



Program Fact Sheet

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended

Authority and Scope: Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore degraded aquatic ecosystems. It must be demonstrated that the proposed project will increase aquatic ecosystem habitat units and is cost-effective. Each project is limited to a Federal cost of \$10,000,000, and requires cost sharing from an authorized non-Federal sponsor (see below). Significant portions of the non-Federal share may be in the form of in-kind services and the provision of lands, easements and rights-of-way.

Project Phases and Funding: Section 206 projects start with the Feasibility Phase. Initially the feasibility phase is federally funded 100% up to a limit of \$100,000. Feasibility phase costs above \$100,000 are cost-shared 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal. After approval of the feasibility report, the project enters the Design and Implementation Phase. Costs of the Design and Implementation Phase are shared 65% Federal and 35% non-Federal with the non-Federal sponsor given credit for Lands, Easements, Rights of Way and Relocations and some other costs. Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Rehabilitation and Replacement of the project in the future is at 100% non-Federal cost.

Non-Federal Responsibilities: Formal assurance of local cooperation must be furnished by a local sponsoring agency. The local sponsor must be a public agency or a non-profit entity which has been given the consent of the affected local government to sponsor the project. The sponsoring agency must normally agree to:

- a. Provide without cost to the United States all necessary lands, easements, rights-of-way, access routes and relocation of utilities necessary for project construction and subsequent operation and maintenance of the project. Costs associated with these items may be creditable towards the non-Federal cash contribution for the project.
- b. Provide 50% of all feasibility study costs greater than \$100,000.
- c. Provide 35% of total project design and implementation costs.
- d. Provide 100% of costs associated with the operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation and replacement of the project.
- e. Maintain and operate the project after completion without cost to the United States.

How to Request Assistance: A study of a prospective Section 206 proposal will be initiated after receipt of a written request (see sample below), from an authorized sponsoring agency (see Non-Federal Responsibilities above), and provided Federal funds are available.

For Further Information, Contact:

Mr. Craig M. Forgette
Continuing Authorities Program Manager
Planning Branch
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716-879-4187

**SAMPLE LETTER OF REQUEST
FOR A
SECTION 206 STUDY**

Lieutenant Colonel Eli S. Adams
District Commander
U.S. Army Engineer District, Buffalo
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207

ATTN: Planning Branch

Dear Colonel Adams:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, the (state, city, county, town) is requesting Corps of Engineers assistance in addressing an ecosystem restoration problem at (name and location of the degradation).

We are fully aware of the following non-Federal requirements associated with projects under the Section 206 authority.

Feasibility Phase: The first \$100,000 is funded by the Federal government. Costs above \$100,000 are shared 50% Federal and 50% non-Federal.

Design and Implementation Phase: The non-Federal sponsor is responsible for costs of all lands, easements, relocations and disposal areas. If this amount is less than 35% of the total project cost, the non-Federal sponsor must provide either in-kind services or an additional cash contribution to make the total equal 35% of the total project cost.

We are aware that this letter serves as an expression of non-Federal intent to cooperate on this project and is not a contract obligation. Either party may discontinue this effort at any point prior to construction.

- Add any additional information or discussion desired.*

Signed by a Director, Mayor, Town Manager,
or his/her representative