

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

The criteria for evaluating the nominations will include consideration of the following elements of environmental stewardship and streamlining of transportation project planning. Stewardship efforts that reached cooperatively out to local governments and constituencies will be used to highlight examples of implementation of an Executive Order on Cooperative Conservation.

**1. Cooperative Partnership in Integrated Planning.**

- ◆ What extent did the effort include a broad range of stakeholders?
- ◆ What extent did the effort address a broad range of environmental concerns?
- ◆ Did the effort begin early in the transportation planning process?
- ◆ Did the effort coordinate compliance with multiple laws to reduce duplication of effort and facilitate an ecologically appropriate approach?
- ◆ Does the effort facilitate adaptive management to address unforeseen future circumstances?

**2. Regional Environmental Stewardship Framework.**

- ◆ Did the effort promote a common vision for stewardship?
- ◆ Did the framework identify the status and trends of significant resource values?
- ◆ Did the framework address the values and concerns of local stakeholders and agencies?
- ◆ Does the framework promote partnerships toward implementation of the environmental stewardship framework?
- ◆ Does the framework facilitate long-range transportation planning?

**3. Ecosystem Performance Measures.**

- ◆ Did the effort provide a common set of measures or metric to evaluate implementation of the stewardship framework?
- ◆ Did the measures express status and trends of specific resource values of concern (such as endangered species, unique ecosystem types, and wetlands)?
- ◆ Do the measures reflect ecological hierarchies that facilitate multi-scale spatial and temporal analysis and link:
  1. Coarse filter analysis facilitates indirect and cumulative effects at landscape level, and
  2. Fine filter analysis to address resource concerns at the site-specific level?
- ◆ Were the measures developed cooperatively with partners and knowledgeable resource experts?
- ◆ Are the measures easy to monitor over time to track the environmental status over time?
- ◆ Do the measures facilitate evaluating effects of transportation projects as well as all other actions so as to facilitate indirect and cumulative effects analysis?