

## Section 206 of the Continuing Authorities Program Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

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**At a Glance:**

- \$5 million Federal per-project limit.
- First \$10,000 of the study is 100% Federal cost.
- Remainder of study is 50/50 cost-sharing.
- Plans and Specifications and Construction are cost-shared 65% Federal and 35% Non-Federal.

**The Authority.** Section 206 of the Continuing Authorities Program was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. It allows the Corps of Engineers to study, design and construct restoration projects in aquatic ecosystems (such as rivers, lakes and wetlands) that have not already been specifically authorized by Congress.

**The Process.** A Section 206 project has two phases: Feasibility, and Design and Implementation.

During the Feasibility phase, a study is conducted to determine if there is a Federal interest in participating in a project. This is determined by evaluating different alternatives – comparing their costs and benefits and identifying any potential environmental affects. The first \$100,000 of the study is provided by the Federal government. If the study cost exceeds \$100,000 all additional costs must be cost-shared 50/50 with the non-Federal sponsor. If the study determines that there is a Federal interest in building the project (i.e. there is a plan with more benefits than costs and is environmentally acceptable), the project will be approved and Federal funds will be provided to develop plans and specifications.

During the Design and Implementation phase, detailed drawings and descriptions of the project will be developed and the project will be constructed. This phase is cost-shared (35% non-Federal).

At least 5% of the cost of this phase must be contributed in cash but the remainder can be credit for any project lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and disposal sites that the sponsor must provide as items of local cooperation. In addition, the sponsor must agree to operate and maintain the project after completion of construction.

**How to Request a Study.** If you think you have an idea for environmental restoration that may fit within Section 206, please contact the St. Louis District at the phone number below. Our Continuing Authorities Program Manager will speak with you and, if warranted, will visit your area to ascertain whether or not your idea fits within our authority. If it does, a potential non-Federal sponsor will need to submit a letter requesting that a study be initiated.

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