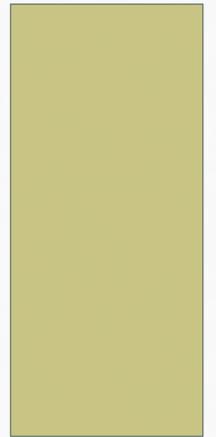


# STATE WETLAND RESTORATION PROGRAMS

JEANNE CHRISTIE ASSOCIATION OF STATE WETLAND  
MANAGERS



# COMPREHENSIVE STATE/TRIBAL PROGRAM

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [http://water.epa.gov/grants\\_f](http://water.epa.gov/grants_f). The browser's address bar also shows a tab titled "US EPA Core Elements of an Effecti...". The browser's menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Favorites", "Tools", and "Help".

The EPA website header features the EPA logo and the text "United States Environmental Protection Agency". Navigation tabs include "LEARN THE ISSUES", "SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY", "LAWS & REGULATIONS", and "ABOUT EPA". On the right, there is an "Advanced Search" field with a "SEARCH" button and an "A-Z Index" link.

The main content area is titled "Water: Wetlands" and includes a "Contact Us" link and a "Share" button. A breadcrumb trail reads: "You are here: [Water](#) » [Grants & Funding](#) » [Wetlands](#) » Core Elements of an Effective State and Tribal Wetlands Program Framework".

## Core Elements of an Effective State and Tribal Wetlands Program Framework

- [What is the Core Elements Framework?](#)
- [How will the Core Elements Framework be Used?](#)
- [Enhancing State and Tribal Programs and the Core Elements Framework Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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- [Starting to Think about Developing a State or Tribal Wetlands Program?](#)
- Are you interested in enhancing your existing wetlands program? If so the following links will help you if you are interested in learning about developing a state or tribal wetlands program in:
  - [Monitoring and Assessment | PDF Version \(6 pp, 47K, About PDF\)](#)
  - [Regulation | PDF Version \(12 pp, 149K, About PDF\)](#)
  - [Voluntary Restoration and Protection | PDF Version \(8 pp, 72K, About PDF\)](#)
  - [Water Quality Standards for Wetlands | PDF Version \(9 pp, 199.4K, About PDF\)](#)
- For the complete CEF: Introduction to the CEF, program building activities and helpful links: [Core Elements of an Effective State and Tribal Wetlands Program | PDF Version \(42 pp, 345K, About PDF\)](#)

# CORE ELEMENT FRAMEWORK

The CEF is intended to be fairly comprehensive so that states and tribes can choose from an array of actions that are best suited to their goals and resources. The CEF is designed as a menu of activities that states and tribes can draw from to design their own roadmap towards a more comprehensive wetland program. States and tribes will implement the CEF depending on their individual program goals and available resources.

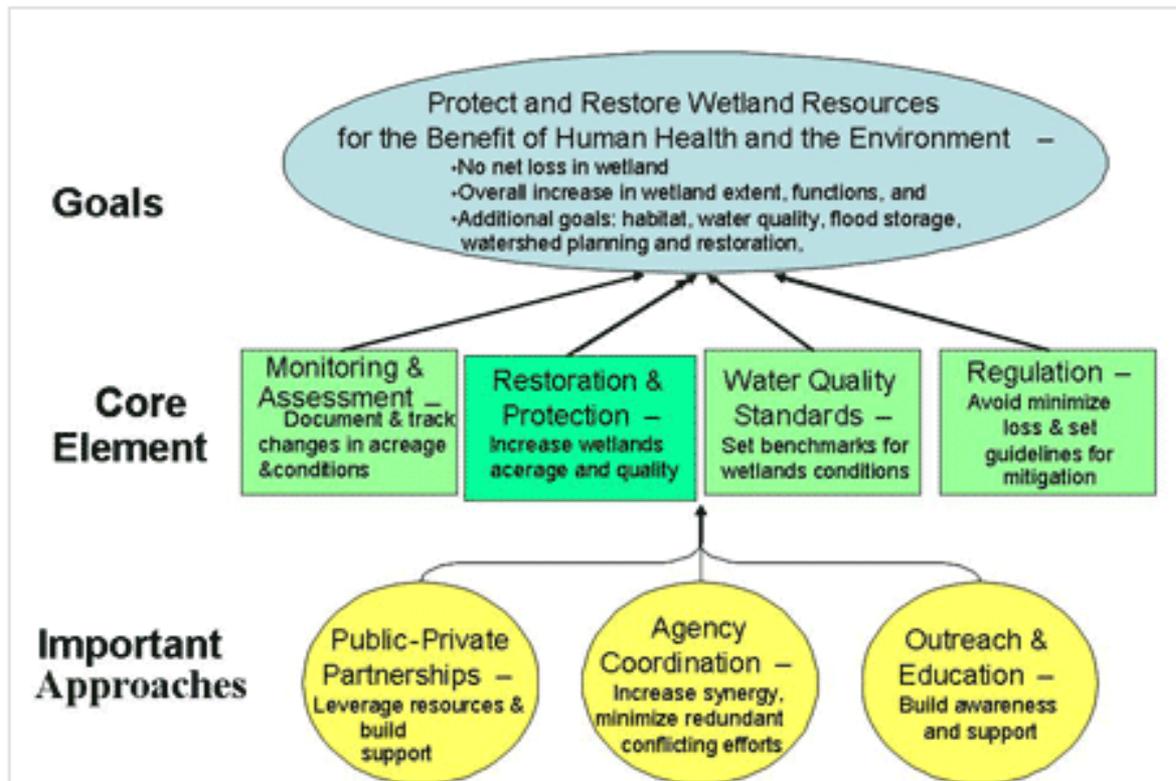
For each core element the CEF provides a menu or table of program building activities. Actions listed in the tables are a suite of activities that a state or tribe can pursue to advance development of that core element. The CEF has four chapters, one for each core element, which include:

1. **Definitions: Provides a concise description of each core element:** Monitoring and Assessment, Regulatory activities including 401 Certification, Voluntary Restoration and Protection, and Water Quality Standards for Wetlands;
2. **Goals and Benefits:** Identifies federal goals associated with each core element and provides examples of state and tribal goals (e.g., more habitat for threatened and endangered species, greater protection from storms). This section also includes benefits that states and tribes could enjoy if they pursued each core element (e.g., well-defined restoration priorities that are informed by monitoring and assessment data could protect the most vulnerable wetlands in a watershed);
3. **Menu of Program Development Actions:** outlines a set of objectives for each core element, key program-building actions, and a menu of activities that states and tribes can use to advance wetland program development and gauge progress.

The CEF also includes an introductory chapter and selected references and resources; the latter will be updated over time and case studies will be added.

# CORE ELEMENTS OF A WETLAND PROGRAM

Figure 1: Relationship between Goals, Core Elements, and Key Approaches



# STATE/TRIBAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

States and tribes can pursue any or all of the following objectives as they develop voluntary restoration and protection efforts:

1. Clearly and consistently define restoration and protection goals throughout state or tribal territory;
2. Protect wetlands from degradation or destruction;
3. Restore wetland acres, condition, and function; and
4. Track progress over time, document results, and modify practices as appropriate.

# WETLAND RESTORATION EVOLUTION

- North American Waterfowl Conservation Act
- Waterbank Program (SCS)
- Partners for Wildlife
- Reinvestment in Minnesota (RIM)
- State Wildlife Programs
- Wetland Reserve Program
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP)

# WETLAND RESTORATION PROGRAMS

- Large National Programs
- Often Located in Different State Agencies
- Historic Focus on Wildlife
- New Tools Under Development Provide Enormous Potential

# STATE RESTORATION PROGRAMS

- 19 States Include a Wetland Restoration as a Core Element in their Wetland Program Plan

They are: California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Massachusetts, Montana, Maine, Nebraska, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia, Vermont, Wisconsin, West Virginia

# COMMON THEMES

- Watershed Approach/Protection
- Use monitoring information to set priorities and measure success
- Use maps
- Works with Partners
- Develop Outreach materials
- Promote application of successful restoration science

# COMMON THEMES

- Study benefits of wetland restoration
- Develop and/or identify funding sources
- Communication and Coordination
- Link to TMDL's, Nonpoint source, and other Clean Water Act
- Link to Conservation Programs

# GEORGIA

## **Promote and, where appropriate, implement voluntary efforts designed to protect and prevent the decline of wetland conditions [ongoing]**

- Utilize appropriate GIS tools to identify and prioritize wetlands for protection and restoration efforts;
- Evaluate available guidance on wetland protection and restoration techniques and success measures;
- Research, and where appropriate, implement wetland protection and restoration project(s);
- Evaluate and provide funding to projects aimed at studying the water quantity and quality benefits of wetlands (e.g., erosion control, buffering stormwater impacts, assimilation of nutrients);
- Promote restoration efforts designed to improve water quality, achieve compliance with water quality standards in impaired waters or priority watersheds, and/or generate commercial, recreational and aesthetic benefits.

# MONTANA

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT, VULNERABLE WETLANDS, AND PUBLIC POLICY ACTIONS

- Integrate wetland and riparian area conservation, management, and restoration into local, state, and federal watershed planning and assessment programs and processes.
- Support the ASFPM Assessment recommendations (7/11) to map Montana's floodplains and riverine hazards (inundation, ice jam, lateral erosion), institute no adverse impact floodplain management, and identify and promote high standards to protect natural and beneficial floodplain functions.
- Develop a channel erosion hazard and historic stream channel mapping and pursue funding to generate this data and for channel migration zone (CMZ) studies for local government land use decision-making and wetland and riparian protection approaches. 5
- Research, develop, and distribute technical assistance resources to assist local government decision making to conserve and protect wetland and riparian resources and vegetative buffers.

# MONTANA

6. Develop a network of natural high quality reference wetlands for all wetland types based on their type and landscape position. Develop restoration trajectories based on monitoring data from past and current successful wetland restoration projects.
7. Identify rare, vulnerable, or important wetlands and prioritize for restoration/ protection and identify and prioritize restorable wetlands.
8. Develop, promote and demonstrate techniques and technical assistance resources for living with beaver and effectively using beaver as tool for restoring wetland and riparian areas.
9. Develop an active wetland and riparian restoration program on the more than 5 million acres of state-owned and state-managed lands and prioritize for water quality limited stream reaches and watersheds needing restoration.
10. Develop and provide wetland restoration, management and protection guidance to the DEQ open cut mining program, major facility siting act projects, storm water runoff program, and other Clean Water Act and Montana Water Quality Act programs.

# OREGON – STREAMLINING PERMITTING

**Action (a): Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation**

Activity	2011-12	2013	2014	2015	2016
Coordinate with natural resource agencies and partners to establish common goals for wetland protection and restoration efforts throughout the state	X	X	X	X	X
Identify new and expand existing strategic partnerships that leverage funds and knowledge to achieve healthy watershed and community outcomes	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to apply wetland and habitat restoration permit streamlining processes where feasible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="137 1029 1219 1122">• Working on State and Federal agency partnerships on development of General Permits for use on restoration projects on federal lands</li> <li data-bbox="137 1165 1248 1308">• Coordinating with federal and state partners for development of regional general permits for habitat enhancement projects that include placement of wood, boulders, and gravel</li> </ul>	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X
	X	X	X	X	X

# WISCONSIN

- Develop Outreach, Marketing, and Promotional Strategies for Conservation Delivery on Private Land .
- Reduce Barriers to Improve State Property Tax Structure for Wetland Conservation.
- Streamline Federal and State Permit Process for Wetland Restoration.

# WISCONSIN

- Work with the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts and FWS Great Lakes Landscape Conservation Cooperative to Understand and Quantify Wetland Impacts to Recommend Adaptation Strategies.
- Integrate Climate Change Considerations into Watershed Based Pilot Projects.
- Conduct a Pilot Project to Restore Wetlands in the Rock River Basin as an Adaptation Strategy to Minimize Climate Change Impacts from Flooding.

# Discussion



THANK YOU!

