"Meeting States and Tribes where they are…"

Sharing the EPA's Refresh to the Core Elements Framework (CEF) Webinar

Today's Webinar Will Cover:

1. Review of the EPA's' Enhancing State and Tribal Wetland Program (ESTP)

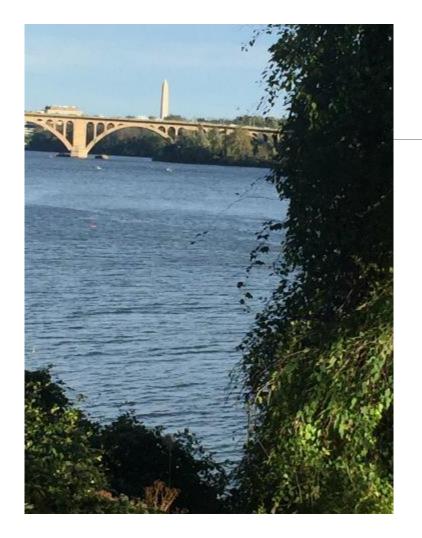2. Revisions to the ESTP Core Element Framework (narrative and tables)

3. Questions

4. Next Steps

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Background: Enhancing State and Tribal Wetland Programs (ESTP)

1. Wetland Program Development Grant Program

2. Core Elements Framework

3. Peer-to-Peer networks

4. EPA Targeted Technical Assistance

5. Demonstrate Progress

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Background: Core Elements Framework

At the state and tribal level, wetland programs are found in many different agencies pursuing a range of goals that differ according to their specific priorities and the wide range of wetland types and functions in their jurisdiction.

While each state and tribe has their own wetland goals, there is a common set of program objectives that EPA believes comprise a comprehensive wetland program.

2009 EPA summarized these common objectives in the Core Elements of Effective State and Tribal Wetlands Programs, also called the Core Elements Framework (CEF)

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Background: Core Elements Framework

The CEF outlines the core elements of a S/T wetland program, describes each Core Element, and provides a comprehensive menu of program-building activities for each Core Element.

Using the CEF, S/Ts can design their own roadmap towards development of a more comprehensive wetland program. States and tribes can implement the CEF depending on their individual program goals and available resources.

The CEF also encourages S/Ts to pursue a strategic approach to their wetland program development through development of Wetland Program Plans (WPPs)

The Four Core Elements of a Comprehensive Wetland Program

EPA identifies four core elements that comprise and strengthen effective wetlands programs. These core elements are basic program functions that we believe form the foundation of wetlands management and protection in a state or tribe.

The Core Elements:

1. Regulatory (including 401 certification);

2. Monitoring and Assessment;

3. Water Quality Standards for Wetlands;

4. Voluntary Restoration and Protection.

Refresh of the Core Elements Framework

The intent of the changes the CEF:

- Easier to use and reference
- Provides additional clarity to areas noted by users as challenging to interpret
- Make language more concise and create fluidity
- Capture the breadth of activities carried out by States and Tribes nationally
- Incorporate the most current information and practices available to States and Tribes

Each of the Core Element Tables Include:

1. Definition

2. Goals & Benefits

3. Program Building Activities Menu

◦ Tables that include Objectives, Key Actions and Program Building Activities

4. Resources