



# Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award

The Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award celebrates Service employees or offices that use partnership-based approaches to promote ecosystem sustainability while meeting the increasing transportation needs of the nation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service encourages nominations from any person, including any of our many partners within the transportation planning community such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a state or local transportation agency, a Federal or state natural resource agency, or non-governmental organization. Nominations from within the Service are also encouraged to promote peer to peer information exchanges that identify innovative approaches to protecting multiple natural resources

As highlighted in “Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach for Developing Infrastructure Projects,” nominations should integrate development projects and ecosystem conservation to achieve economic, environmental, and social objectives. The Service encourages nominations that reflect efforts to advance the following national incentives:

- Executive Order 13604 – Improving Performance of Federal Permitting and Review of Infrastructure Projects (<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/DCPD-201200202/pdf/DCPD-201200202.pdf>).
- Fish and Wildlife Service’s Strategic Habitat Conservation Initiative (<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/shc.html>).
- Executive Order 13186 – Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds (<http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/eos/eo13186.html>).

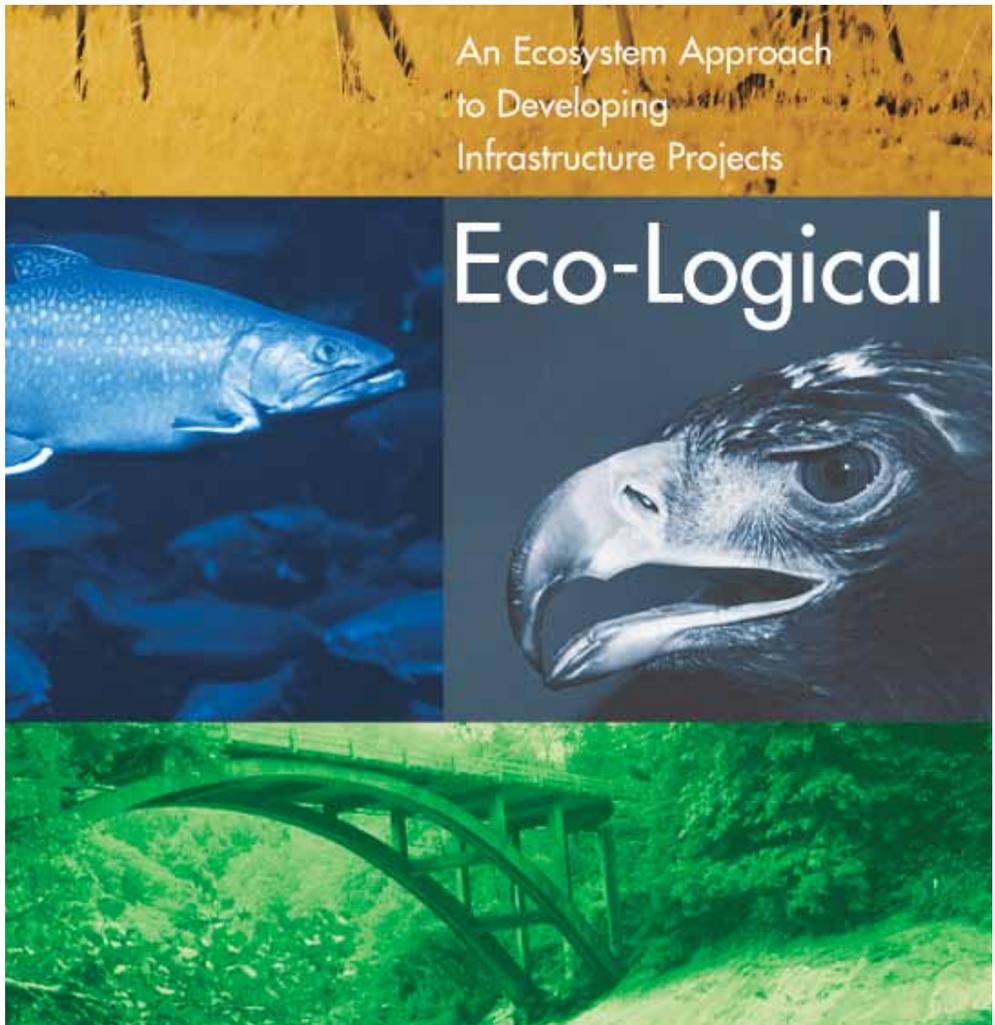


Photo by Federal Highway Administration

- Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Interagency Policy to Incorporate Ecosystem Considerations in Endangered Species Act Actions (<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/laws-policies/policy-ecosystem.html>).

## Selection Criteria

The criteria for evaluating nominations will include consideration of one or

An Ecosystem Approach  
to Developing  
Infrastructure Projects

Eco-Logical

more of three essential elements for environmental stewardship and streamlining of transportation project planning:

### 1. Strategic Environmental Stewardship

- Common vision and commitment to stewardship.
- Identify species and habitats of significant value.

- Address the values and concerns of agencies and local stakeholders.
- Promote partnerships for environmental stewardship.
- Integrate long-range transportation and landscape conservation planning.
- Highlights opportunities to protect multiple resources and critical ecosystem services.

## 2. Streamlining (Cross-Program/ Agency Planning and Coordination)

- Include a broad range of stakeholders and address multiple project proponents.
- Address a broad range of environmental concerns or significant resource issue.
- Early engagement in the regional or state-wide transportation planning process.
- Coordinate/synchronize environmental reviews (NEPA, ESA section 7, CWA section 404, section 4(f), MBTA, and BGEPA)

to reduce duplication of efforts and facilitate an ecological approach.

## 3. Accountability/Adaptive Management

- Include review and adaptive management to address unforeseen future circumstances.
- Define metrics to evaluate successful implementation and adaptive management.
- Metrics developed cooperatively with partners and knowledgeable resource experts.
- Metrics easy to monitor over time to track the environmental status overtime.

### How is the Winner Selected?

A panel of judges will evaluate the nominations and make a recommendation to the Service. The judges will represent the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Federal Resource agencies, and a local government transportation planning representative.

The Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, in consultation with the Assistant Director - Endangered Species will make the final decision.

### How do I apply?

Applications may be completed and mailed electronically, or a hard copy application may be requested and sent through standard mail. Online applications are available at the Service's website [http://www.fws.gov/transportationplanning/pdfs/trans\\_application\\_2013.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/transportationplanning/pdfs/trans_application_2013.pdf) and should be submitted via email to Catherine Liller@fws.gov. A hard copy application may be requested from and returned to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn. Catherine Liller, 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Colorado 80228.

### How is the winner recognized?

The award winner will be notified and invited to an award ceremony with their Federal, State, and local partners. The name of the award winner is also inscribed on a permanent plaque located in the Service's Washington Office.