

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award
Fact Sheet**

The Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award celebrates Service employees or offices that utilize partnership-based approaches toward enhancing long-term ecological protections while meeting the increasing transportation needs of the nation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service encourages nominations from anyone including any of our many partners within the transportation planning community such as Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a state Department of Transportation or natural resource agency, regional government or non-governmental organization.

Nominations from within the Fish and Wildlife Service are also encouraged to promote peer to peer information exchanges that result in innovative approaches that protect multiple natural resources. Coordinating the protection of multiple resources serves the transportation planning community by providing conservation guidance earlier in the process increasing the likelihood of successful implementation while decreasing the overall cost of environmental protection.

The criteria for evaluating the nominations may include consideration of the following elements of environmental stewardship and streamlining of transportation project planning. Nominations should highlight efforts to advance the following national initiatives:

- ◆ [Executive Order on Cooperative Conservation](#)
- ◆ [Executive Order on Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Environmental Review Streamlining](#)
- ◆ Federal Highway Administration's [Focus on Congestion Relief](#).
- ◆ Fish and Wildlife Service's March 10, 2006, "[Shaping Our Future](#)" report.

What are the selection criteria?

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1. Environmental Review 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.
- ◆ Early engagement in the regional or state-wide transportation planning process.

- ◆ Coordinate compliance with multiple laws to reduce duplication of effort and facilitate an ecologically appropriate approach
- ◆ Adaptive management to address unforeseen future circumstances.

2. **Strategic Environmental Stewardship** (Development of a Regional Ecosystem Framework)

- ◆ Common vision for stewardship.
- ◆ Identify the status and trends of significant resource values.
- ◆ Address the values and concerns of local stakeholders and agencies.
- ◆ Promote partnerships toward implementation of the environmental stewardship framework.
- ◆ Facilitate long-range transportation and land-use planning.
- ◆ Highlights opportunities to protect multiple resources and critical ecosystem services.

3. **Accountability/Adaptive Management** (Development of a regional monitoring plan or components to support adaptive management to facilitate success and maintain management flexibility)

- ◆ Common set of metrics to evaluate successful implementation and adaptive management.
- ◆ Measures express status and trends of specific resource values of concern
(Endangered species, unique ecosystem types such as wetlands).
- ◆ Metrics express ecological hierarchies that facilitate multi-scale spatial and temporal analysis and link:
 1. Coarse filter analysis facilitates indirect and cumulative effects at landscape level.
 2. Fine filter analysis to address resource concerns at the site-specific level.
- ◆ Metrics developed cooperatively with partners and knowledgeable resource experts.
- ◆ Metrics easy to monitor over time to track the environmental status overtime.
- ◆ Facilitate effects analysis of transportation projects and related indirect and cumulative effects.

How is the Winner Selected?

A panel of judges will conduct an independent evaluation of the entries and will make a recommendation to the Service. The judges will represent the Federal Highway Administration, a State or local transportation agency, and a nationally recognized environmental or transportation non-governmental organization. The Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation and 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 application may be obtained through the Service's website (http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/TRANS_APPLICATION.pdf). Once an electronic application is completed it may be emailed to Joseph.Burns@fws.gov. A hard copy application may be requested from and returned to the Assistant Director- Fisheries and Habitat Conservation (Attention: Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation) 4401 N. Fairfax Drive Suite 400 Arlington, VA 22203-1610.

How is the winner recognized?

The award winner will be notified by the Director and will be invited to and recognized at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. on or near Earth Day, April 22, every odd-numbered years (2003, 2005, 2007, etc). The name of the award winner is also inscribed on a permanent plaque located in the Service's Washington Office.