
FY 2002 - 2003 Great Lakes National Program Office Request for Proposals / Funding Guidance

CONTENTS

I.	SUMMARY	1
II.	BACKGROUND	2
III.	APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, ELIGIBILITY, ETC.	2
IV.	PROCESS AND SCHEDULE	4
V.	GENERAL CRITERIA	5
VI.	SPECIFIC CRITERIA	7
	- Contaminated Sediments	7
	- Pollution Prevention and Reduction	8
	- Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Restoration	10
	- Invasive Species	12
	- Habitat Indicator Development	13
	- Strategic or Emerging Issues	14
	“Line-by-Line” Instructions to PSS2002 Data Entry	Appendix I
	USEPA Contacts for Great Lakes Priorities	Appendix II
	Other GLNPO Activities and Funding	Appendix III

I. SUMMARY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) is inviting submissions of Proposals for innovative projects furthering protection and clean up of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The deadline for Proposals is February 15, 2002. We are targeting a total of \$2.9 million to award in the summer and fall of FY 2002 for Great Lakes projects pertaining to:

- Contaminated Sediments - \$1,400,000
- Pollution Prevention and Reduction (Binational Toxics Strategy) - \$500,000
- Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration - \$450,000
- Invasive Species - \$300,000
- Habitat Indicator Development - \$150,000
- Strategic or Emerging Issues - \$100,000

Proposals will be evaluated through the process described in this document, using both the General Criteria described in Section V and the applicable Specific Criteria described in Section VI. Work under these awards would generally be done during FY 2003.

Applicants should submit Proposals using the PSS2002 software available from this website. We request that you also register with us now, so that we can update you on our funding process, any changed deadlines, and work we are doing to allow applicants to apply online.

Appendices to this document include “Line-by-Line” Instructions to PSS2002 Data Entry, a description of the

Great Lakes Strategy 2001, a listing of key USEPA Contacts, and a description of other GLNPO activities and funding.

II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About GLNPO. USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office oversees and coordinates United States responsibilities under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, bringing together Federal, state, tribal, local, and industry partners in an integrated, ecosystem approach to protect, maintain, and restore the chemical, biological, and physical integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. The program develops and monitors Lake ecosystem indicators; manages and provides public access to Great Lakes data; helps communities address contaminated sediments in their harbors; supports local protection and restoration of important habitats; promotes pollution prevention through activities and projects such as the Canada-U.S. Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS); explores emerging or strategic Great Lakes issues; and provides assistance for community-based Remedial Action Plans (RAPs) for Areas of Concern and for Lakewide Management Plans (LaMPs). GLNPO has a staff of about 40 located in Chicago, Illinois, and an annual budget of about \$15 million. The 600 some GLNPO projects totaling \$58 million funded between 1993 and 2001 are summarized at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/>.

Development of this Request for Proposals. Work done in development of the draft Great Lakes Strategy 2001 informed criteria revisions for this Request for Proposals. The draft Strategy is being developed cooperatively by the Federal, State, and Tribal members of the U.S. Policy Committee, with the consultation of the Great Lakes public. It describes objectives, measures, and activities by state, tribal, and federal partners working together to protect and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. Once approved, the full Strategy will be available from: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/gls/index.html> "LaMPs 2000" informed Lake-specific goals in both the Strategy and this Request for Proposals. General funding priorities and targets for this Great Lakes Request for Proposals were derived from USEPA's Congressionally approved budget. Development of that budget began in 2000.

Partner input to the Great Lakes Strategy verifies the importance of GLNPO strategically focusing on toxics reduction and biodiversity, Invasive Species, Strategic or Emerging Issues and furthering work begun through the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences to develop Indicators necessary and sufficient to easily understood and objectively represent the condition of the Great Lakes ecosystem components. Each of these topics is a funding area described in Part VI of this Request for Proposals.

FY 2001 Funding Recap. In FY 2001, GLNPO notified potential applicants that it was seeking Proposals for a total of \$3.15 million in the priority areas of: Contaminated Sediments; Habitat Protection and Restoration; Pollution Prevention; Assessment/Indicators; Invasive Species; and Emerging or Strategic Issues. In response, 130 applicants submitted 242 Proposals, seeking \$27 million in funding. On May 15th, 38 applicants were asked to submit application packages for 42 projects <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2001fund/yeslist.html>> totaling \$3.12 million. All of those projects has been, or is expected to be, awarded. The "success rate" for Proposals submitted in FY2001 was 17 %, higher than the 14% success rate in FY2000, but lower than the success rate of 23% in FY1999.

III. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, ELIGIBILITY, ETC.

Getting Started. Please register now at <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/register.html>, so that we can update you on our funding process, including any changes to deadlines. There are 4 steps you must take to submit a Proposal:

1. Get the free PSS2002 software <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/pss2002/index.html>
2. Read and follow instructions.
3. Enter and edit your Proposal submission.
4. Complete and submit your Proposal.

Developing Proposals. Proposals should be developed using the GLNPO Proposal Submission System (PSS2002) available from: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/pss2002/index.html> . Please read the instructions for getting started and for using PSS2002. We encourage you to call Tony Kizlauskas (312-353-8773) or Pranas Prancevicius (312-353-3437) for technical assistance or if you do not have access to a PC. PSS2002 does not work on Macintosh computers.

Proposal Format. PSS2002 generates the correct format. Proposals examples are available at <http://www.epa.gov/grtlakes/fund/modelsubmis.html> For your convenience, Appendix I gives "line-by line" instructions for the required Proposal components, allowing you to compose your work off line, then copy and paste it into the program. PSS2002 limits your Proposal to about five pages.

Eligibility. Assistance (through grants, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements) is available pursuant to Clean Water Act §104(b)(3) for activities in the Great Lakes Basin and in support of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. State pollution control agencies, interstate agencies, other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible; "for-profit" organizations are not. Preference is given to US organizations over foreign organizations; however, proposals for coordinated, binational projects are encouraged.

Ineligible Activities. Under this solicitation, GLNPO will not fund: "construction grant" projects; basic research; land acquisition; education/outreach or conferences except as integrated within a larger project; or general operating support.

Additional Funds for Existing Projects. Applicants seeking more funding under existing awards should go through the Proposal process.

Budget/Project Schedule Considerations. In developing a Proposal, applicants should consider that they must provide a Non-Federal Match of at least 5% of the total project cost, which may be provided in cash or in-kind.. Applicants should also consider the Federal requirement that projects involving data collection require an *approved Quality Assurance Project Plan prior to commencing environmental data collection* - extra funds and extra time may be needed for its development.

Project Clarification/Revisions. Applicants may be contacted for clarification and for the purpose of negotiating changes in project terms and amounts.

Confidentiality. We expect that applicants will only submit non-confidential information, since external reviewers assist in evaluations and since information will be published on the Internet. 40 C.F.R. Part 2 discusses "public information," including procedures for claiming confidentiality (40 C.F.R. §§ 2.203 and 2.204). Note that under Public Law No. 105-277, data produced under an award is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Notification: We will confirm Proposal receipt within: (i) one week for E-Mail submissions or (ii) two weeks for regular mail. Contact avalos.elias@epa.gov if you do not receive a confirmation. Shortly after the Proposal deadline, we will post Proposal information (including Applicant, Title, and GLNPO identification number) at: <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>. GLNPO will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Application Packages.

Deadline for Proposal Receipt: February 15, 2002.

Proposal Submission. Electronic submissions are required. Attach a copy of the data file, "APL2002.TPS," from the C:\PSS2002 subdirectory and e-mail it to: glnpo.funding@epa.gov. If sending a disk, include the "APL2002.TPS" file, and mail it to:

USEPA - GLNPO (G-17J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3590
Attention: Elias Avalos

Multiple Proposals. If your organization submits multiple Proposals and chooses to rank them, please use PSS2002 to identify an overall contact (including phone, e-mail, and address) and send a single, coordinated submittal. Ranking information could, instead, be sent by e-mail to avalos.elias@epa.gov. Individuals from the following organizations have offered to serve as their organizations' contacts.

- Indiana DEM: Kathy Luther (219-881-6730)
- Indiana DNR: Laurie Rounds (317-233-0132)
- Minnesota PCA: Pat Carey (218-723-4744)
- Minnesota DNR: Pat Collins (218-834-6612)
- Ohio EPA: Julie Letterhos (614-644-2871)
- Pennsylvania DEP: Kelly Burch (814-332-6816)
- Wisconsin DNR: Linda Talbot (608-266-8148)
- Army Corps of Engineers: Jan Miller (312-353-6354)
- Great Lakes Commission: Michael Donahue (734-665-9135)
- Argonne National Lab: Roger Anderson (630-252-6406)
- TNC: Lois Morrison (312-759-8017)

IV. PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

A broad solicitation of Proposals is being done through direct mailings, notification in the Federal Register, and Internet posting and announcements. GLNPO will screen Proposals upon receipt to ensure they qualify under both the Specific and General criteria in Parts V and VI. Reviewers internal and external to USEPA will also use those criteria to evaluate the remaining Proposals. Evaluations take into account an Applicant's ranking of its Proposals and do not penalize Applicants for submitting multiple Proposals. Evaluations will take into account recommendations on specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans or Initiatives for each of the Great Lakes and their included geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern (see the identified priorities in Appendix I criteria). To obtain additional information about those needs and priorities, applicants are encouraged to consult with applicable USEPA staff in GLNPO and in Regions 2, 3, and 5. (See Appendix II for contact information.) GLNPO will contact all Applicants to tell them whether or not they will be asked to submit Assistance Application Packages with the SF-424 and attendant documentation (Application Packages). Final funding decisions will be based upon the Application Packages. When GLNPO is aware of appropriate funding opportunities in other USEPA offices, GLNPO will pass Proposals to those offices for their consideration.

The schedule for the remainder of this FY 2002 funding cycle is:

Deadline for Submission of Proposals	February 15
Proposal Reviews (internal and external)	through May 9
Applicants Notified	by May 10
Application Packages due	through July 15
Final Decisions/Awards	May-September 30

APPLICANTS FOR HABITAT AND INVASIVE SPECIES PLEASE NOTE: If your project is selected, it may be funded and administered as part of a pass-through grant with an intermediary organization. See Appendix III for additional information.

V. GENERAL CRITERIA.

Does the project Proposal: (i) State a Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action? (ii) Have Scientific/ Professional Merit? (iii) Demonstrate Innovation? (iv) Demonstrate Performance Capability? (v) Involve Diverse Stakeholders? (vi) Have its Geographic Scope within the Great Lakes Basin? (vii) Disseminate Results effectively? (viii) Outline an Appropriate Budget? (ix) Leverage additional resources? (x) Most closely match GLNPO's mission, instead of that of Other Funding Sources? We especially welcome projects which address Environmental Justice and have community-based support. Applicants with a history of performance problems (such as delays in completing quality system documentation, delivering progress or final reports, or closeout documents) will receive less consideration than Applicants with a good performance record.

Rationale/Relevance/Bias for Action: Funding will be directed to proposals showing the most potential, whether direct or indirect, to protect and/or restore the Great Lakes Basin ecosystem. Successful proposals will explain how they address issues most relevant to Great Lakes policymakers in a value-adding way or result in practical activities which promise measurable progress to protect and/or restore the Great Lakes Basin.

Scientific/Professional Merit: Soundness of approach is a key consideration, including design, objectives, and scientific viability of the project.

Innovation: We favor projects which do not duplicate prior efforts or which build upon prior efforts in value-adding ways.

Performance Capability: The experience and resources (including facilities, equipment, and instrumentation, if applicable) of applicants should be shown to be appropriate to perform the work proposed. Applicants with existing EPA projects should be up-to-date on reporting and other requirements.

Stakeholders: Plans to work with appropriate partners and customers, for instance government agencies, community groups, businesses, or stakeholders for Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans, will be considered.

Geographic Scope: Projects which aim to serve environmental needs identified by Lakewide Management and Remedial Action Plans will be considered on this basis. Support from LaMP and/or RAP committees will be considered.

Disseminate Results: Plans to disseminate project results will be considered. Broad public dissemination is favored.

Appropriate Budget: Applicants must suggest a budget reasonably in keeping with the level of work proposed and with expected benefits.

Leveraging. We favor projects which leverage additional resources from other organizations.

Other Funding Sources: Projects for which funding could reasonably be expected from other sources will receive less consideration. For example, \$30 million of National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration funding is available through Great Lakes State programs for cleanup of contaminated sites, stormwater controls, wetland restoration, acquisition of greenways and buffers and other projects designed to control polluted runoff and protect and restore coastal resources. Some of the the NOAA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Army Corps of Engineers, and Natural Resources Conservation Service and USEPA Great Lakes funding opportunities are described in the 2002 Great Lakes Roadmap to Federal Funding Opportunities at < <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/Roadmap2002b.pdf> >.

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies.

VI. SPECIFIC CRITERIA

Special consideration will be given to Lakewide Management Plan priorities for Contaminated Sediments, Pollution Prevention and Reduction, and Ecological Protection and Restoration.

A. Contaminated Sediments - \$1,400,000*. GLNPO will provide funding, technical support, and vessel support to assist contaminated sediment work in priority geographic areas in the Great Lakes. GLNPO's emphasis and ultimate objective is to assist in bringing about remediation of contaminated sediments at these sites. GLNPO WILL NOT FUND BASIC RESEARCH FOCUSING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGIES FOR TREATING CONTAMINATED SEDIMENTS.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- < sediment assessments (chemical, physical, biological) to better map contamination at a site.
- < sediment assessment in areas where subsistence fishing is high.
- < data collection to better understand the relationship between contaminated sediments and fish residues.
- < data collection to support the development of risk/hazard assessments.
- < beneficial re-use of sediments, including associated human and ecological risk.
- < assessment of Binational Toxics Strategy Priority Pollutants in Great Lakes sediments.
- < assessment projects to determine benefits/impacts of remediation.
- < on the ground sediment remediation.
- < demonstrations of innovative sediment treatment technologies.

Evaluations will also consider the specific needs and priorities of geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans and geographic initiatives such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern. Projects dealing with the following topics will receive great consideration:

- *Lake Erie and the St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basin.* Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PCBs, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex), with priority given to projects involving PCBs and mercury.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River, and Niagara River basins.* Projects which address the critical pollutants as identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP and/or the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan and projects that protect or restore habitats within these basins.
- *Lake Michigan basin.* Projects for (i) the possible beneficial reuse of contaminated sediments and (ii) tools and models for public education and involvement in sediment cleanups.
- *Lake Superior basin.* Projects addressing either of the St. Louis River or St. Mary's River Areas Of Concern (AOCs) and their directives to remove impairments of beneficial uses.

* *Planning Target - the actual amount of funded projects may differ for reasons including budget changes mandated by law or executive order, Agency requirements related to development of annual operating plans, or the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified Proposals.*

Project Selection Criteria. GLNPO's Proposal evaluation will seek a balance among sediments activities; however, Proposals will be prioritized in the following order: (i) on-the-ground cleanup, (ii) field work and assessment, and (iii) remedial design. All Proposals submitted under this Section A will be evaluated under the General Criteria specified in Part V and the following Specific Criteria:

- Availability and assessment of baseline conditions for remediation proposals.
- Likelihood that remedial measures, including enforcement, will result.
- Public outreach component of activity.

Contact: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

B. Pollution Prevention (Binational Toxics Strategy) - \$500,000*. GLNPO will provide assistance for pollution prevention, reduction or elimination projects, with an emphasis on substances which are persistent and toxic, especially those which bioaccumulate, in the Great Lakes basin.

Priority will be given to those projects that support the goals of the US-Canada Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (GLBTS). See <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/bns/strategy.html>. The Strategy establishes reduction challenges for twelve "Level I" persistent toxic substances: alkyl-lead, benzo(a)pyrene [B(a)P], hexachlorobenzene (HCB), dioxins and furans, mercury, octachlorostyrene (OCS), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and five canceled pesticides (aldrin/dieldrin, chlordane, DDT, mirex, and toxaphene). The US has also identified "Level II" substances for pollution prevention activities: 1,2,3,4-tetrachlorobenzene; 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene; pentachlorobenzene; hexachlorobutadiene; and hexachlorocyclohexanes.

We are particularly interested in the following projects:

- < Source characterization: Assessment of potential sources of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- < Indicators of progress toward virtual elimination of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- < Proper disposal of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- < Foster adoption of innovative products that would reduce the use and release of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances and that are consistent with the principles of EPA's *Environmentally-Preferable Purchasing Program* (see <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp>).
- < Implementation of projects/actions delivering toxic reductions/pollution prevention in sectors targeted by the GLBTS. Expected environmental outcomes must be quantified.
- < Foster adoption of green technologies. In this context, green technology involves reducing or eliminating the use or generation of persistent bioaccumulative toxic substances - including feedstocks, reagents, solvents, products and byproducts-during design, manufacture and use of chemical products and processes. (The aim of this project is not technology development. We seek projects which advance a developed technology within society, including identification of public policies which would speed the

* *Planning Target - the actual amount of funded projects may differ for reasons including budget changes mandated by law or executive order, Agency requirements related to development of annual operating plans, or the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified Proposals.*

spread of environmentally kind technologies.)

Project Selection Criteria. All Proposals submitted under this Section B will be evaluated under the General Criteria specified in Part V and the following Specific Criteria for Pollution Prevention and Reduction projects. GLNPO will favor Proposals for projects which:

- Are listed above.
- Include an evaluation of the potential reductions of pollutants in the environment
- Jointly target common goals under the Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy and the LaMPs.

In this solicitation, special consideration is being given to projects in support of the Lakewide Management Plans published in Spring 2000. For that purpose, GLNPO has established a target of about \$40,000 per Lake, potentially available to fund projects which will support the pollution prevention/reduction goals of the LaMPs. Because only meritorious, technically qualified projects will be selected, there is no guarantee that the target amount will be realized for each Lake. Lake-specific Proposals not selected as described in this paragraph will be considered along with the pool of other Proposals. The Pollution Prevention and Reduction priorities for each Lake are:

- *Lake Erie and St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basins.* Projects addressing the chemicals associated with the beneficial use impairments as identified by the Lake Erie LaMP (PCBs, mercury, PAHs, lead, chlordane, dioxins, DDE/DDT, mirex) with priority given to projects involving PCBs and mercury or which reduce the release of atrazine to the waters of Lake Erie.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and Niagara River basins.* Projects which:
 - (i) address pollutants identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP (PCBs, DDTs, mercury, mirex, dieldrin, dioxins), and emerging toxics such as PBDE as well as projects along the Niagara River which address the priority toxics identified in the Niagara River Toxics Management Plan.
 - (ii) reduce mercury or other pollutants by building upon, or initiating projects similar in concept to auto mercury switch/ thermometer replacement; mercury collections from medical situations; electronic equipment and pesticide collections and education; demonstrate innovative technologies for control of pollutant loadings from the watershed.
- *Lake Michigan Basin.* **Innovative, demonstration** projects which:
 - (i) address dioxin and other pollutants formed from "burning trash in barrels."
 - (ii) further agricultural clean sweep efforts.
 - (iii) collect PCB and Mercury materials in urban environments.
- *Lake Superior Basin.* Projects which:
 - (i) address the chemicals identified as critical pollutants; PCBs, dioxins, DDT and metabolites, toxaphene, chlordane, aldrin/dieldrin, mercury, hexachlorobenzene and octachlorostyrene.
 - (ii) place special emphasis on mercury reduction through the two major sources of environmental release in the Lake Superior basin, energy production (electric utility sector) and taconite mining and ore processing, in order to meet the chemical load reduction schedules set in the Lake Superior LaMP 2000 document.
 - (iii) address in-basin load estimates of mercury, dioxin and hexachlorobenzene that have a low degree of confidence but may represent a significant portion of the load from the Stage 2 and 3 inventories (e.g., small incinerators, treated wood or mercury products in the solid waste stream).

- *Lake Huron basin.* The Lake Huron Initiative has identified priority pollutants which should receive special attention for pollution prevention and reduction efforts, including PCBs, Chlordane, Dioxin, Mercury.

Contacts: EMarie Phillips (312-886-6034/ phillips.emarie@epa.gov)

Further information: Please see <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/p2.html>

C. Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration - \$450,000*. GLNPO will fund projects that demonstrate new and innovative practices and tools for protecting and restoring aquatic, terrestrial, and wetland ecosystems. When developing Proposals, Applicants should consider concepts from the State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences (SOLEC) and from previously funded GLNPO projects. SOLEC and final grant report documents are at < <http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/indicators2000-e.html> > and <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/ecopage/>> respectively. Applicants should note that:

- Acquisition projects will not be considered.
- Basinwide projects, projects having large-scale implications for the Great Lakes ecosystem, are encouraged. Proposals must indicate specific project outcomes as well as identify workplan contents.
- Regional projects must be consistent with Lakewide Management Plan priorities as described below, with Tribal priorities, or with Biodiversity Investment Area development as described in the SOLEC 2000, Shoreline Biodiversity Investment Area Integration paper (available from www.epa.gov/glnpo/solec/2000/day2/index.html).
- Local or site-specific projects must demonstrate innovative measures to protect or restore, and define expected outcomes.

Project Selection Criteria. All Proposals submitted under this Section C will be evaluated under the General Criteria specified in Part V and the following Specific Criteria for ecological (habitat) protection and restoration projects. GLNPO is requesting Proposals for projects which will:

- Have biological importance on a regional or global scale.
- Test new techniques or approaches to protection or restoration.
- Identify and report on demonstrated environmental results.
- Incorporate an education or outreach component.
- Create new partnerships.
- Impact a significant number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial habitat.

In this solicitation, special consideration is being given to projects in support of the Lakewide Management Plans published in Spring 2000. For that purpose, GLNPO has established a target of about \$50,000 per

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Lake, potentially available to fund projects which will support the habitat goals of the LaMPs. Because only meritorious, technically qualified projects will be selected, there is no guarantee that the target amount will be realized for each Lake. Lake-specific Proposals not selected as described in this paragraph will be considered along with the pool of other Proposals. The Habitat priorities for each Lake are identified in the requests below:

- *Lake Erie and St. Clair/Lake St. Clair/Detroit River basins.* Proposals for projects which:
 1. Gather information leading to the development of ecosystem indicators and measures for appropriate wildlife species and habitat (particularly coastal wetlands). Projects should consider both LaMP and SOLEC indicator work.
 2. Monitor projects listed in the Lake Erie LaMP, following up on completed work for the purpose of measuring results.
- *Lake Ontario, St. Lawrence River and Niagara River basins.* Proposals for projects which:
 1. Assist the Four Parties to address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat use impairment identified in the 1998 Stage I Lake Ontario LaMP such as:
 - The implementation of new habitat protection or restoration projects;
 - An assessment and mapping of aquatic and/or wildlife habitat in the Lake Ontario basin; mapping of mink populations in the Lake Ontario basin as either a U.S. or a binational (US/Canadian) project;
 - Gathering information leading to development of ecosystem indicators and measures for appropriate wildlife species (such as osprey, benthos) and habitat (nearshore or coastal wetlands or other). Projects should consider both LaMP and SOLEC indicator work.
 2. In the Niagara River and St. Lawrence River basin, address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat, including an assessment of habitat and on the ground projects to restore/protect/enhance habitat.
- *Lake Michigan Basin.* The Lake Michigan Team is seeking Proposals for projects which:
 1. Demonstrate, in the coastal area of the Lake or major tributaries, brownfield to habitat restoration, development of local restoration priorities and plans that utilize and/or add to the Lake Michigan Habitat on-line GIS Atlas; and in urban areas, utilize the Chicago Wilderness biodiversity plan model.
 2. Protect and/or restore wetlands and other nearshore features important to the health and spawning of Lake Michigan aquatic species.
- *Lake Superior Basin.* The Lake Superior Team is seeking Proposals for projects which:
 1. Restore stream/tributary habitat so as to produce a stable tributary environment. Restore both the land and water interface, and have a connection to an ongoing monitoring and evaluation project. Promote the achievement of Great Lakes Fisheries Commission fish community objectives.
 2. Implement restoration or protection recommendations from watershed or forest stewardship management plans which are multi-jurisdictional.
 3. Restore lost or degraded ecological components or processes in Lake Superior forest communities (including a strong educational/outreach component directed towards both the general public and land managers)
 4. Make available local sources of plant material (seeds and seedlings) for restoration or vegetation management projects.
 5. Protect or restore rare ecological communities (e.g., pine barrens).
- *Lake Huron Basin.* Proposals are requested for projects which:

1. Support the goals and objectives outlined by the International Alvar Initiative.
2. Demonstrate the connection between coastal marshes and the fishery.
3. Investigate the impacts of dams and identifies potential efforts to restore natural flows and increase tributary fish spawning habitat.
4. Enhance the ongoing binational GIS development to include openwater, nearshore, and terrestrial habitats.
5. Develop and implement comprehensive nutrient management plans that address critical pollutants identified in the Lake Huron Initiative Action Plan, including but not limited to phosphorus, soil erosion and pathogens.

Contact: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690/ rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

Proposals for the development of specified Habitat Indicators are being sought pursuant to Section E. See Appendix III for a description of other GLNPO Habitat-related funding opportunities, including the Coastal Wetlands Consortium and conference support.

D. Invasive Species - \$300,000*. GLNPO will provide assistance to address invasive (non-indigenous) aquatic and terrestrial species in the Great Lakes Basin with an emphasis on prevention. This priority is proposed to be funded using Congressionally directed funding.

We are particularly interested in the following projects, with the highest priority given to the first three topic areas:

1. Development and demonstration of strong and innovative programs (education and outreach, new technology, or biological) to prevent the introduction of new invasive species (aquatic or terrestrial) into the Great Lakes Basin.
2. Development and demonstration of strong and innovative programs to control the spread of invasive species within and from the Great Lakes Basin.
3. Projects that allow for the prediction of new invaders into the Great Lakes Basin and the development of contingency plans to address these potential invaders.
4. Documenting ecological impacts of invasive species on the Great Lakes Basin food web.
5. Documenting the economic impacts or potential economic impacts of invasive species already in the Great Lakes Basin.
6. Projects which identify chemical, physical, and biological conditions that promote the establishment of invasive species.

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Project Selection Criteria. GLNPO's Proposal evaluation will consider priorities associated with invasive species for geographic areas within the Great Lakes, particularly those of Lakewide Management Plans; however, as funding for this category is limited, emphasis will be placed on projects of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. All Proposals submitted under this Section D will be evaluated under the General Criteria specified in Part V as well as the following Specific Criteria:

- Potential for project to benefit the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Transferability across the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.
- Potential to advance government and private partnerships and community involvement.

Contact: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369/ tuchman.marc@epa.gov)

E. Habitat Indicator Development - \$150,000* In order to better fulfill its mission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, GLNPO is seeking directed projects which further develop, define, test or otherwise implement the following underdeveloped **habitat indicators**:

- 8129 area quality and protection of special lakeshore communities: sand dunes
- 8134 nearshore plant and wildlife problem species
- 8150 breeding bird diversity and abundance

These habitat indicators have been selected for reporting at the biennial State of the Lakes Ecosystem Conferences (SOLEC). They are intended to be easily understood and objectively represent the condition of the Great Lakes ecosystem components. The information generated is targeted toward making better management decisions concerning the restoration and maintenance of Great Lakes ecosystem health. The three habitat indicators for which proposals are now being sought each require further refinement, identification and testing of methodology, data collection, establishment of monitoring programs, or other efforts to bring the information forward for reporting at SOLEC. Complete descriptions for the indicators can be found at: <<http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/solec/indicators2000-e.html>>.

GLNPO is not considering Proposals for other indicator development work at this time, except as they may relate to the other funding categories for this Funding Guidance. Any Proposals for that work should be submitted to those other categories.

The purpose of projects funded in this category is to demonstrate the utility of selected indicators across the Great Lakes basin. Applicants seeking funding for indicator development research should pursue funding from USEPA's Office of Research and Development. Additional information is available at <<http://es.epa.gov/ncercqa/rfa>>.

* *Planning Target - the actual amount of funded projects may differ for reasons including budget changes mandated by law or executive order, Agency requirements related to development of annual operating plans, or the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified Proposals.*

Project Selection Criteria. All funding for this category is intended to support habitat indicators. The targeted amount will not be used to fund routine or long term monitoring activities. All Proposals submitted under this Section E will be evaluated under the General Criteria specified in Part V. In addition, evaluations will consider the following Specific Criteria:

- How well does the project support the SOLEC indicators identified above?
- Strategic importance of the indicator in making management decisions concerning the restoration and maintenance of Great Lakes ecosystem health.
- Degree to which the indicator(s) will be refined and implemented on a basin-wide scale.
- Identification of the environmental measurements to be made: where, how often, by what methodologies?
- Suitability of proposed indicator features and illustrations.
- Feasibility of collecting and analyzing required data, whether obtained from existing sources or by new monitoring efforts.
- Assessment of the applicability of the indicator to the ecosystem component it is supposed to reflect.
- Potential for establishing cost-efficient, standard protocols for continuing or future monitoring efforts.
- Potential to obtain commitments for long term monitoring based on the established protocols. (The Proposal should identify who would do the necessary monitoring - GLNPO is not likely to do so.)

Contact: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690/ rodriguez.karen@epa.gov)

F. Strategic or Emerging Issues - \$100,000* . In order to better fulfill its mission under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, GLNPO is seeking one to three innovative Great Lakes environmental projects which deal with strategic or emerging issues of basin-wide importance.

We expect that projects in this area would:

- not fit neatly under other existing GLNPO funding categories (i.e. Contaminated Sediments, Pollution Prevention, Ecological Protections and Restoration, Invasive Species, and Indicator Development) but might contain elements of one or more of those categories;
- address assessment, causes and/or effects of chemical or biological pollutants not in the regulatory “mainstream;”
- cut across or overlap two or more of the foregoing areas; or
- address some other unanticipated area.

We especially encourage projects which identify and propose solutions/mitigation for strategic or emerging issues of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability, particularly if they are being identified through the Lakewide

* *Planning Target - the actual amount of funded projects may differ for reasons including budget changes mandated by law or executive order, Agency requirements related to development of annual operating plans, or the number and quality of meritorious, technically qualified Proposals.*

Management Plans and geographic initiatives (such as the Remedial Action Plans for Areas of Concern).

Areas of particular interest include:

- < investigating chemicals of potential environmental concern such as polybrominated flame retardants, pharmaceuticals, and endocrine disruptors.
- < human health and food web concerns (for example, avian botulism in Lake Erie).
- < economic issues.
- < environmental impacts of lower lake levels.

Project Selection Criteria. Funding for this category has been reduced to allow support for the Lake Erie initiative to address Lake Erie anoxia described in Appendix III. The emphasis for this category will thus be for projects of Great Lakes Basin-wide applicability. Evaluations will to some extent depend on the type of projects submitted; however, all Proposals submitted under this Section F will be evaluated under the General Criteria specified in Part V as well as the following Specific Criteria:

- Potential to further the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.
- Transferability across the Great Lakes Basin and beyond.
- Strategic importance.

Contacts: Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612/ horvatin.paul@epa.gov)/Michael Russ (312-886-4013/ russ.michael@epa.gov)

“Line-by-Line” Instructions for PSS2002 Data Entry
(Tabs refer to data entry in the Proposal Submission System)

APPLICANT INFORMATION (TAB 1)

Applicant. Enter Applicant (Organization) Name, Contact Person's Title (choose one from the drop-down list), Contact Person's Name, Address, City, State (choose one from the drop-down list), Phone, Fax, and E-mail. For Phone and Fax numbers, enter the 10-digit number without any punctuation, spaces, etc.

Type of Organization. Choose one from a drop-down list including: State; Interstate Agency or Commission; Sub-state or special purpose district; County; Municipality; Federal Agency; College or University; Tribal Organization; Federally funded research and development center; or Other.

PROJECT SUMMARY INFORMATION (TAB 2)

Project Title. No more than 60 characters.

Abstract. One paragraph synopsis which can stand alone as a project description.

Duration. Specify project duration from 0.5 years up to 2 years (select from the spin-box list).

Category. Choose only 1 from a drop-down list including: (i) Contaminated Sediments; (ii) Pollution Prevention and Reduction (GLBTS); (iii) Ecological (Habitat) Protection and Restoration; (iv) Invasive Species; (v) Habitat Indicator Development; or (vi) Strategic or Emerging Issues. *Do not submit the same project to multiple categories.*

Rank Within Category. Only for multiple Proposals being submitted within the same project category from the same organization. To only be filled in after rank is assigned by the organization's coordinator.

GEOGRAPHIC APPLICABILITY (TAB 3)

Applicable State. Select Great Lakes State(s) which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on appropriate boxes.)

Applicable Lake Basin. Identify Lake Basin(s) which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on appropriate boxes.)

Applicable Geographic Initiative. If applicable, identify geographic initiative which would be most impacted by this project. (Click on box for Greater Chicago, Northeast Ohio, NW Indiana, Southeast Michigan, or Lake St. Clair.)

Applicable Areas of Concern. Identify the Areas of Concern affected by the Project: Choose the primary affected Area of Concern from the drop-down list. List any others in the field entitled "Other Affected AOCs."

PROBLEM STATEMENT (TAB 4)

Problem Statement. Describe the issue that will be addressed and its relevance to the Great Lakes, particularly to needs and priorities (especially in LaMPs and RAPs) for Lakes, AOCs, and other geographic initiatives.

Proposed Work/Outcome. Outline what will be done and how. Describe anticipated environmental results, referencing affected pollutants, industry sectors, economic impacts, habitats, and/or species.

Additional Information. Estimate chemicals “collected or prevented” for Contaminated Sediments and Pollution Prevention and Reduction projects. State the number of acres of aquatic, wetland, riverine, and terrestrial Great Lakes habitat to be positively impacted for Habitat projects.

PROJECT MILESTONES (TAB 5)

Milestones. Specify milestones and/or final products and projected due dates (Month/Year, in MM/YYYY format). You may describe up to 8 milestones/final products, including Project Start and End. Please be aware that if you submit an Application Package in May, your project could begin in June; however, most usually begin in September or October.

EJ/EDUCATION APPLICABILITY (TAB 6)

Environmental Justice. Check box and include a description if part of the project addresses “Environmental Justice.”

Education/Outreach Component. Check box, if the project includes an education/outreach component. If applicable, describe the target audience and how that group would be impacted by the project in the field entitled "Education/Outreach Description".

PROJECT BUDGET (TAB 7)

Budget. Fill in the applicable budget items in the table to show how Federal funds and non-Federal matching funds will be used for personnel/salaries, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, supplies, contract costs, construction, and other costs. (Federal applicants should show the GLNPO request as “Federal” and their contribution as “non-Federal.”) You may include a separate line for indirect costs if your organization has in place (or will negotiate) an "indirect cost rate" from a cognizant Federal agency. Budget should represent the total which would be requested from GLNPO for the project's duration (up to two years). Funding will be awarded as a "lump sum" and is not assured for subsequent years. Do not include commas when entering the budget amounts. Totals will be calculated automatically or by pressing “calculate.”

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING (TAB 8)

Other Funding. If others are expected to contribute funds to your Project, list the Name of the Providers, Amounts Provided, and Commitments made by each.

COLLABORATION (TAB 9)

Collaboration/Community-based Support. Describe plans and status of collaboration amongst the public, private, and independent sectors. Evidence of support will be required as part of any subsequent Application Package submittal.

Appendix II

USEPA CONTACTS FOR GREAT LAKES PRIORITIES

USEPA's role in the Great Lakes is to steer the U.S. Great Lakes effort and to provide timely technical support and assistance, coordinating not only with U.S. partners, but also with Canadian counterparts. Our Great Lakes efforts are thus organized in a nested structure.

- USEPA's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) steers and coordinates activities at a Basin-wide level.
- Regional Teams and Programs steer and coordinate activities focusing on four of the five Great Lakes, their AOCs, and other targeted geographic areas. In Region 5, the Regional Teams serve leadership and coordinating roles. They influence funding decisions of USEPA media programs, such as Air, Water, and Waste, as well as National Initiatives, such as Brownfields. They can also help identify funding sources and priorities for LaMPs, RAPs, and other initiatives.
- Coordination and integration of State, Tribal, and Federal environmental programs is intended to be accomplished through Environmental Performance Partnership Agreements. Projects can also be developed outside of that structure.

Contacts for Programs and Teams who can best provide information about their Great Lakes priorities and funding opportunities are listed below. (See also the funding opportunities charts at <http://www.epa.gov/seahome/resources/> and www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/2002guid/Roadmap2002b.pdf) Since evaluations of the GLNPO Proposals will take into account recommendations on specific needs and priorities of geographic areas in the Great Lakes, particularly those of LaMPs and RAPs, we especially encourage consultations. Note that e-mail addresses use the convention "lastname.firstname@epa.gov".

GLNPO:

- Contaminated Sediments: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369)
- Pollution Prevention and Reduction: EMarie Phillips (312-886-6034)
- Habitat (Ecological) Protection: Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690)
- Invasive Species: Marc Tuchman (312-353-1369)
- Indicator Development: Paul Bertram (312-353-0153)
- Strategic or Emerging Issues: Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612)
- <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/glf.html>.

USEPA REGION 2 (INCLUDING NY)

- Barbara Belasco (212-637-3848)

USEPA REGION 3 (INCLUDING PA)

- Larry Merrill (215-814-5452)

REGION 5 (INCLUDING IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, AND WI) "PRIORITY APPROACH" TEAMS

- Sediments: Bonnie Eleder (312-886-4885)
- Toxics Reduction: Dan Hopkins (312-886-5994)
- Ecosystem: John Perrecone (312-353-1149)
- Environmental Justice: Karla Owens (312-886-5993)

REGION 5 "PRIORITY GEOGRAPHIC/PLACE" TEAMS

- L. Erie: Daniel O'Riordan (312-886-7981)
- L. Michigan: Judy Beck (312-353-3849)
- L. Superior: Elizabeth LaPlante (312-353-2694)
- Northeast Ohio: Lyn Luttner (440-250-1711)
- Greater Chicago: Mardi Klevs (312-353-5490)
- NW Indiana: Sally Swanson (312-353-8512)

- SE Michigan: Laura Lodisio (312-886-7090)

REGION 5 WATER PROGRAM

Great Lakes RAP/LaMP funds

- Harlan Hirt (312-353-4378)

Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Thomas Davenport (312-886-0209)

Drinking Water

- William Spaulding (312-886-9262)

Water Pollution Control - State and Interstate Program Support.

- Headquarters - Carol Crow (202-260-0644)
- Regional - Gene Wojcik (312-886-0174)

AIR PROGRAM

- Region 5 - Carlton Nash (312-886-6030)
- Region 2 - Raymond Werner (212-637-3706)
- HQ - Randy McDonald (919-541-5402)

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

- Region 5 - James Hahnenberg (312-353-4213)
- www.epa.gov/R5Super/

Brownfields

- Region 5: Deborah Orr (312-886-7576)
- Region 3: Tom Stolle (215-814-3129)
- Region 2: Larry D'Andrea (212-637-4314)

RCRA WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Region 5: General §3011 - Richard Traub (312-353-8319); Haz. waste minimization/solid waste mgnt - Mary Setnicar (312-886-0976)
Region 3: Paul Gotthold (215-814-3410)
Region 2: Ray Basso (212-637-4109) / Michael Infurna (212-637-4177)

Pollution Prevention

Region 5: Phil Kaplan 312-353-4669
Region 3: Jeff Burke 215-814-2761
Region 2: Deborah Freeman 212-637-3584

PESTICIDES/TOXIC SUBSTANCES.

Region 5: Seth Diblee (312-356-5992) for Toxics; Margaret Jones (312-353-5790) for Ag. Clean Sweeps
Region 3: Harry Daw (215-814-3244) for pesticides, lead, and asbestos; Aquanetta Dickens (215-814-2080) for PCBs and EPCRA
Region 2: Adrian Enache (732-321-6771) for Pesticides; David Greenlaw for Toxics (908-321-6817)

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

HQ: Diane Berger/Sheri Jojokian (202-260-8619)
Region 5: Megan Gavin (312-353-5282)
Region 3: Nan Ides (215-814-5546)
Region 2: Teresa Ippolito (212-637-3671)

GREAT LAKES RESEARCH.

Inhouse research: Steven Bradbury (218-529-5025)
Science to Achieve Results (STAR) <http://es.epa.gov/ncercqa/>

Appendix III

OTHER GLNPO ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING

GLNPO is actively involved in numerous Great Lakes activities. In the areas referenced below, we will coordinate at the Federal, State, Tribal, and local levels to ensure that these projects and resources are appropriately targeted to achieve mutual objectives. Staff are also available for consultation in these areas.

- * **Lake ecosystem indicators.** Through atmospheric deposition monitoring of toxics, monitoring of toxics levels in Great Lakes fish, and open lake monitoring in each Great Lake for nutrient concentrations (using EPA's research vessels), GLNPO will provide trend and baseline data to support and target remedial efforts and to measure environmental progress. Open lake and nearshore monitoring of benthic communities will help assess the health of and changes in the Great Lakes food chain. Additional information is available from Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612), Chief of GLNPO's Monitoring, Indicators, and Reporting Branch.
- * **Lake Erie Initiative:** GLNPO will be issuing a separate request for proposals early in 2002 to address recent changes in the Lake Erie ecosystem. The central basin of Lake Erie is experiencing increased hypoxia (low oxygen levels) in its bottom waters, concurrent with a rise in the total phosphorus content of the water. There are also reports of increasing abundance in blue-green algae in the western basin, and growths of *Cladophora* near the shoreline. The abundance, distribution and ecological effects of zebra mussels, round goby, and other invasive species may be implicated. These changes raise concern about the state of the Lake Erie ecosystem within the Great Lakes community and were the subject of a December, 2001 workshop. GLNPO will address these issues by supporting research and modeling with time aboard the R/V Lake Guardian, and additional support for selected areas of research critical to an understanding of the recent changes. Additional information is available from Paul Horvatin (312-353-3612), Chief of GLNPO's Monitoring, Indicators, and Reporting Branch.

- * **Shared Ship Time.** The USEPA, GLNPO ship, the R/V Lake Guardian will be conducting surveys of all the lakes this year. If your research requires Great Lakes sampling that is compatible with our survey schedule and requires only small additions of time to the surveys, please contact Glenn Warren (312-886-2405) to discuss how we may be able to accommodate your needs. The tentative schedule for the R/V Lake Guardian will be posted at: < www.epa.gov/glnpo/guard/schedule_2002.html >
- * **Great Lakes Education Course.** GLNPO is requesting proposals for use of the R/V Lake Guardian during June or July of 2002, to conduct an educational course designed to teach undergraduates, graduate students, or teachers about the physical, chemical, and biological components of the Great Lakes ecosystem. GLNPO would provide the ship time as well as two environmental scientists. The recipient of the award would be responsible for designing the course, providing at least two instructors, advertising through appropriate venues, and performing associated administrative functions. Special preference will be given to recipients who can attract a diverse pool of students, from across the Great Lakes basin and maintain uniform tuition for students. Applications must be submitted by January 4, 2002. See <<http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/fund/rfp/guardian2002.html>> to apply. For additional information, contact David Rockwell (312-353-1373 or rockwell.david@epa.gov).
- * **Manage and provide public access to Great Lakes data.** EPA's integrated Great Lakes information system, developed by GLNPO and its State and Federal partners, will deliver LMMB, and other, scientifically sound, easily accessible environmental information to decision makers and the public by traditional means and via the Internet. GLNPO will pilot techniques to provide public access to LMMB data via the Internet. Additional information is available from Pranas Pranckevicius (312-353-3437), leader of GLNPO's Information Management Team.
- * **Great Lakes Coastal Wetlands Consortium.** GLNPO awarded \$400,000 in 2000 and in 2001 for a Coastal Wetlands Consortium of institutions/organizations headed by the Great Lakes Commission and representing a binational, multi-disciplinary, broad-based consortium of Great Lakes wetland scientists. The ultimate goal of the work to be accomplished through the Consortium will be a long-term program, based on SOLEC Coastal Wetlands and related indicators, that monitors Great Lakes coastal wetlands consistently and allows a scientifically-sound assessment of their ecological integrity. An additional \$400,000 is expected to be awarded in 2002 for Coastal Wetlands Consortium projects. Additional information is available from Duane Heaton (312-886-6399).
- * **Ecological Protection and Restoration Conferences.** \$100,000 is available in small amounts, through grant or procurement requests, to co-sponsor appropriate conferences and publication reprints. Funding requests are reviewed by GLNPO on a first-come, first serve basis throughout the year and as long as money is available. Additional information is available from Karen Rodriguez (312-353-2690).
- * **Grants Servicing Intermediary.** GLNPO proposes to issue a request for proposals to select an intermediary organization for making and administering grant sub-awards in the areas of habitat and/or invasive species. This organization would receive an award from GLNPO, and make subawards to the applicants for the habitat and/or invasive species projects selected in this year's competitive process. The grants servicing intermediary would be known before application packages would be requested for the Funding Guidance proposals. Applicants for habitat and invasive species projects would be requested to provide necessary application materials to the grants servicing intermediary.