

WE ARE READY TO BE A PART OF

YOUR TEAM

AND TO FACE

YOUR FUTURE CHALLENGES

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

RESTORATION



**SECTION 206
PROGRAM**

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**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Jacksonville District
South Atlantic Division**

WHAT THE CORPS CAN DO

The Corps of Engineers has the authority, provided under Section 206 of the Water Resources Act of 1996, to carry out an aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection project if determined that the project: (1) will improve the quality of the environment and is in the public interest, and (2) is cost-effective. The objective should be to restore a degraded ecosystem to a more natural condition, which will involve consideration of the ecosystem's natural integrity, productivity, stability and biological diversity. The primary benefits from projects must be associated with improvements to fish and wildlife resources.

Under the Section 206 authority, Federal project costs cannot exceed \$5 million, including studies, plans and specifications, and construction. Any proposed project exceeding this limit requires specific Congressional authorization. For any approved project, the Federal share of the costs is 65% with the remaining 35% paid by the non-Federal sponsors. The entire non-Federal share of the project cost may be credited for work-in-kind. This would include a facility, supply or service that is necessary to carry out this ecosystem project. The time span for completion of most projects, from initial study to start of construction, should be no longer than three years.

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Examples of the types of projects the Corps could fund are:

- Removal of exotic vegetation
- Planting trees or more native vegetation
- Creation of littoral areas
- Manipulation of the previously placed dredged material

HOW IS A SECTION 206 PROJECT INITIATED?

To initiate a Section 206 project a non-Federal entity must submit a letter of intent indicating an interest to act as the non-Federal sponsor for a proposed ecosystem restoration project. The letter should include the following:

- Description of the proposed restoration project.
- Significance of resource to be restored. Letters of support from resource agencies such as, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Environmental Protection, Audubon Society, etc. also effective.
- Land ownership information for lands benefiting from restoration.
- Willingness to cost-share the project and pay 100% of any operation, maintenance, replacement and rehabilitation costs.

WHAT IS A NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR?

Non-Federal sponsors may be public agencies such as state, county, city or other entity fully empowered by state law. Private interests such as Ducks Unlimited or the Nature Conservancy may be a non-Federal sponsor if no future Operation and Maintenance costs are required.

WHAT ARE THE SPONSORS' RESPONSIBILITIES?

1. Provide 35% of the project costs including studies, plans and specifications, and construction, and
2. Provide any Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Relocations, and Dredged Material Disposal Sites (LERRD), and
3. Agree to operate and maintain the project after construction.

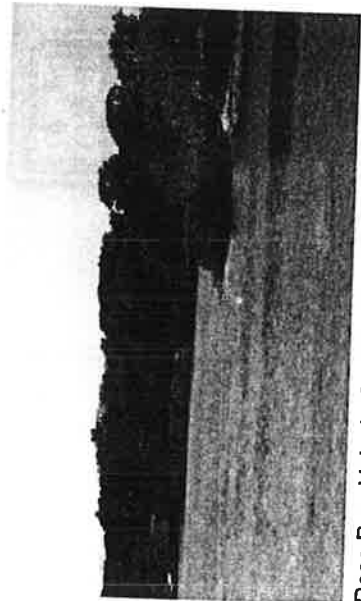
The costs of LERRD are credited toward the non-Federal share and the excess above 35% is refundable. However, no credit will be provided for any LERRD's, which was provided under a previous project.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE INITIAL REQUEST?

Upon receipt of a letter of intent, the Corps of Engineers will request funds to conduct an initial appraisal of the proposed restoration project to determine eligibility. The next step is the preparation of a Section 206 Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP), which consists of a narrative outlining project information, details of the desired project, pertinent financial information and a map of the project area.

The PRP acts as a request to initiate an Ecosystem Restoration Report (ERR), by the Corps, and is submitted to the Corps' higher authority for approval.

The PRP must be accompanied by the letter of intent from a non-Federal entity (local sponsor) indicating understanding of their obligations and responsibilities under the program and their willingness and ability to participate as a non-Federal sponsor for the aquatic ecosystem restoration project.



Rose Bay, Volusia County, Florida