Steps for Implementing a Restoration Project

1. **Determine goals for restoration** – what do you want to restore, (habitat, water quality, natural processes, etc.) And for whom or what (single species approach or ecosystem approach)?

2. **Identify restoration priorities** in the watershed of interest. This can be done by determining the factors that limit the existence of the particular feature you would like to restore and addressing those factors. For example, if fish populations in a watershed are limited by the availability of cool water temperatures, a major restoration priority may be to provide shade and more water to the stream, which in turn will help cool the water.

3. **Form a Watershed Group** -- Meet with local landowners and area residents to exchange ideas and determine who may be interested in participating in watershed monitoring, historic and scientific background research and restoration projects

4. **Start a citizen monitoring program**. Monitor the parameters of interest to you and your community. This will help you identify limiting factors and establish a baseline for determining success of future restoration projects.

5. **Develop a detailed restoration plan** conceptually, and then in writing – draw upon the expertise of individuals within your watershed group. Once a plan is in writing, it is much easier to prepare grant proposals for specific funding opportunities. The restoration plan can be pasted into all grant proposals and the surrounding text can be modified to fit the particular requirements of the particular funding source.

6. **Determine the permits that must be obtained** to do the work. Check with local, state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over the area and obtain permit applications early. This will help you determine what work, studies or analyses are required by the permitting agencies before they can process the application. Resource Conservation Districts (RCD's) usually have reference material that can guide you in this process.

7. **Survey available funding opportunities** and funding cycles that are specific to your project type. Avoid submitting grant proposal applications to funding sources that do not identify your project type as a funding priority.

8. **Contact the appropriate funding source representative** and discuss project ideas and their suitability to that funding source. Invite funding source representatives out to the project site and solicit suggestions and comments from them on how the project can be improved.

9. **Develop a realistic project timeline,** taking into consideration:
    - Application deadlines
    - Duration of funding source (1yr, 2yrs, etc.)
    - Time required to obtain permits (if needed)
    - Work window for in-stream work (if applicable). In Alaska, this generally runs from midsummer to late winter. Check with permitting resource agencies.
    - Work window for outdoor work (based on seasonal weather conditions)

10. **Identify and plan for potential problems** and determine what actions will be taken to prevent or address them. (ie."If _____ happens, then we will _____")

11. **Prepare a detailed grant proposal** for a funding opportunity that fits into your timeline and project type. Include in the proposal:
    - Detailed project description
    - Detailed line item budget which identifies matching and requested funds
    - Maps, diagrams and GPS coordinates for the proposed project
    - Identification of project partnerships and applicant expertise

12. **Submit your proposal** on or before the application deadline. Have the proposal finished well before the due date so any last minute problems can be addressed without missing the deadline. Do not expect the funding source representative to be at their office the day before the application is due. Allow sufficient time to leave a message with your questions and wait for an answer.

13. **If your project receives funding, implement the restoration!!** Be sure to use best management practices and follow **all** requirements and recommendations from permitting agencies.

14. **Acknowledge and involve all of your funding sources**. This will help you obtain more funding for restoration projects in the future.

15. **Monitor the success of the restoration**. Over time, compare monitored parameters to pre- project conditions to help determine whether or not your project was successful. Report this success to your funding source.

16. **Consider what can be done next time to make your restoration work even better**. Restoration projects work differently depending on technique and location. It's a learning process. Use adaptive management to refine restoration techniques