

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award
Evaluation Considerations**

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

The 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.

Selection Criteria

The criteria for evaluating nominations will include consideration of one or 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.