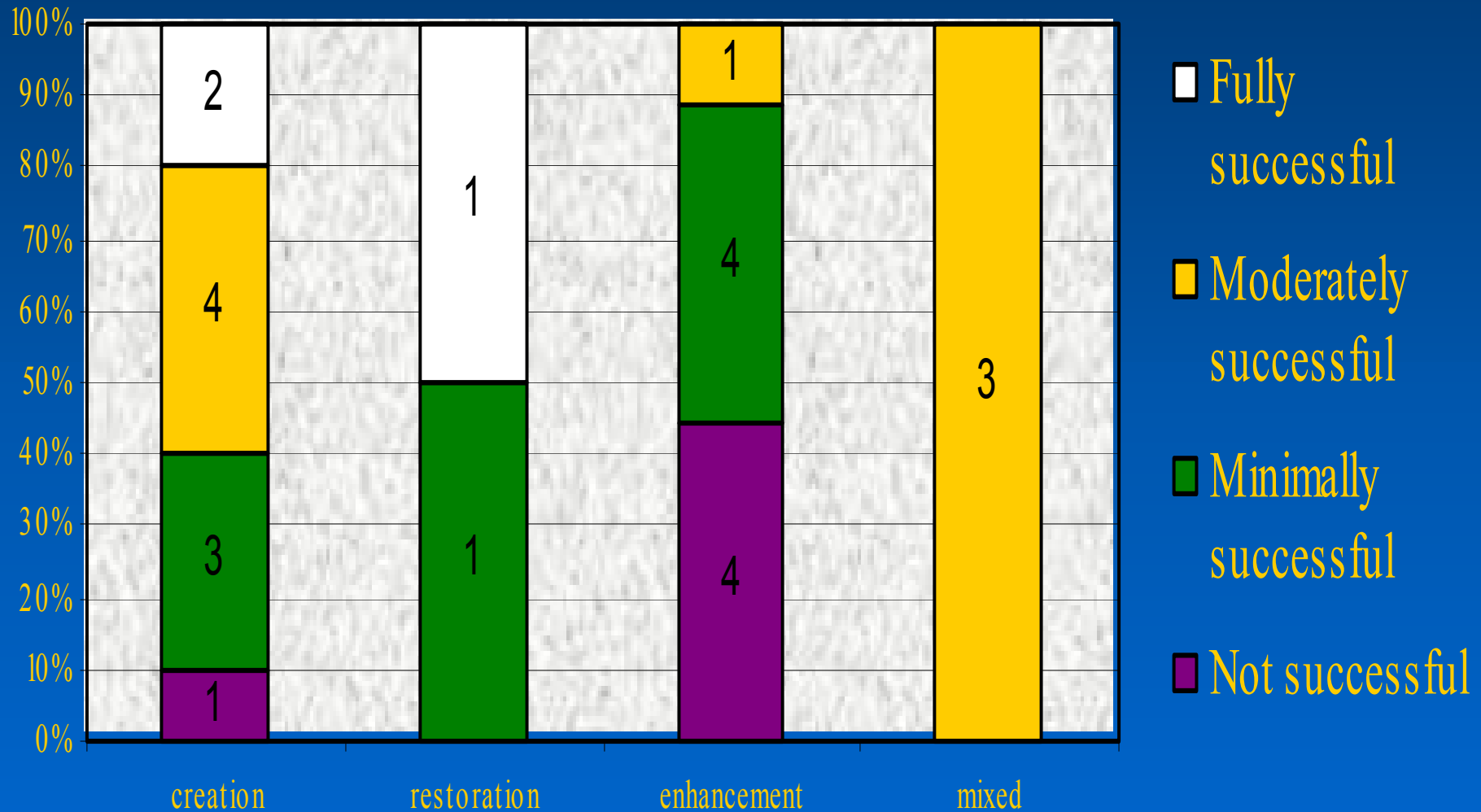
- ◆ **Achievement of ecologically relevant measures**
- ◆ **Adequate compensation for the impacts**



# Distribution of Projects by Level of Success



# Level of Success by Mitigation Activity



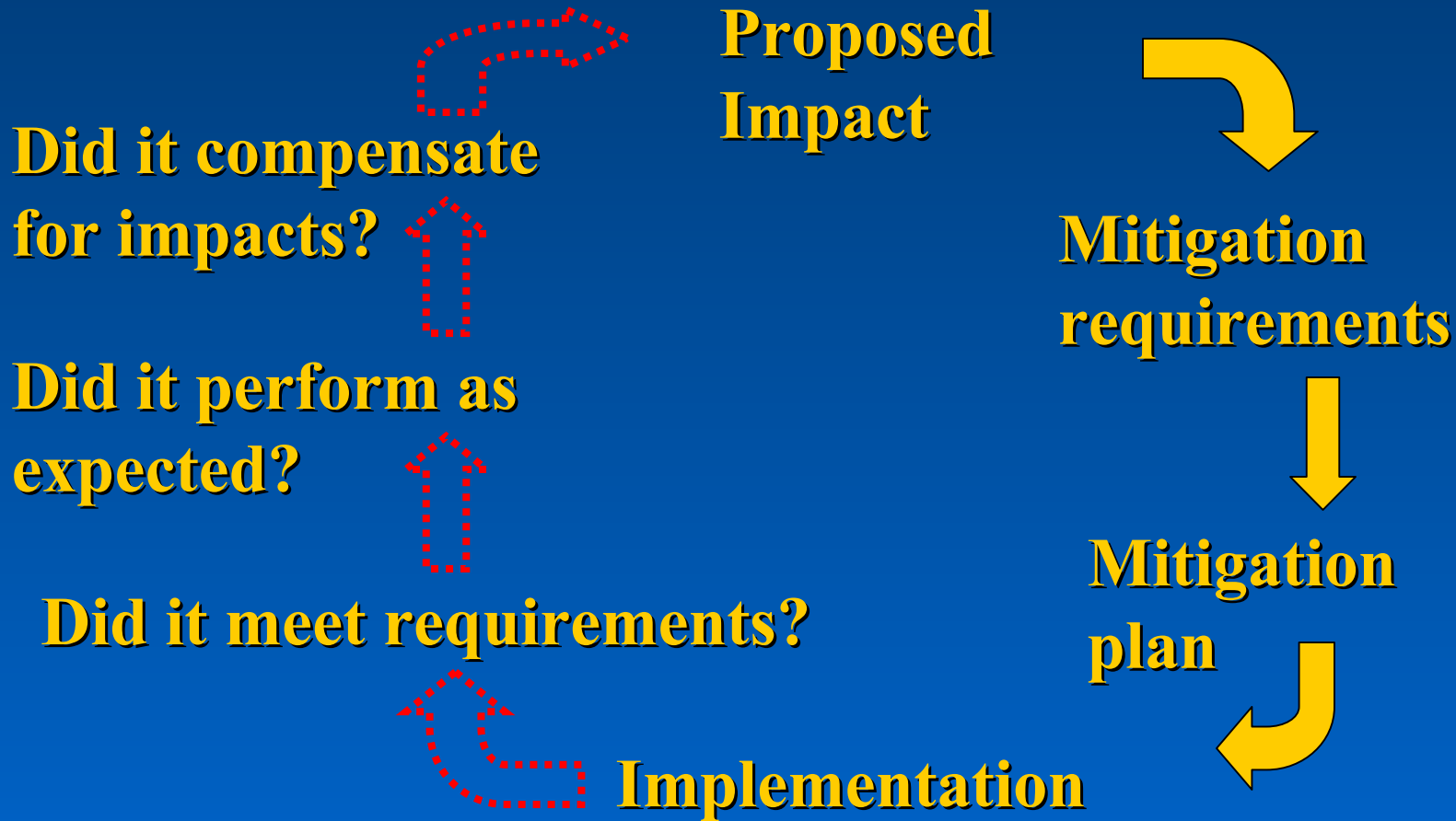
# Other Phase 2 Results

- **Projects that had agency follow-up were more successful than those that didn't**
- **Net gain of OW/AB + 16.2 acres**
- **Net gain of FO/SS + 12.3 acres**
- **Net loss of EM - 51.8 acres**



# Phase 2 Recommendations

*Need to close the mitigation feedback loop...*



## Phase 3:

**Develop and implement a project tracking and compliance system**

- **New and improved database**
- **Methods and field forms for compliance visits**
- **38 Site evaluations with wetland staff**

## Next Steps:

- **Develop and release interagency mitigation guidance**
- **Training for permit review staff**
- **Training for consultants**
- **Training for local governments**