



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
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Memorandum

To: Assistant Regional Directors – Ecological Services, Regions 1-8
Attn: Regional Transportation Coordinators

From: Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation *David Steut*

Subject: Solicitation of Nominations for the Bi-Annual Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award (Due: January 15, 2009)

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is requesting nominations for the Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award. This award recognizes Service employees or offices that use partnership-based approaches, streamline Federal Highway Administration and State Department of Transportation project planning and environmental review, and promote ecosystem sustainability.

The Service's partnership with the Federal Highway Administration and respective state transportation agencies provides an excellent opportunity to improve landscape-level planning associated with transportation infrastructure. The Service's Branch of Conservation Planning Assistance encourages integration of resource management plans, state wildlife action plans, community growth plans, and other landscape-scale planning efforts to identify geographic focus areas where development pressures and valuable trust resources overlap. Such integrated planning applies a "green infrastructure" approach to land conservation and land-use planning. Green infrastructure provides a framework that can be used to guide future growth and future land development decisions, while facilitating large-scale conservation and restoration efforts that provide a greater ecological benefit and are more cost-efficient to implement.

As highlighted in "Eco-Logical: An Ecosystem Approach for Developing Infrastructure Projects," nominations should integrate development projects and ecosystem conservation to achieve economic, environmental, and social objectives. The Service encourages nominations that reflect efforts to advance the following national incentives:



The criteria for evaluating nominations will include consideration of one or more of the three essential elements for environmental stewardship and streamlining of transportation project planning:

1. Strategic Environmental Stewardship
2. Streamlining (cross-program/agency planning and coordination)
3. Accountability/Adaptive Management (see DCN037065 for further criteria details).

A panel of judges will evaluate the nominations and make a recommendation to the Service. In recognizing the value that state-wide transportation plans and state wildlife action plans provide in guiding stewardship efforts, the judges will represent the American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and include a local government transportation planning representative. The Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, in consultation with the Assistant Director - Endangered Species and the Assistant Director - Federal Assistance will make the final decision. The award winner will be notified and invited to an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on or near Earth Day, April 22, 2009. The name of the award winner is also inscribed on a permanent plaque located in the Service's Washington Office.

Additional information and applications are attached and available online:

["http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/transportation.html"](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/transportation.html). Applications may be emailed directly to the National Transportation Liaison (Catherine_Liller@fws.gov) NLT COB, January 15, 2009.

If you have any questions or for more information, contact Catherine Liller, National Transportation Liaison, at 703-358-2191.

The criteria for evaluating nominations will include consideration of one or more of the three essential elements for environmental stewardship and streamlining of transportation project planning developed or implemented within the last two fiscal years. Please refer to the attached description of the evaluation criteria.