



Region 5 Enhanced State and Tribal Program



Enhanced State and Tribal Program (ESTP)

- Core Element Framework (CEF)
- Wetland Program Plans (WPP)
- Wetland Program Development Grants
- Technical Assistance

Core Element Framework (CEF)

- Framework for States and Tribes to design their own wetland programs
- Provides clarification and prioritization of activities
- Describes a list of potential program building activities



Monitoring and Assessment



Voluntary Restoration and Protection



Regulatory



Water Quality Standards

Core Element Framework Examples



Monitoring and Assessment

- Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies
- Develop Field Operation manual



Voluntary Restoration and Protection

- Provide clear guidance on appropriate restoration and management techniques and success measures
- Establish partnerships to leverage more restoration



Regulatory

- Provide clear and comprehensive jurisdictional coverage of aquatic resources
- Determine and adopt comprehensive project review criteria



Water Quality Standards

- Establish and adopt appropriate wetland-specific designated uses to be achieved and protected
- Incorporate water quality standards into monitoring and assessment program



[Full document with core element actions and activities](#)

Wetland Program Plans

- 3-6 year plans developed by a State, Territory, or Tribal Nation
- A way to strategically plan and explain actions toward developing a wetland program
- Consistent with Core Elements Framework, but does not require to cover all 4 Core Elements
- Helps EPA prioritize and deliver technical/financial assistance
- [Approved State and Tribal Wetland Program Plans](#)



Wetland Program Plans Handbook

A resource to assist states and tribes in developing strategic approaches to achieve comprehensive Wetland Programs

Current Region 5 Wetland Program Plans

Forest County Potawatomi Community (2024)

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (2021-2025)

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (2024-2028)

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (2023-2027)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (2021-2025)

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (2023-2027)

Red Lake Band of Chippewa (2024-2028)

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (2023-2027)

Stockbridge-Munsee Community (2022-2026)

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (*in progress*)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (*in progress*)

Wetland Program Development Grants

- Bi-ennial competition
- Eligibility – states, territories, tribes, local governments, intertribal consortia, interstate agencies, and state universities
- Each project ~\$100k - \$300k
- 25% nonfederal match requirement (unless PPG)
- Typical project length is 2-3 years

Year	\$ (million)	Proposals		Recipients		
		funded	received	State	Tribe	Other
2010	1.8	6	7	2	2	2
2011	2.2	13	16	4*	2	2
2012	1.6	8	9	2*	3	1
2013	1.6	6	7	2	3	1
2014	1.5	6	10	3	1	2
2015	1.6	7	8	2	1	4
2016	1.6	6	10	5	1	0
2017	1.3	7	8	3*	2	1
2018	1.4	8	13	2*	3*	1
2019/2020	2.7	14	16	4*	2	3
2021/2022	2.7	8	8	3*	3	0
2023/2024	3	13	14	3*	3	2*

*multiple proposals funded to a single state or Tribe

Wetland Program Development Grant Tracks

- Track One
 - Applicants: States, Territories, Tribal nations
 - Developing, updating, or refining a Wetland Program Plan
 - Carry out eligible actions from an existing Wetland Program Plan
- Track Two
 - Applicants: States, Territories, Tribal Nations, and local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, state universities
 - Carry out actions/activities from the Core Element Framework
 - Applicants can reference one or more grant eligible action(s) from an EPA-approved State or Tribal Wetland Program Plan

Project Eligibility

- Only program development or refinement activities are eligible. This includes demonstration projects but does not include implementation.
 - Mapping and Monitoring
 - Identification and prioritization of management areas
 - Wetland Program Plan development or refinement
 - Development of training/outreach materials
- Implementation projects, or projects designed to carry out a task rather than transfer knowledge, are **not** eligible under this program, such as:
 - Wetland creation or construction
 - Tasks required by a pending permit (CWA 404, 402, 401)
 - Purchasing vehicles, land, or conservation easements
 - Restoration projects that do not qualify as demonstration

FY25/26 WPDG Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Check [EPA's website](#) for updates on NOFO release and more information on WPDGs

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Technical Assistance

Technical Assistance examples

- Tribal Wetland Working Group
- MN/WI Stream Quantification Tool development
- Semi-annual meetings & newsletters
- Meetings with individual states and Tribes





Thank you!

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