



# Transportation Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award

The Environmental Stewardship Excellence Award celebrates Service employees or offices that use partnership-based approaches to promote ecosystem sustainability while meeting the increasing transportation needs of the Nation.

The Fish and Wildlife Service encourages nominations from any person, including any of our many partners within the transportation planning community such as the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); a state Department of Transportation or natural resource agency; regional or local government; or non-governmental organization.

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:

- Executive Order on Cooperative Conservation (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/08/20040826-11.html>)
- Executive Order on Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Environmental Review Streamlining (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/stewardshipeo/eo13274.htm>)
- Federal Highway Administration’s Focus on Congestion Relief (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/congestion/index.htm>)
- Fish and Wildlife Service’s March 10, 2006 “Shaping Our Future” report ([http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/Shaping\\_Our\\_Future.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/Shaping_Our_Future.pdf)).

## Selection Criteria

The criteria for evaluating nominations will include consideration of one or



Photo by Federal Highway Administration

more of the three essential elements for environmental stewardship and streamlining of transportation project planning:

### 1. Strategic Environmental Stewardship

- Common vision and commitment to stewardship.
- Identify species and habitats of significant value.
- Address the values and concerns of local stakeholders and agencies.

- Promote partnerships of environmental stewardship.
- Facilitate long-range transportation and land-use planning.

### 2. Streamlining (Cross-Program/Agency Planning and Coordination)

- Include a broad range of stakeholders and address multiple project proponents.

- Address a broad range of environmental concerns or significant resource issue.
- Early engagement in the regional or State-wide transportation planning process.
- Coordinate environmental reviews (NEPA, ESA section 7, CWA section 404, 4(f) MBTA, and BGEPA) to reduce duplication of efforts and facilitate an ecologically appropriate approach.

### **How is the Winner Selected?**

A panel of judges will conduct an independent evaluation of the entries and will make a recommendation to the Service. The judges will represent the Federal Highway Administration, a State or local transportation agency, and a nationally recognized environmental or transportation non-governmental organization. The Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation and the Assistant Director - Endangered Species will make the final decision.

Day, April 22, 2009. The name of the award winner is also inscribed on a permanent plaque located in the Service's Washington Office.

### **How do I apply?**

Applications may be completed and mailed electronically, or a hard copy application may be requested and sent through standard mail. Online applications are available at the Service's website [http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/TRANS\\_APPLICATION.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/TRANS_APPLICATION.pdf).

Electronic applications should be submitted via email to [Catherine\\_Liller@fws.gov](mailto:Catherine_Liller@fws.gov). A hard copy application may be requested from and returned to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation (Attn. Catherine Liller), 4401 N. Fairfax Drive Suite 840, Arlington, VA 22203.

### **How is the winner recognized?**

The award winner will be notified and invited to an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on or near Earth

### **3. Accountability/Adaptive Management (Application of Ecosystem Performance Measures)**

- Include review and adaptive management to address unforeseen future circumstances.
- Define metrics to evaluate successful implementation and adaptive management.
- Metrics developed cooperatively with partners and knowledgeable resource experts.
- Metrics easy to monitor over time to track the environmental status overtime.
- Facilitate effects analysis of transportation projects and related indirect and cumulative effects.