

EPA Tribal Wetlands Virtual Workshops 2021

9/23 : Day 2 -Block One

Session Title: “Foundations of a Comprehensive
Wetland Program-Wetland Program Plans (WPPS)”

Rebecca Dils

**US EPA – Headquarters-Office of Water
Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (owow)
Wetland Programs**

EPA Wetlands Program

- Enhance State and Tribal Wetland Programs (ESTP)
- Develop and interpret policy, guidance, and environmental criteria used in evaluating permit applications
- Develop regulation & policy relating the scope of the CWA
- International outreach (RAMSAR) and Wetland Awards

EPA Wetlands Program

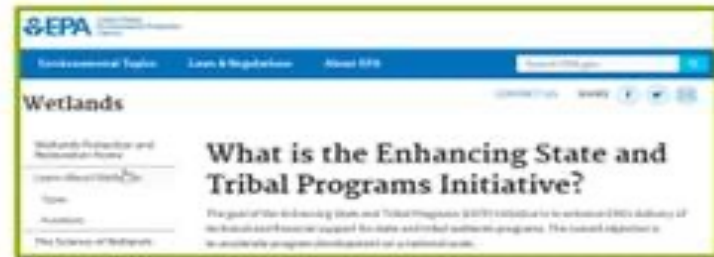
Enhanced State and Tribal Program (ESTP) for Wetlands

Goal

Develop and support a sustained effort, guided by collaboration with the Regions, states and tribes, to align EPA's financial, planning and technical resources to enhance state and tribal wetlands programs.

Focus

On states and tribes that are actively working to build their wetland programs.



<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/what-enhancing-state-and-tribal-programs-initiative>

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ESTP Regional Contacts

- Region 1: Donna Smith-Williams
- Region 2: Jaclyn Woollard
- Region 3: Danielle Algazi
- Region 4: Molly Martin
- Region 5: Kerryann Weaver
- Region 6: Wanda Boyd
- Region 7: Sondra Tucker
- Region 8: Billy Bunch
- Region 9: Sahrye Cohen
- Region 10: Yvonne Vallette

EPA ESTP & ASWMM Partnerships



Association of State Wetland Managers

- New types of technical assistance specifically for Tribes

- Tribal Wetlands Program Plan Development Guide

Lucy Moore, LMA
Doug Thompson, CBI

EPA identifies four core elements that comprise and strengthen effective wetlands programs. These core elements are basic program functions that we believe form the foundation of wetlands management and protection in a state or tribe.

The Core Elements Of A Comprehensive Wetland Program:

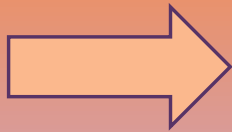
1. Monitoring and Assessment Program for Wetlands

2. Regulatory Activities

3. Water Quality Standards for Wetlands

4. Voluntary Restoration and Protection Programs for Wetlands

Core Elements Framework (CEF)



1. Definition

2. Goals & Benefits

3. Program Building Activities Menu:
Tables that include 3 Objectives, Key
Actions and Program Building Activities

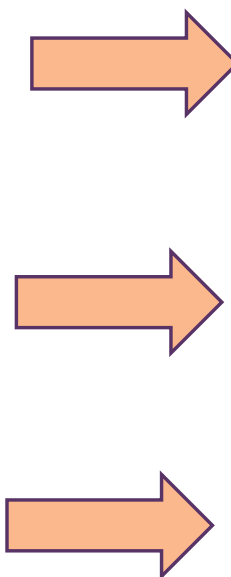
4. Resources

Updates on Core Elements Framework

For each Core Element we added new examples, actions and activities to:

- ❑ Capture cultural components of wetland program development
- ❑ Illuminate opportunities to consider underserved communities and environmental justice in wetland programs
- ❑ Amplify climate change and resiliency connections in wetland programs
- ❑ Update & improve readability of CEF tables

Objective 1: Clearly and consistently define restoration and protection goals throughout state or tribal territory or formalize a state/tribal voluntary restoration & protection program

| Actions | Menu of Activities |
|---|--|
| <p>b. Collect and Enhance wetland information as a foundation for a restoration and protection actions, strategy or program</p>  | <p>Develop a needs assessment for wetland restoration decision making tools (i.e., Monitoring protocols, functional assessment, restoration prioritization methods)</p> <p>Identify or collect state tribal information related to rare, vulnerable, culturally important wetlands in your state and tribe</p> <p>Identify or collect information on cultural practices that are dependent on wetlands</p> <p>Identify and collect information on economic trends, resiliency and activities that are dependent on specific wetland complexes in your state or tribe</p> |

Example of update:

Voluntary
Restoration and
Protection Core
Element Table



Wetland Program Plans (WPPs): Benefits and Basics

Wetland Program Plans: Basic Information

- WPPs are encouraged, but not required or mandated.
- WPPs are reviewed, commented on, and approved by EPA, but are not “scored.”

Check with your EPA Regional Contact!

- WPPs should be generally consistent with the Core Element Framework, but do not need to cover all four Core Elements (i.e. may cover 1-4 Core Elements).

Check with your EPA Regional Contact!

- S/T encouraged to talk to the Region early on about content and process for WPPs.

Wetland Program Plans: Why Do Them?

- WPPs are a way for S/T to explain to a variety of audiences (internal and external) what it is they plan to do to develop and implement their wetland program over the next few years.
- WPPs is one mechanism by which EPA determines what technical and financial assistance to provide to S/T.
- WPPs allow local governments, universities, and other entities to potentially help the S/T build their wetlands programs.

Wetland Program Plans: Minimum Components

- Narrative description of overall program goal(s) for time period of plan.
- Actions/activities generally consistent with the Core Element Framework to be undertaken.
- Implementation schedule for broader based actions and/or more specific activities (including overall timeline of 3-6 years).

Wetland Program Plans: Points to Consider

- Important to remember that WPPs will be made public upon approval from EPA.
- Be as specific as possible when articulating activities so that a reader would know if an activity has been accomplished.
- To the extent possible, the Region will review WPP progress with the S/T mid way (ex: Are milestones being met? If not, why not? What help can EPA provide to get S/T back on track? etc.)

WPPs TO DO List:

Take Away Messages

- ❑ Consider early engagement with your EPA Regional ESTP Coordinators
- ❑ Work with EPA Regional Leads for CWA/SDWA programs
- ❑ Track and revise your WPPs as needed
- ❑ Use your WPP as a communication and outreach tool
- ❑ Use your WPP to formalize promote partnerships and data sharing agreements
- ❑ Develop over-arching wetland program goals that are aspirational: choose and pursue specific actions in the CEF to demonstrate progress towards your goals

A Few More Take Away Messages

- ❑ WPPs and wetlands grants can provide a good foundation for two-way communications with EPA
- ❑ Communicate your overall gaps in information and highlight the type of technical assistance you need from EPA
- ❑ Coalition-building can help EPA provide you better technical assistance. For example, if more than one Tribe within a specific eco-region express similar technical assistance needs, EPA is likely to respond more quickly

Tribal Wetland Program Plans

Tulalip Tribe
Chicken Ranch Rancheria
Havasupai Tribe
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Blue Lake Rancheria
Havasupai Tribe
Hopi Tribe
Hualapai Tribe
Moapa River Indian Reservation
Pinoleville Pomo Nation
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Washoe Tribe
Wiyot Tribe
Yavapai Apache Nation
Yurok Tribe
Coeur D'Alene Tribe
Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation Confederated Tribes and Bands of
the Yakama Nation
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Coquille
Indian Tribe

Saint Regis Mohawk Indian Reservation
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa
Lac du Flambeau Tribe
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Red Lake Band of Chippewa
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Blackfeet Nation
Chippewa Cree Tribe
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Fort Belknap Indian Community
Buena Vista Rancheria
Cow Creek Band of Umqua Tribe of Indians
Kalispel Tribe of Indians
The Klamath Tribes
Native Village of Eklutna
Nez Perce Tribe
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Quinault Indian Nation

CEF and WPP websites

- Website for the Core Element Framework:

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/core-elements-effective-state-and-tribal-wetland-programs>

http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/cefintro.cfm

- Website for approved Wetland Program Plans:

<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/state-and-tribal-wetland-program-plans>

- October 2009 WPP memorandum from EPA:

http://water.epa.gov/type/wetlands/upload/wetland_program_plan_memorandum.pdf