U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Green Bay Ecological Services Field Office

Environmental Contaminants Program
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 15.658

Notice of Funding Availability and Application Instructions

I. Description of Funding Opportunity

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA, more commonly known as the federal "Superfund" law) [42 USC § 9601, et seq.] and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (CWA, commonly known as the Clean Water Act) [33 USC § 1251, et seq.] authorizes States, federally recognized Tribes, and certain federal agencies that have authority to manage or control natural resources, to act as "trustees" on behalf of the public, and to restore, rehabilitate, replace, and/or acquire natural resources equivalent to those harmed by hazardous substance releases. The State of Wisconsin, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the United States Department of the Interior (represented by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs) and the United States Department of Commerce (represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) (collectively, the Trustees) have worked together, in a cooperative process, to determine what is necessary to address natural resource injuries caused by past releases of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the Lower Fox River and Green Bay assessment area. Natural resource damages received, either through negotiated or adjudicated settlements, must be used to restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of those natural resources that have been injured.

II. Award Information

This is a notice of intent to award a single source grant to The Nature Conservancy under justification 505DM 2.14B 1. Competition for the grant is not feasible due to the fact that The Nature Conservancy has negotiated an offer to purchase with the willing seller to preserve St. Martin's Island. Restoration projects are selected and implemented through a cooperative process between the Trustees and partners. The Trustees will work with partners and amongst themselves to identify projects which meet the restoration criteria and goals contained within the Restoration Plan. The Trustee Council will review and make the final decisions on the selection of projects which are recommended by the Trustee Restoration Technical Representative Team.

Potential cooperating partners include municipalities within the restoration area, county and local governments, State and Federal government programs, tribal governments, and private nonprofit organizations interested in fish, wildlife, wetland or aquatic habitat quality enhancing projects. Restoration project proposals prepared by cooperators are more likely to be supported by the community because they will better reflect local interests, priorities, and tolerance. Overall effectiveness of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay Restoration Plan will increase through matching public and private contributions (dollars and services) and coordination with other area enhancement projects.

Restoration projects are developed and implemented through cooperative efforts between the Trustees and interested partners. Partners include interested state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities. Partners will work through existing resource managers and resource programs to develop restoration projects. Restoration projects should not duplicate or substitute for traditional funding sources or program responsibilities. Basic principles of fish and wildlife biology, landscape ecology, botany, wetland/riverine ecology, and hydrology are important concepts to utilize in the development of quality restoration projects that restore both habitat structure and function and comply with the criteria identified in this plan. Cooperative projects are encouraged.

By law, the Trustees are responsible to the public for the damages being disbursed to restore resources injured by the release of hazardous substances. The Trustees must restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent resources to those injured. Therefore, the Trustees must maintain the linkage between injury and restoration and are accountable to the public for the funds, including National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)[42 U.S.C.§ 4321] compliance and restoration planning requirements under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)[42 U.S.C. § 9607]. There is no intent by the Trustees to delegate these trust responsibilities to other parties or organizations. Any trust or foundation that would potentially be proposed to hold or assist in the management of settlement funds would have to allow the Trustees to be the decision makers on the allocation of the funds.

III. <u>Basic Eligibility Requirements</u>

Eligible Applicants:

The Nature Conservancy received Fox River NRDA settlement funds for the purchase of land to protect wetlands and associated wildlife habitat within Delta County, Michigan in the waters of Green Bay. The Nature Conservancy has negotiated an offer to purchase with the willing seller of this property.

Restoration projects funded by the Lower Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council are developed and implemented through cooperative efforts between the Trustees and interested partners. Partners include state and federal agencies, local and tribal governments, consulting firms, nonprofit organizations, and other appropriate entities. Partners will work through existing resource managers and resource programs to develop restoration projects. Restoration projects should not duplicate or substitute for traditional funding sources or program responsibilities. Cooperative projects will be encouraged. U.S. non-profit, non-governmental organizations must provide a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.

Federal law mandates that all entities applying for Federal financial assistance must have a valid Dun & Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number and have a current registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). See Title 2of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 25 for more information. Exemptions: The SAM registration requirement does not apply to individuals submitting an application on their own behalf and not on behalf of a company or other for-profit entity, state, local or Tribal government, academia or other type of organization.

A. DUNS Registration

Request a DUNS number online at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. U.S.-based entities may also request a DUNS number by telephone by calling the Dun & Bradstreet Government Customer Response Center, Monday – Friday, 7 AM to 8 PM CST at the following numbers:

U.S. and U.S Virgin Islands: 1-866-705-5711
Alaska and Puerto Rico: 1-800-234-3867 (Select Option 2, then Option 1)
For Hearing Impaired Customers Only call: 1-877-807-1679 (TTY Line)

Once assigned a DUNS number, entities are responsible for maintaining up-to-date information with Dun & Bradstreet.

B. Entity Registration in SAM

Register in SAM online at http://www.sam.gov/. Once registered in SAM, entities must renew and revalidate their SAM registration at least every 12 months from the date previously registered. Entities are strongly urged to revalidate their registration as often as needed to ensure that their information is up to date and in synch with changes that may have been made to DUNS and IRS information. Foreign entities who wish to be paid directly to a United States bank account must enter and maintain valid and current banking information in SAM.

C. Excluded Entities

Applicant entities identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits will not be considered for Federal funding, as applicable to the funding being requested under this Federal program.

D. Cost Sharing or Matching

The Lower Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council does not require matching funds as contributions to restoration projects.

IV. <u>Application Requirements</u>

To be considered for funding under this funding opportunity, an application must contain:

A. A completed, signed, and dated Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424). The SF-424 form is available online at http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15.
Do not include other Federal sources of funding, requested or approved, in the total entered in the "Federal" funding box on the Application for Federal Assistance form. Enter only the amount being requested under this program in the "Federal" funding box. Include any other Federal sources of funding in the total funding entered in the "Other" box.

B. Project Summary

Briefly summarize the project, in one page or less. Include the title of the project, geographic location, and a brief overview of the need for the project, goal(s), objectives, specific project activities, beneficiaries, and expected outcomes consistent with this funding opportunity. As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities and/or disseminating project results.

C. Project Narrative

1. **Statement of Need:** Describe why this project is necessary (significance/value) and include supporting information. Summarize previous or on-going efforts (of you/your organization, and other organizations or individuals) relevant to the proposed work.

2. **Project Goals and Objectives:** State the long-term, overarching goal(s) of the program/project. State the objectives of the project. Objectives are the specific outcomes to be accomplished in order to reach the stated goal(s). The project objectives must be specific, measurable, and realistic (attainable within the project's proposed project period).

3. **Project Activities, Methods and Timetable:** List the proposed project activities and describe how they relate to the stated objectives. Activities are the specific actions to be undertaken to fulfill the project objectives and reach the project goal(s). The proposed project activities narrative must be detailed enough for reviewers to make a clear connection between the activities and the proposed project costs. For projects being conducted within the United States, the narrative must provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For projects being conducted on the high seas, the narrative should provide enough detail so that reviewers are able to determine project compliance with Section 7 of Endangered Species Act. Provide a detailed description of the method(s) to be used to carry out each activity. Provide a timetable indicating roughly when activities or project milestones are to be accomplished. Include any resulting tables, spreadsheets or flow charts within the body of the project narrative (do not include as separate attachments). The timetable should not propose specific dates but instead group activities by month for each month over the entire proposed project period.

4. **Stakeholder Coordination/Involvement:** As applicable, describe how you/your organization has coordinated with and involved other relevant organizations or individuals in planning the project, and detail if/how they will be involved in conducting project activities, disseminating project results and/or incorporating your results/products into their activities.

5. **Project Monitoring and Evaluation:** The project must incorporate a monitoring and evaluation plan that will allow proponent to ascertain the quality of benefits and outputs and to ensure that the benefits/outputs reach the intended beneficiaries. Describe how you/your organization (or others) will monitor project progress and measure the project's

impacts. Include details on how you/your organization will assess progress towards reaching objectives, and, as applicable, how project participants and beneficiaries will participate in these activities.

6. **Description of Entities Undertaking the Project**: Provide a brief description of the applicant organization and all cooperating entities and/or individuals. Identify which of the proposed activities each agency, organization, group, or individual is responsible for conducting or managing. Provide complete contact information for individual within your organization that will oversee/manage the project activities on a day-to-day basis.

7. **Sustainability:** As applicable, describe which project activities will continue beyond the proposed project period, who will continue the work or act on the results achieved, and how and at what level you expect these future activities will be funded.

8. **Literature Cited**

9. **Map of Project Area:** Map should clearly delineate the project area and be large enough to be legible. Label any sites referenced in the project narrative.

D. Budget Form

Complete the **Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424A)** or **Budget Information for Construction Programs (SF 424C) form**. Use the SF 424A if your project does not include construction and the SF 424C if the project includes construction or land acquisition. The budget forms are available online at http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15. When developing your budget, keep in mind that financial assistance awards and subawards are subject to the cost principles in the following Federal regulations, as applicable to the recipient organization type:

- 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- 45 CFR Part 74, Appendix E, Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development Under Grants and Contracts with Hospitals
- 48 CFR 1, Subpart 31.2, Contracts with Commercial Organizations

Links to the full text of these Federal cost principles are available on the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/grants/.

Multiple Federal Funding Sources: If the project budget includes multiple Federal funding sources, you must show the funds being requested from this Federal program *separately* from any other requested/secured Federal sources of funding on the budget form. For example, enter the funds being requested from this Federal program in the first row of the Budget Summary section of the form and then enter funding related to other Federal programs in the subsequent row(s). Be sure to enter each Federal program's CFDA number in the corresponding fields on the form. The CFDA number for this Federal program appears on the first page of this funding opportunity.

E. Budget Justification

In a separate narrative titled "**Budget Justification**", explain and justify all requested budget items/costs. Detail how the SF 424 Budget Object Class Category totals were determined and demonstrate a clear connection between costs and the proposed project activities. For personnel salary costs, include the base-line salary figures and the estimates of time (as percentages) to be directly charged to the project. Describe any item that under the applicable Federal Cost Principles requires the Service's approval and estimate its cost.

Required Indirect Cost Statement: All applicants except individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate must include in the budget justification narrative one of the following statements and attach to their application all required documentation as detailed in the following table:

Circumstance:	Statement to include in budget narrative:	Other document(s) to attach:
• No indirect cost rate • Charges all costs directly	**Indirect Cost Statement:** Our organization does not have an indirect cost rate and will charge all costs directly.	None.
• Is not an individual • Has an indirect cost rate • Has an approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with their Federal cognizant agency covering part/all of the proposed project period	**Indirect Cost Statement:** We have an approved NICRA covering part/all of the proposed project period. A copy of that NICRA is attached.	Copy of approved NICRA.
• Is not an individual • Has an indirect cost rate • Has established a NICRA in the past, but do not have an approved rate covering part/all of the proposed project period • May or may not have recently submitted a new NICRA proposal to cognizant agency.	**Indirect Cost Statement:** Our indirect cost rate is [insert a description of the rate]. We have established a NICRA in the past but it expired. [Insert one of the following statements: "We submitted a new NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency on [insert date]." OR "In the event an award is made we will submit a NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency immediately and no later than 90 calendar days after the award is made". We understand that: • Although the Service may approve a budget that includes an estimate of indirect costs based on our stated	Copy of most recently expired NICRA and, when applicable, a copy of any NICRA proposal submitted to the cognizant agency that is currently pending approval.

<table>
<tr><td>If not, will do so within the required timeframe, in the event an award is made</td><td>rate, that approval will be contingent on our establishing a NICRA.
Recipients without a NICRA are prohibited from charging indirect costs to a Federal award.
Failure to establish a NICRA during the award period will make all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs under the award unallowable.
We will not be authorized to transfer any unallowable indirect costs to the amount budgeted for direct costs or to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements without the prior written approval of the Service.
We may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Is not an individual
Has an indirect cost rate
Has never established a NICRA in the past
Will submit a NICRA proposal to cognizant agency within the required timeframe, in the event an award is made</td><td>Indirect Cost Statement: Our indirect cost rate is [insert a description of the rate]. We have never established a NICRA. In the event an award is made we will submit a NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency immediately and no later than 90 calendar days after the award is made. We understand that:
Although the Service may approve a budget that includes an estimate of indirect costs based on our stated rate, that approval will be contingent on our establishing a NICRA.
Recipients without a NICRA are prohibited from charging indirect costs to a Federal award.
Failure to establish a NICRA during the award period will make all costs otherwise allocable as indirect costs under the award unallowable.
We will not be authorized to transfer any unallowable indirect costs to the amount budgeted for direct costs or to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements without the prior written approval of the Service.</td><td>None at the time of application. In the event an award is made, recipient must submit a copy of their approved NICRA before charging indirect costs to the award.</td></tr>
</table>

	We may not shift unallowable indirect costs to another Federal award unless specifically authorized by legislation.	
• Is not an individual, state, local or Federally-recognized Indian tribal government • Has never established a NICRA in the past • Cannot charge all costs directly • Will not be able to meet the requirement to submit a NICRA proposal within 90 calendar days after award, in the event an award is made	**Indirect Cost Statement:** We have never established a NICRA in the past and will not be able to meet the requirement to submit a NICRA proposal to our cognizant agency within 90 calendar days after award, in the event an award is made. In the event an award is made we request as a condition of award to charge a flat indirect cost rate of 10% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). We understand this rate will apply for the life of the award, including any future extensions for time, and that the rate cannot be changed even if we do establish a NICRA at any point during the award period. We understand that MTDC is defined as all salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first $25,000 of each subaward or subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards and subcontracts under the award). We understand that MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of $25,000.	None.

Applicants who are individuals applying for funds separate from a business or non-profit organization he/she may operate are not eligible to charge indirect costs to their award. If you are an individual applying for funding, do not include any indirect costs in your proposed budget.

For more information on indirect cost rates, see the Service's **Indirect Costs and Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreements** guidance document on the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/grants/.

Negotiating an Indirect Cost Rate with the Department of the Interior:

For organizations without a NICRA, you must have an open, active Federal award to submit an indirect cost rate proposal to your cognizant agency. The Federal awarding agency that provides the largest amount of direct funding to your organization is your cognizant agency, unless otherwise assigned by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). If the Department of the Interior is your cognizant agency, your indirect cost rate will be negotiated by the Interior Business Center (IBC). For more information, contact the IBC at:

Indirect Cost Services
Acquisition Services Directorate, Interior Business Center
U.S. Department of the Interior
2180 Harvard Street, Suite 430
Sacramento, CA 95815
Phone: 916-566-7111
Email: ics@nbc.gov
Internet address: http://www.aqd.nbc.gov/Services/ICS.aspx

F. Statements Regarding A-133 Single Audit Reporting: Following OMB Circular A-133 (http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/a133/a133_revised_2007.pdf), all U.S. states, local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending $500,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in a fiscal year must submit an A-133 Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System. All U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government and non-profit applicants must provide a statement regarding if your organization was/was not required to submit an A-133 Single Audit report for the organization's most recently closed fiscal year and, if so, state if that report is available on the Federal Audit Clearinghouse Single Audit Database website (http://harvester.census.gov/sac/). Include these statements at the end of the Project Narrative in a section titled "**A-133 Single Audit Reporting Statements**".

G. Assurances

Include the appropriate signed and dated Assurances form available online at http://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormLinks?family=15. Use the **Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF 424B)** if the project does not involve construction. Use the **Assurances for Construction Programs (SF 424D)** if the project does involve construction or land acquisition. Signing this form does not mean that all items on the form are applicable. The form contains language that states that some of the assurances may not be applicable to your organization and/or your project or program.

H. Certification and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities:

Under Title 31 of the United States Code, Section 1352, an applicant or recipient must not use any federally appropriated funds (both annually appropriated and continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a grant or cooperative agreement award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is defined as influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress connection with the award. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If you/your organization have/has made or agrees to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with this project AND the project budget exceeds $100,000, complete and submit the **SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities** form. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required. Submission of an application also represents the applicant's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying.

Application Checklist

- ☐ **Evidence of non-profit status**: If a non-profit organization, a copy of their Section 501(c)(3) or (4) status determination letter received from the Internal Revenue Service.
- ☐ **SF 424, Application for Federal Assistance**: A complete, signed and dated SF 424, SF 424-Mandatory, or SF 424- Individual form
- ☐ **Project summary**
- ☐ **Project narrative**
- ☐ **Timetable**
- ☐ **A-133 Single Audit Reporting statement**: If a U.S. state, local government, federally-recognized Indian tribal government, or non-profit organization, statements regarding applicability of and compliance with OMB Circular A-133 Single Audit Reporting requirements
- ☐ **SF 424 budget form**: A complete SF 424A or SF 424C Budget Information form
- ☐ **Budget justification**
- ☐ **Federally-funded equipment list**: If Federally-funded equipment will be used for the project, a list of that equipment
- ☐ **NICRA**: When applicable, a copy of the organization's current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
- ☐ **SF 424 Assurances form:** Signed and dated SF 424B or SF 424D Assurances form
- ☐ **SF LLL form:** If applicable, completed SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form

Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the application.

V. Submission Instructions

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 20, 2015 – January 26, 2015.

Intergovernmental Review: Before submitting an application, U.S. state and local government applicants should visit the following website (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/) to determine whether their application is subject to the state intergovernmental review process under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372 "Intergovernmental review of Federal Programs." E.O. 12372 was issued to foster the intergovernmental partnership and strengthen federalism by relying on state and local processes for the coordination and review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development. The E.O. allows each state to designate an entity to perform this function. The official list of designated entities is posted on the website. Contact your state's designated entity for more information on the process the state requires to be followed when applying for assistance. States that do not have a designated entity listed on the website have chosen not to participate in the review process.

Download the Application Package linked to this Funding Opportunity on Grants.gov to begin the application process. Downloading and saving the Application Package to your computer makes the required government-wide standard forms fillable and printable. Submit completed application by email.

Format all of your documents to print on Letter size (8 ½" x 11") paper. Format all pages to display and print page numbers. Scanned documents should be scanned in Letter format, as black and white images only. Where possible, save scanned documents in .pdf format. E-mail your application to the Service program point of contact identified in the Grants.gov funding opportunity.

The required SF 424 Application for Federal Assistance and Assurances forms and any other required standard forms MUST be signed by your organization's authorized official. The Signature and Date fields on the standard forms downloaded from Grants.gov are pre-populated with the text "Completed by Grants.gov upon submission" or "Completed on submission to Grants.gov". Remove this text (manually or digitally) before signing the forms.

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW

Criteria: Proposed projects will be screened against the acceptability criteria (Table 6.1) to be considered further in the restoration planning process. These criteria were developed by the Trustees to aid in eliminating those projects that are clearly inconsistent with the requirements of the Department's NRDA regulations. In essence, the acceptability criteria stipulate that a restoration project must comply with all applicable laws and regulations, address resources or services at least broadly connected to those injured by PCBs, and be technically feasible to implement. Proposed projects will be ranked on a pass/fail system in relation to each criterion. If a proposed project passes each criteria, it will be evaluated further. If a proposed project fails any of the acceptability criteria, it will no longer be considered.

Table 6.1
Acceptability Criteria for Restoration Planning
(projects are evaluated using acceptability criteria on a pass/fail basis)

Criteria	Interpretation
Complies with applicable/relevant laws, policies and regulations.	Project must be legal and protect public health and safety.
Addresses Lower Fox River and Green Bay ecosystem injured natural resource(s).	Projects must restore, rehabilitate, replace or acquire the equivalent of natural resources injured by PCBs in the Lower Fox River and Green Bay ecosystem.
Is technically feasible.	Projects must be feasible within the proposed budget.

Review and Selection Process:

The Lower Fox River/Green Bay Trustees developed criteria to evaluate and rank potential restoration projects. The criteria were grouped into three categories that reflect the aspects of the projects that the criteria evaluate: "focus" criteria, which evaluate project objectives (Table 6.2); "implementation" criteria, which evaluate project methods (Table 6.3); and "benefits" criteria, which evaluate the types and characteristics of the benefits the projects aim to achieve (Table 6.4). These criteria reflect the Trustee requirements and priorities for NRDA restoration as outlined in the proposed alternative. The purpose of the criteria is to provide a means of ranking potential restoration projects against each other by considering the objectives and requirements of the NRDA restoration planning process. Proposed projects will then be rated by priority within each criterion. Projects with the highest ranking will proceed for final review and selection for implementation by the Trustees. If no acceptable proposals are received, modifications or additional proposals will be requested.

These evaluation criteria relate to whether the project meets the goals and objectives of the Trustees for restoration of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay environment.

Table 6.2
Focus Criteria for Restoration Planning

Criteria	Interpretation
On-site restoration	On-site projects (within or adjacent to the effected environment) are preferred to projects further upstream in the Lower Fox River and Green Bay watershed or adjacent watersheds.
Addresses/incorporates restoration of “preferred” resources and services as evidenced in prescribed tribal, federal and state mandates and priorities for injured resources, endangered or threatened species or species habitats.	Priorities include wetlands, fish communities, specific aquatic habitats, state and federal rare, threatened or endangered species, and native species.

These evaluation criteria relate to project implementability, feasibility, and cost-effectiveness.

Table 6.3
Implementation Criteria for Restoration Planning

Criteria	Interpretation
Benefits can be measured for success.	Projects will be evaluated in terms of whether the benefits can be quantified and the success of the project determined. Projects can be scaled to provide restoration of appropriate magnitude. Small projects that provide only minimal benefit relative to injured resources or larger projects that cannot be appropriately reduced in scope are less favored.
Is cost effective, including planning, implementation, and long-term operation, maintenance, and monitoring.	A project with a high ratio of expected benefits to expected costs is preferred. This may be assessed relative to other projects that benefit the same resource.
Uses established, reliable methods/technologies known to have a high probability of success.	Projects will be evaluated for their likelihood of success given the proposed methods. Factors that will be considered include whether the proposed technique is appropriate to the project, whether it has been used before, and whether it has been successful. Projects incorporating wholly experimental methods, research, or unproven technologies will be given lower priority.
Is consistent with tribal, federal or state priorities, policies, missions, goals and planning.	Project is consistent with priorities, policies, missions, goals and planning such as species recovery plans, and is administratively feasible.

These evaluation criteria relate to the types, timing, and permanence of benefits provided by the project.

Table 6.4
Benefits Criteria for Restoration Planning

Criteria	Interpretation
Provides the greatest scope of ecological, cultural, and economic benefits to the largest area or population.	To the degree that a bigger project results in greater good, bigger projects are better. Projects that benefit more than one injured resource or service will be given priority. Projects that avoid or minimize additional natural resource injury or environmental degradation will be given priority.
Provides benefits not being provided by other restoration projects being implemented/funded or that have insufficient planned funding under other programs.	Preference is given to projects, or aspects of existing projects, that are not already being implemented or have no planned funding or that are insufficiently funded under other programs. Although the Trustees will use restoration planning efforts by other programs, preference is given to projects that would not otherwise be implemented without NRDA restoration funds.
Aims to achieve environmental equity and environmental justice.	A restoration project should not have disproportionate high costs or low benefits to a localized population.
Maximizes the time over which benefits accrue.	Projects that provide benefits sooner are preferred. Projects that provide longer term benefits are preferred.

VII. Award Administration

Award Notices: Following review, applicants may be requested to revise the project scope and/or budget before an award is made. Successful applicants will receive written notice in the form of a notice of award document. Notices of award are typically sent to recipients by e-mail. If e-mail notification is unsuccessful, the documents will be sent by courier mail (e.g., FedEx, DHL or UPS). Award recipients are not required to sign/return the Notice of Award document. Acceptance of an award is defined as starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the Service. The notice of award document will include instructions specific to each recipient on how to request payment. If applicable, the instructions will detail any additional information/forms required and where to submit payment requests. Applicants whose projects are not selected for funding will receive written notice, most often by e-mail, within 30 days of the final review decision.

Domestic Recipient Payments: Prior to award, the Service program office will contact you/your organization to either enroll in the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) system or, if eligible, obtain approval from the Department of the Interior to be waived from using ASAP.

Domestic applicants subject to the SAM registration requirement (see Section III B.) who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP must maintain current banking information in SAM. Domestic applicants exempt from the SAM registration requirement who receive a waiver from receiving funds through ASAP will be required to submit their banking information directly to the Service program. However, ***do NOT submit any banking information to the Service until it is requested from you by the Service program!***

Transmittal of Sensitive Data: Recipients are responsible for ensuring any sensitive data being sent to the Service is protected during its transmission/delivery. The Service strongly recommends that recipients use the most secure transmission/delivery method available. The Service recommends the following digital transmission methods: secure digital faxing; encrypted emails; emailing a password protected zipped/compressed file attachment in one email followed by the password in a second email; or emailing a zipped/compressed file attachment. The Service strongly encourages recipients sending sensitive data in paper copy to use a courier mail service. Recipients may also contact their Service Project Officer and provide any sensitive data over the telephone.

Award Terms and Conditions: Acceptance of a financial assistance award (i.e., grant or cooperative agreement) from the Service carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with the terms and conditions applicable to the award. Acceptance is defined as the start of work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means. Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the Service and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the notice of award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. The Federal regulations applicable to Service awards are available on the Internet at http://www.fws.gov/grants/. If you do not have access to the Internet and require a full text copy of the award terms and conditions, contact the Service point of contact identified in the Agency Contacts section below.

Recipient Reporting Requirements:
Interim financial reports and performance reports may be required. Interim reports will be required no more frequently than quarterly, and no less frequently than annually. A final financial report and a final performance report will be required and are due within 90 calendar days of the end date of the award. Performance reports must contain: 1) a comparison of actual accomplishments with the goals and objectives of the award as detailed in the approved scope of work; 2) a description of reasons why established goals were not met, if appropriate; and 3) any other pertinent information relevant to the project results.

Events may occur between the scheduled performance reporting dates that have significant impact upon the supported activity. In such cases, recipients are required to notify the Service in writing as soon as the following types of conditions become known:

- Problems, delays, or adverse conditions that will materially impair the ability to meet the objective of the Federal award. This disclosure must include a statement of any corrective action(s) taken or contemplated, and any assistance needed to resolve the situation.
- Favorable developments that enable meeting time schedules and objectives sooner or at less cost than anticipated or producing more or different beneficial results than originally planned.

The Service will specify in the notice of award document the reporting and reporting frequency applicable to the award.

VIII. Agency Contacts

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