



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

East Lansing Field Office (ES)  
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East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

## Request for Proposals

### **Enhancement of Turtle Recruitment in the Kalamazoo River**

#### **Natural Resource Restoration for Enbridge Line 6B Oil Discharges**

The Trustees for natural resources that were injured by the 2010 discharges of oil from Enbridge Energy's Line 6B near Marshall, Michigan, are requesting proposals related to the enhancement of turtle populations in the Kalamazoo River. During spill response approximately 3,800 oiled turtles were rehabilitated and released. The primary species impacted were common map turtles (77%), snapping turtles (11%), painted turtles (6%), and eastern spiny softshell turtles (3%).

**PROPOSAL DUE DATE: JANUARY 13, 2017**

#### **BACKGROUND**

On July 25, 2010, Lakehead Line 6B, a 30-inch diameter pipeline owned and operated by Enbridge, ruptured near Marshall, Michigan, and began discharging crude oil into a wetland adjacent to Talmadge Creek. The oil flowed through Talmadge Creek into the Kalamazoo River, a Lake Michigan tributary. The Kalamazoo River was in floodstage at the time of the discharge, and the oil flowed down the river and into its floodplain for approximately 38 miles, to Morrow Lake. The Kalamazoo River is bordered by wetlands, floodplain forest, residential properties, farm lands and commercial properties between Marshall and the Morrow Lake dam. Aquatic and floodplain habitats were oiled as were birds, mammals, turtles and other wildlife. The river was closed to the public for the remainder of 2010 and all of 2011, reopened by sections during 2012. Some sections were closed again in 2013 and 2014 for additional dredging of submerged oil.

The Trustees acting on behalf of the public for the restoration of natural resources that were exposed or injured by the discharges of oil from Enbridge Line 6B are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of the Pottawatomi Indians, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and Michigan Department of the Attorney General.

The Trustees have completed the *Final Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan / Environmental Assessment for the July 25-26, 2010 Enbridge Line 6B Oil Discharges near Marshall, MI* (DARP/EA) in October, 2015. Resources affected, including turtles, and restoration projects are described in the DARP/EA which is publicly available at the Service's Natural Resource Damage Assessment website:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/MichiganEnbridge>. Among projects selected by the Trustees is a project to improve and monitor turtle reproduction in the impacted section of the Kalamazoo River. The project will involve capturing of females, radio-tracking to determine nest areas, and subsequent protection of nest areas (DARP/EA, p. 20).

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

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This project will focus on enhancing recruitment of turtles in the Kalamazoo River. This may include, among other techniques, the capture of female turtles, using radio telemetry to track them to locate nests, enclosing the nest to exclude predators, and returning to the nest to determine hatching success and release hatchlings. Other methods to achieve the objectives listed below are also welcomed if they are more efficient or are expected to provide better results. Because all turtles that were rehabilitated and released as part of spill response were marked with internal tags or shell notched, researchers will be able to determine if turtles that they capture and track were rehabilitated in response to the Enbridge spill. Capture and release records for rehabilitated turtles will be made available to project participants.

Ideally, the project will be able to combine the data to be collected with data from the previous rehabilitation efforts to address additional questions related to population structure, growth patterns, survivorship, recruitment following environmental oil exposure, and others.

## **GOAL & OBJECTIVES**

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The primary goal of the project will be to enhance recruitment of turtle species injured as a consequence of the 2010 discharge of oil by Enbridge into the Kalamazoo River thereby recovering injured or lost resources.

### Objectives:

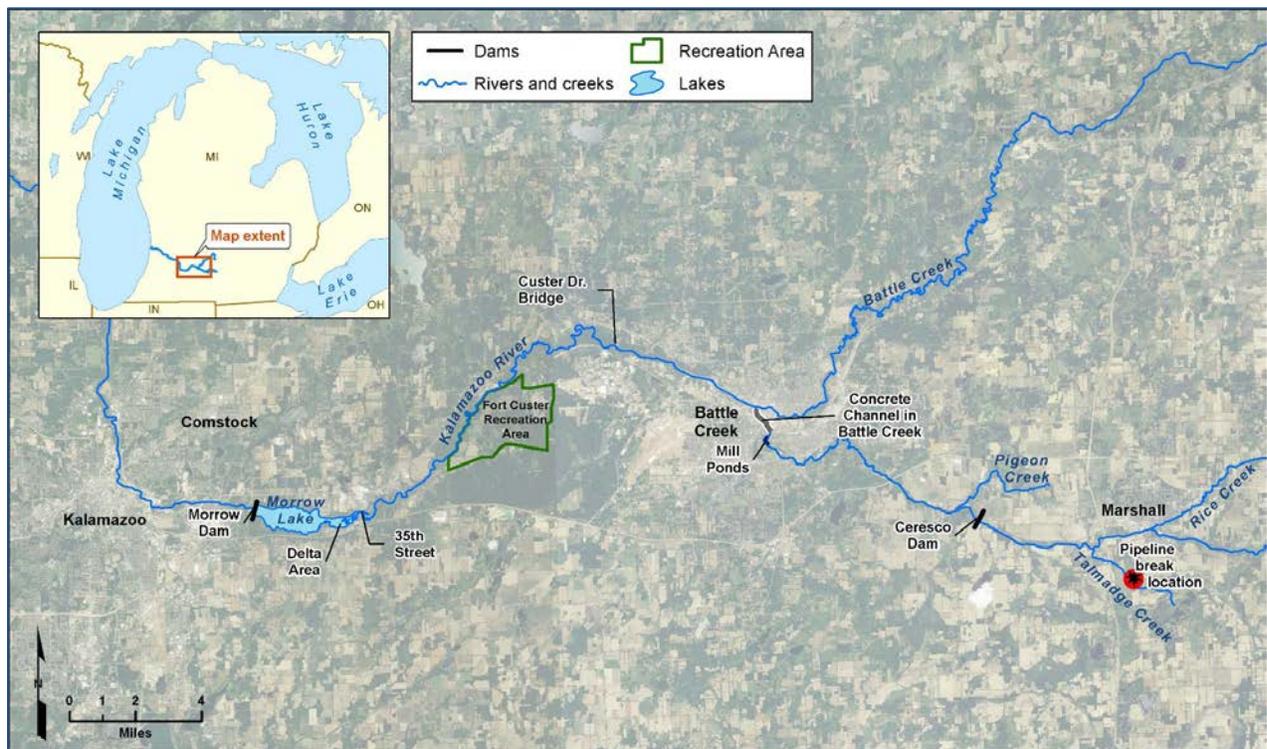
1. Locate and protect nests of turtle species exposed to oil during the 2010 Enbridge Kalamazoo River Spill
2. Determine nest / hatching success of turtle species exposed to oil during the 2010 Enbridge Kalamazoo River Spill
3. Collect and evaluate life history traits of turtle species exposed to oil during the 2010 Enbridge Kalamazoo River Spill
4. If practicable, determine whether hatching success or life history parameters differ between turtles exposed to oil and those that were not.

In order to improve the probability of successful implementation of the project, the Trustees anticipate that this project will occur over a 3-5 year time frame. The Trustees encourage applicants to consider incorporating additional conservation value to proposals.

## **GEOGRAPHIC FOCAL AREA**

The turtle nest protection program will be conducted on properties for which access can be obtained, such as the Fort Custer Recreation Area in Kalamazoo County near Augusta, Michigan (Figure 1). Ideally, the project area would also include areas along the gradient from the site of initial discharge in Talmadge Creek to Morrow Dam and possibly reference areas in the watershed that were not oiled (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Kalamazoo River area showing the location of the discharges of oil from the pipeline break along Talmadge Creek near Marshall, MI, and landmarks along the impacted section of the Kalamazoo River including the former Ceresco Dam, the Mill Ponds at Battle Creek, Fort Custer Recreation Area, and Morrow Lake.



## **FUNDING AVAILABILITY**

**Funding:** A total of \$300,000 is available for this restoration project. This amount represents the total amount available for all projects related to this request for proposals. To meet the goals of this request for proposals, the Trustees reserve the right to award a portion of the available funds to multiple entities or the entire amount to a sole recipient.

**Project Period:** Anticipated completion time for funded projects typically will be 24-60 months following finalization of a grant agreement. Projects may be a discrete part of a longer-term project, provided there are definable outcomes for the proposed phases of the overall effort. The project narrative must include a clear timetable or schedule for project completion and deliverables associated with project phases, as appropriate.

Project start and end dates should define the period during which all proposed work is accomplished, all requested funds are expended, and anticipated products have been delivered.

**Match Requirement:** No matching funds or contribution of in-kind services are required but addition of these considerations will strengthen an application package.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

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PROPOSALS MUST BE PREPARED AND SUBMITTED PER THE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THE CORRESPONDING ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AT THE GRANTS.GOV WEBSITE (<http://www.grants.gov>).

This request for proposals may be located within the Grants.gov by referencing Funding Opportunity Number: F17AS00007.

Applicants will be required to submit a project summary (1-2 pages) and a project narrative (6 pages of text and two pages of maps/diagrams/photos). The narrative to be submitted must include, at a minimum:

- Project goals and objectives
- Methodologies, endpoints to be measured, schedule of work
- Partner coordination/Involvement if applicable
- Description of organization/individuals undertaking the project; brief Curriculum Vitae of the principal investigator
- Anticipated outreach, reports or products
- Literature cited
- Map of the project area
- Detailed budget
- Budget justification

Proposals may be submitted electronically or by mail. Instructions for proposal submission may be found at the corresponding Grants.gov announcement of this request for proposals (Funding Opportunity Number: F17AS00007; <http://www.grants.gov>). A PDF version of this request for proposals is available at the Service's Natural Resource Damage Assessment webpage for this case: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/MichiganEnbridge>.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

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Eligible applicants include state, county, city or township governments, special district governments, independent school districts, public and State controlled institutions of higher education, private institutions of higher education, Native American tribal governments and organizations, nonprofit organizations, individuals, for profit organizations, and small businesses. U.S. non-profit, non-governmental organizations with 501(c)(3) Internal Revenue Status (IRS) will be required to provide a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) status determination letter received from the IRS.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

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Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Experience related to the conservation and management of North American turtle species
- Demonstrated experience conducting or over-seeing substantial field studies within upper Midwest ecosystems
- Study plan will be assessed with respect to the detail provided, benchmarks, and feasibility – this element is intended to emphasize logistical feasibility of the proposal
- Study plan will also be assessed as to the likely products to result from the project – this element is intended to emphasize conservation value and outcomes

## **TIMELINE**

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ✓ Full Proposal Due Date | <i>January 13, 2017</i>           |
| ✓ Review Period          | <i>January 16 – March 3, 2017</i> |
| ✓ Awards Announced       | <i>March 31, 2017</i>             |

## **POINT OF CONTACT**

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Questions related to this request for proposals, may be directed to:

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