ESTP Program Integration: Cross-Program Funding Opportunities for CE Actions

There are several funding types that States and Tribes can use to help them complete the Actions listed in the ESTP Core Element Framework (CEF). We identified at least 9 funding and/or resource types that the States and Tribes can use to help them accomplish or make progress on their WPPs: Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG), CWA 106, CWA 319, General Assistance Program (GAP), State Revolving Fund (SRF), the Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant (HWCG), 5 STAR/Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program, and the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) (*EFC will be described in a separate paragraph at the bottom of Table 1*).

Some of these funding programs are more traditional and have been used for wetland work for quite a while, and others may be a program that you never thought or heard of for wetland projects. In this document, we developed 3 primary tables that describes each funding program to assist a State or Tribe with their funding search endeavors for wetland projects and for completing their ESTP CE Actions. We have also corresponded each ESTP Action (color coded to match the Region 7 Tiering Chart) with the appropriate funding type.

Table 1: Eight funding options for ESTP Actions and wetland projects: outlined by definitions, goals, project eligibilities and other information that you may be interested in. (Note: all funding eligibility is not determined until actual proposals are submitted and reviewed.)

Funding Program	Definition	Goal	Project Eligibilities	Other
Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG)	WPDGs provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution.	To assist state, tribal, local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in building programs to protect, manage and restore wetlands.	WPDGs provide applicants an opportunity to develop and refine comprehensive state/tribal/local government wetland programs. These programs are meant to: • Build the capacity of state/tribal/local governments to increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland condition. • Use one or more of the "Core Elements" in order to achieve this goal.	Eligible Core Element Activities: https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants-eligible-activities Past WPDG Grants: https://ofmpub.epa.gov/apex/grts/f?p=101:101:8604647356901::NO
CWA 106	Under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act, states and tribes receive grant funding to support water quality issues, including the development of water quality monitoring programs and standards.	To assist states and tribes establish and implement ongoing water pollution control programs.	TRIBES: Page 3-8 of the "Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act" (https://www.epa.gov/water-pollution-control-section-106-grants/final-guidance-awards-grants-indian-tribes-under-section) provides a	TAS is required (per Section 518(e) of the Clean Water Act) before Tribes are eligible to receive grant funding.

Funding Program	Definition	Goal	Project Eligibilities	Other
			summary of activities eligible and ineligible for 106 funding. STATES: Section 106 grants support the implementation of these CWA programs including: • Monitoring and assessing ambient water quality; • Developing and reviewing water quality standards; • Developing total maximum daily loads (TMDLs); • Providing permits to dischargers through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES); • Overseeing and enforcing NPDES permits; • Developing watershed and groundwater plans; and • Providing training and public information.	
CWA 319	Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, states, territories, and tribes receive grant funding to support a wide variety of activities including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and monitoring to implement and assess the success of best management practices that address pollution from nonpoint sources.	To assist states and tribes assessing and managing their nonpoint source pollution problems and threats.	TRIBES: Pages I-2 through I-4 of the "Handbook for Developing and Managing Tribal Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act" (https://www.epa.gov/tribal/handbook-developing-and-managing-tribal-nonpoint-source-pollution-programs-under-section-319) provides a summary of activities eligible and ineligible for 319 funding. STATES: Pages 23-28 (Section VIII. A-E) of the "Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories"	TAS is required (per Section 518(e) of the Clean Water Act) before Tribes are eligible to receive grant funding. An EPA-approved nonpoint source assessment report and EPA-approved nonpoint source program plan are required to receive TAS.

Funding Program	Definition	Goal	Project Eligibilities	Other
			(https://www.epa.gov/nps/319-grant-current-guidance) provides a general summary of activities eligible for 319 funding.	
General Assistance Program (GAP): https://www.epa.gov/tribal/indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap	Provide General Assistance Program (GAP) grants to federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia for planning, developing and establishing environmental protection programs in Indian country. 2015 Indian GAP Guidance (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/2013-gap-guidance-final.pdf)	Goal of GAP (CFDA 66.926) is to assist tribes and intertribal consortia in developing the capacity to manage their own environmental protection programs, and to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with individual tribal needs and applicable federal laws and regulations.	Tribes may use GAP funds to develop program capacities for: 1) evaluating environmental conditions; 2) developing voluntary or partial environmental protection programs; 3) participating in environmental policy making; 4) coordinating with EPA or other federal agencies on the implementation of federal environmental protection programs; and 5) entering into joint environmental protection programs with neighboring tribal, state, or local environmental agencies. Appendix IV of the 2015 GAP Guidance: Tribes may initiate activities to establish water programs using GAP funds and continue to enhance their water programs using CWA or SDWA grant funds. Pages 3 & 4 of Appendix IV describes Wetland Activities and CWA permitting activities.	FAQ: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-11/documents/gap_faq_november_2016_0.pdf Training Webinar for GAP: https://www.epa.gov/tribal/national-training-webinar-indian-environmental-general-assistance-program-gap
State Revolving Fund (SRF)-Clean Water SRF (CWSRF): https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf For Tribes, there is a Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA): https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/cwisa-tribal-faq-highres.pdf	The CWSRF is a federal-state partnership that provides communities a permanent, independent source of low-costs financing for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. The CWSRF is a financial assistance program for a wide range of water infrastructure projects, under 33 U.S. Code §1383. The program is a powerful partnership between EPA and the states that	To improve water quality, achieve and maintain compliance with environmental laws, protect aquatic wildlife, protect and restore drinking water sources, and preserve the nation's waters for recreational use.	1. Construction of publicly owned treatment works 2. **Nonpoint source: Assistance to any public, private, or nonprofit entity for the implementation a state nonpoint source pollution management program, established under CWA section 319.** 3. **National estuary program projects for the development and implementation of a conservation and management plan under CWA section 320.** 4. Decentralized wastewater treatment systems for the construction, repair, or replacement of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat	

Funding Program	Definition	Goal	Project Eligibilities	Other
	replaced EPA's Construction Grants program. States have the flexibility to fund a range of projects that **address their highest priority water quality needs.**		municipal wastewater or domestic sewage. 5. Stormwater for measures to manage, reduce, treat, or recapture stormwater or subsurface drainage water. 6. Water conservation, efficiency, and reuse for measures to reduce the demand for publicly owned treatment works capacity through water conservation, efficiency, or reuse. 7. Watershed pilot projects for the development and implementation of watershed projects meeting the criteria in CWA section 122. 8. Energy efficiency for measures to reduce the energy consumption needs for publicly owned treatment works. 9. Water reuse: for reusing or recycling wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water. 10. Security measures at publicly owned treatment works for measures to increase the security of publicly owned treatment works. 11. Provide technical assistance to owners and operators of small and medium sized publicly owned treatment works to plan, develop, and obtain financing for CWSRF eligible projects and to assist each treatment works in achieving compliance with the CWA.	
State Revolving Fund (SRF)- Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF): https://www.epa.gov/drinkingwatersrf	The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership to help ensure safe drinking water. The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) program provides financial support to water systems and to state safe water programs.	To improve water quality, achieve and maintain compliance with environmental laws, protect aquatic wildlife, protect and restore drinking water sources, and preserve the nation's waters for recreational use.	**1. Treatment**: Projects to install or upgrade facilities to improve drinking water quality to comply with SDWA regulations **2. Transmission and distribution**: Rehabilitation, replacement, or installation of pipes to improve water pressure to safe levels or to prevent	States have the option of taking a variety of set-asides. These set-asides help fund state programs and activities to ensure safe drinking water. In total, states may take up to 31% of their

Funding Program	Definition	Goal	Project Eligibilities	Other
For Tribes, there is a DWSRF Tribal set-aside: https://www.epa.gov/tribaldrinkingwater/tribal-set-aside-program-drinking-water-infrastructure-grant	The DWSRF is a financial assistance program to help water systems and states to achieve the health protection objectives of the SDWA. The program is a powerful partnership between EPA and the states. Congress appropriates funding for the DWSRF. EPA then awards capitalization grants to each state for their DWSRF based upon the results of the most recent Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment. The state provides a 20 percent match.		contamination caused by leaky or broken pipes **3. Source**: Rehabilitation of wells or development of eligible sources to replace contaminated sources **4. Storage**: Installation or upgrade of finished water storage tanks to prevent microbiological contamination from entering the distribution system **5. Consolidation**: Interconnecting two or more water systems **6. Creation of new systems** Construct a new system to serve homes with contaminated individual wells Consolidate existing systems into a new regional water system	capitalization grant in set-asides. After taking their set-asides, states place the balance of their capitalization grant, together with the state match, into a dedicated revolving loan fund. This revolving fund provides loans and other authorized assistance to water systems for eligible infrastructure projects. As water systems repay their loans, the repayments and interest flow back into the dedicated revolving fund. These funds may be used to make additional loans.
Healthy Watershed Consortium Grant (HWCG): https://www.epa.gov/hwp/healthy-watersheds-consortium-grants-hwcg www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html	The Healthy Watersheds Consortium (HWC), a partnership between the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, is a six year program launched in 2016.	The goal of the HWC Grant Program is to "accelerate strategic protection of healthy, freshwater ecosystems and their watersheds", with primary focus on prevention of land deterioration in the watershed by: • Dev funding mechanisms, plans to implement large-scale watershed protection, source water protection, GI, or related landscape conservation objectives; • Building the sustainable organizational infrastructure, social support, and long-term funding commitments necessary to implement large-	It is anticipated that the subaward projects will be either healthy watershed program development projects or local demonstration/training projects. For healthy watershed program development projects, the subaward funds should be provided for projects that develop and/or support state, interstate, and tribal healthy watersheds programs. Examples of projects include development state, interstate, or tribal healthy watersheds strategies or plans that employ a systems-based, integrated approach to protection; environmental flows assessment, and public outreach and education on the importance of protecting healthy watersheds.	FAQ: https://www.epa.gov/hwp/healthy-watersheds-consortium-grants-hwcg#FAQ www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html

Funding Program	Definition	Goal	Project Eligibilities	Other
		scale protection of healthy watersheds; and • Supporting innovative or catalytic projects that may accelerate funding for or implementation of watershed protection efforts, or broadly advance this field of practice.	For local demonstration/training projects, examples include protection of forested drinking water sources in headwaters, restoration of hydrologic connectivity, development of local conservation zoning and easement program plans.	
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant (http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar)	The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program seeks to develop nation-wide-community stewardship of local natural resources, preserving these resources for future generations and enhancing habitat for local wildlife. Projects seek to address water quality issues in priority watersheds, such as erosion due to unstable streambanks, pollution from stormwater runoff, and degraded shorelines caused by development. The program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems across the country. Major funding for this project is provided by NFWF's partnerships with EPA, the USFS, the USFWS, Southern Company and FedEx.	The program focuses on the stewardship and restoration of coastal, wetland and riparian ecosystems across the country. Its goal is to meet the conservation needs of important species & habitats, providing measurable & meaningful conservation & educational outcomes. 1. Engage broad coalitions & partnerships for collaborative conservation 2. Increase resources for conservation & community stewardship 3. Support innovative & sustainable community-based solutions 4. Recover & sustain viable and healthy ecosystems including healthy urban rivers and streams 5. Through outreach/education, shape & sustain behavior to achieve conservation goals	Funding priorities for this program include: ▪ On-the-ground wetland, riparian, in-stream and/or coastal habitat restoration ▪ Meaningful education and training activities, either through community outreach, participation and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum ▪ Measurable ecological, educational and community benefits ▪ Partnerships: Five Star projects should engage a diverse group of community partners to achieve ecological and educational outcomes.	Fact Sheet (http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Documents/fact-sheet.pdf) FAQ (http://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Documents/2018-Five-Star-Urban-Waters-FAQ.pdf)

The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) is a valuable resource tool that is annually funded by EPA to provide environmental finance technical assistance to the States, Tribes, local governments and private sectors across the country. There are 10 Regional EFCs who deliver targeted technical assistance to, and partner with states, tribes, and local governments in providing innovative solutions to help manage the costs of environmental financing and program management. Each Regional EFC has different goals and focus' ranging from leadership development and community participation to offering training and technical assistance (see https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter/efcn for regional specifics). Although the focus of each EFC varies regionally, the EFCs work as a network, and are available to lend their expertise to the other EFCs outside of

their region. The EFCs do not provide funding, but use core EPA and other leveraged funds to help States, Tribes, and local governments with various environmental finance issues.

Table 2: What are some of the challenges with each funding type? And what can one do when they come across a challenge? We have identified some challenges that we have come across, and also identified what one can do when they come across that challenge. We understand that there could be more challenges, but we have only identified the ones that we have experienced.

Funding Program	Challenges	If Challenge, then what?
WPDG	This is competitive grant program, and not all S/T will receive funding.	Try working through the other funding programs listed below.
CWA 106	In general, funding is not sufficient to address all tribal water program priorities.	Consider ways to reduce contractual costs (often one of the most expensive components of a water quality monitoring program). For instance, consider where existing data from other nearby partners (USGS, adjoining state, EPA, etc.) might be accessible to assess against tribal benchmarks/standards.
CWA 319	Eligible tribes in R7 will receive $30,000 in base funds annually. All other 319 funding is awarded competitively through a national process, and not all tribes will receive funding.	Tribes are encouraged to work with the Regional EPA 319 tribal coordinator to brainstorm potential leveraging opportunities to more quickly advance tribal water program goals.
GAP	GAP used for capacity development activities only.	This is very similar to the WPDG. Use other funds for implementation.
CWSRF	1. This is a state-run program, and our ability to influence what projects get funded is very limited. 2. One might encounter a challenge for an agency to take/accept a loan, esp with small communities.	1. This means that ESTP Coordinators will need to work with the CWSRF/DWSRF EPA and State points of contact in order for SRF to be used for wetlands. The state has to agree to fund those types of projects. Usually if they have a water quality benefit and scores high on the State's project priority list then there is a possibility the project would be funded. 2. no solution at this time
DWSRF	1. This is a state run program, and our ability to influence what projects get funded is very limited. 2. One might encounter a challenge for an agency to take/accept a loan, esp with small communities.	1. This means that ESTP Coordinators will need to work with the CWSRF/DWSRF EPA and State points of contact in order for SRF to be used for wetlands. The state has to agree to fund those types of projects. Usually if they have a water quality benefit and scores high on the State's project priority list then there is a possibility the project would be funded. 2. no solution
HWCG	1. EPA does not make any final decisions with regard to this endowment. EPA sits on a panel and provides the Regions with the proposals for review. All final decisions are made by the endowment. 2. Sometimes proposals are geographically too small. Typically, the endowment is seeking proposals that are at a HUC8 level. 3. Restoration projects will most likely not get funded. HWCG projects are primarily	1. However, EPA/Regions are encouraged to reach out early in the process to potential applicants to help them develop a strong proposal, and to provide assistance as the applicant goes through the process. The Regions help with the development of the proposal and be that proposal's champion. 2. If the drainage area is smaller than a HUC8, then the applicant needs to make the case for how such a small area can meet the needs of a

	targeting protection of waters and watersheds that are minimally or not yet impaired.	larger basin-wide area. In this case, applicants are strongly encouraged to reach out to other partners with healthy watersheds to garner constituents to strengthen protection measures. 3. If an applicant is looking to restore a wetland, then we encourage them to look at from a landscape level to protect the reference areas around it. Do not develop a proposal in a vacuum, consider the landscape level effects as well.
Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grants	1. Funding is $20K-50K 2. This grant program is run by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. EPA does not make any final decisions with regard to this grant. All final decisions are made by the NFWF.	1. Must involve five or more partners (public and private entities) including the applicant. Seek other sources of funding to help fund other parts of the project or conduct the project in phases. 2. If there are any questions about how to apply or eligibilities, contact NFWF.

Table 3: Which funding types can be used for each CEF Action? In this table, we have identified which funding types can pay for specific ESTP Actions for each Core Element (Tables 3a – 3d). Additionally, they have been color coded to match Region 7's ESTP Tiering Chart (T1 = Tier 1 is red; T2 = Tier 2 is blue; T3 = Tier 3 is green). (See Appendix 1 for Region 7's Tiering Chart).

Table 3a: Monitoring and Assessment CE

# Tier	WPDG**	106	319	SRF	GAP	HWCG	5 STAR UW
T1: Obj 1, Action b Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 1, Action c Develop monitoring design, or an approach and rationale for site selection that best serves monitoring objectives (e.g., census, probabilistic survey, rotating basin)	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 1, Action d Select a core set of indicators to represent wetland condition or a suite of functions	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 2, Action b Monitor wetland resources as specified in strategy	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 2, Action c Establish reference condition	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T2: Obj 2, Action a Ensure the scientific validity of monitoring and laboratory activities	X	X		X	X	X	X
T2: Obj 2, Action d Track monitoring data in a system that is accessible, updated on a timely basis, and integrated with other state or tribal water quality data	X	X		X	X	X	X
T2: Obj 2, Action e Analyze monitoring data to evaluate wetlands extent and condition/function or to inform decision-making	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T2: Obj 3, Action a Evaluate monitoring program to determine how well it is meeting a state/tribe's monitoring program objectives	X	X		X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 1, Action a Identify program decisions and long-term environmental outcome(s) that will benefit from a wetlands monitoring and assessment program	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 3, Action b Evaluate the environmental consequences of a federal or state/tribal action or group of actions; modify programs as needed based on M&A data	X		X	X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 3, Action c Improve the site-specific management of wetland resources.	X		X	X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 3, Action d Develop geographically-defined wetland protection, restoration, and management plans	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

**Please review the WPDG eligible CEFs at https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants-eligible-activities

Table 3b: Voluntary Restoration and Protection CE

# Tier	WPDG	106	319	SRF	GAP	HWCG	5 STAR/UW
T1: Obj 1, Action a Establish goals that are consistent or compatible across relevant agencies	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 1, Action b Consider watershed planning, wildlife habitat, and other objectives when selecting restoration/protection sites	X		X	X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 3, Action a Increase wetland acreage through restoration (reestablishment)	X		X		X	X	X
T1: Obj 4, Action a Track restoration/protection projects	X		X	X	X	X	X
T2: Obj 1, Action c Provide clear guidance on appropriate restoration and management techniques and success measures	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T2: Obj 3, Action c Establish partnerships to leverage more restoration	X	X	X		X	X	X
T2: Obj 4, Action b Monitor restoration/protection sites to ensure that they are implemented and managed correctly and linked to relevant watershed planning efforts	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 2, Action a Establish partnerships to leverage additional protection	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 2, Action b Establish and institutionalize long term protection, using mechanisms such as incentives, purchase of land title or easements to protect wetlands	X		X	X	X	X	X
T3: Obj 3, Action b Improve natural wetland conditions and functions through restoration (rehabilitation)	X		X		X	X	X
T3: Obj 4, Action c Modify restoration/protection techniques as needed	X		X		X	X	X

Table 3c: Wetland Water Quality Standards

# Tier	WPDG	106	319	SRF	GAP	HWCG	5 STAR/UW
T1: Obj 1, Action a Adopt an appropriate definition of wetlands	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 2, Action a Gather and analyze monitoring data and other information that will become basis of water quality standards	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 2, Action b (*establish*)[1] *Establish* and adopt appropriate wetland-specific designated uses to be achieved and protected	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 2, Action c (*establish*)[1] *Establish* and adopt narrative criteria that qualitatively describe the condition or suite of functions that must be achieved to support a designated use	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 2, Action d (*establish*)[1] *Establish* and adopt numeric criteria representing wetland specific values for chemical, physical, and biological parameters that may not be exceeded, must be exceeded, or some combination to protect or restore designated uses	X	X		X	X	X	X
T1: Obj 3, Action a Use water quality standards as basis for regulatory decisions	X	X		X	X	X	
T2: Obj 1, Action b Ensure the appropriate wetlands definition is included in WQS	X	X		X	X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action b (*adopt*)[1] Establish and *adopt* appropriate wetland-specific designated uses to be achieved and protected	X	X		X	X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action c (*adopt*)[1] Establish and *adopt* narrative criteria that qualitatively describe the condition or suite of functions that must be achieved to support a designated use	X	X		X	X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action d (*adopt*)[1] Establish and *adopt* numeric criteria representing wetland specific values for chemical, physical, and biological parameters that may not be exceeded, must be exceeded, or some combination to protect or restore designated uses	X	X		X	X	X	
T3: Obj 2, Action e Better define state/tribal antideg policies for wetlands, requiring full protection of existing uses (functions and/or condition), maintenance of functions/condition in high quality wetlands, and a prohibition against lowering functions/conditions in outstanding national resource waters	X	X		X	X	X	
T3: Obj 3, Action b Use water quality standards as basis for evaluating restoration/protection projects and mitigation/compensation projects	X	X	X	X	X	X	
T3: Obj 3, Action c Incorporate water quality standards into monitoring and assessment program	X	X			X	X	

Table 3d: Regulatory

# Tier	WPDG	106	319	SRF	GAP	HWCG	5 STAR/UW
T1: Obj 1, Action a Provide clear and comprehensive jurisdictional coverage of aquatic resources	X				X	X	
T1: Obj 2, Action b Develop and operate according to a clear and effective set of criteria for reviewing and responding to applications	X				X	X	
T1: Obj 2, Action c Actively review proposed impacts to waters of the state	X				X	X	
T1: Obj 2, Action g Track permit\certification program activity							
T1: Obj 3, Action d Incorporate the watershed approach into the regulatory decision-making process	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 1, Action b Clearly identify a comprehensive scope of activities to be regulated	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 1, Action c Provide clear guidance to public on how to identify jurisdictional waters and activities	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action d Adopt and apply comprehensive project review criteria	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action e Coordinate among agencies, programs, and industry groups to reduce duplicative efforts by the programs and the regulated public	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action f[2] Require effective mitigation for authorized impacts	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 2, Action h Track / Evaluate	X				X	X	
T2: Obj 3, Action a Monitor the implementation of permit/certification conditions							
T2: Obj 3, Action e Perform public education and outreach about wetland protection, regulated waters and activities, and authorization process	X				X	X	
T3: Obj 1, Action d Evaluation: Periodic review of state/tribal program to ensure all potentially regulated activities are addressed, and take appropriate programmatic action	X				X	X	
T3: Obj 2, Action a Adopt regulations or rules to implement State/Tribal and/or federal water quality statutes	X				X	X	
T3: Obj 3, Action b Enforce aquatic resource protections	X				X	X	
T3: Obj 3, Action c Ensure impact assessments and mitigation crediting lead to replacement of aquatic resources with similar structural, functional or condition attributes	X				X	X	
T3: Obj 3, Action f[3] Measure Environmental Results	X				X	X	

Appendix 1: Tiering of ESTP CEs According to their Objectives and Actions

Definition of "Capacity has been Built": We felt that a Program's capacity can be considered "built" when both Tier 1 and 2 have been completed. We felt that when a Program can perform independently and sustainably, then it has been completed. Although Actions under Tier 3 are nice to have, they are not necessarily required in order for a Program to be operational or sustainable.

Definition of Action: An Action is defined by the suggested Activities listed in each CE and/or by the work efforts described in a Wetland Program Plan. We used the listed Activities to help us define what that Action meant. The listed Activities are not meant to be the exclusive definition of that Action. We also used examples of the work that is currently being done with our States and Tribes from their Wetland Program Plans.

Definition of Tier 1: Actions under Tier 1 include activities that develop protocols, criteria, methodologies, techniques that together form the foundation of a Program. It also includes activities to develop strategies, goals, and objectives for a plan. It can also include developing databases for tracking and developing performance standards.

Definition of Tier 2: Actions under Tier 2 include activities to set up systems or processes, and/or monitoring and tracking data. This can also include adaptive management approaches to existing protocols, and incorporating or adopting regulations. It can also include activities that fall under outreach and education.

Definition of Tier 3: Actions under Tier 3 include improvements, expansions or applications to other Programs outside of the Core Element. It can also include policy changes.

Monitoring and Assessment CE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Obj 1, Action b Define wetlands monitoring objectives and strategies	Obj 2, Action a Ensure the scientific validity of monitoring and laboratory activities	Obj 1, Action a Identify program decisions and long-term environmental outcome(s) that will benefit from a wetlands monitoring and assessment program
Obj 1, Action c Develop monitoring design, or an approach and rationale for site selection that best serves monitoring objectives (e.g., census, probabilistic survey, rotating basin)	Obj 2, Action d Track monitoring data in a system that is accessible, updated on a timely basis, and integrated with other state or tribal water quality data	Obj 3, Action b Evaluate the environmental consequences of a federal or state/tribal action or group of actions; modify programs as needed based on M&A data
Obj 1, Action d Select a core set of indicators to represent wetland condition or a suite of functions	Obj 2, Action e Analyze monitoring data to evaluate wetlands extent and condition/function or to inform decision-making	Obj 3, Action c Improve the site-specific management of wetland resources.
Obj 2, Action b Monitor wetland resources as specified in strategy	Obj 3, Action a Evaluate monitoring program to determine how well it is meeting a state/tribe's monitoring program objectives	Obj 3, Action d Develop geographically-defined wetland protection, restoration, and management plans
Obj 2, Action c Establish reference condition		

Voluntary Restoration and Protection CE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Obj 1, Action a Establish goals that are consistent or compatible across relevant agencies	**Obj 1, Action c** Provide clear guidance on appropriate restoration and management techniques and success measures	**Obj 2, Action a** Establish partnerships to leverage additional protection
Obj 1, Action b Consider watershed planning, wildlife habitat, and other objectives when selecting restoration/protection sites	**Obj 3, Action c** Establish partnerships to leverage more restoration	**Obj 2, Action b** Establish and Institutionalize long term protection, using mechanisms such as incentives, purchase of land title or easements to protect wetlands
Obj 3, Action a Increase wetland acreage through restoration (reestablishment)	**Obj 4, Action b** Monitor restoration/protection sites to ensure that they are implemented and managed correctly and linked to relevant watershed planning efforts	**Obj 3, Action b** Improve natural wetland conditions and functions through restoration (rehabilitation)
Obj 4, Action a Track restoration/protection projects		**Obj 4, Action c** Modify restoration/protection techniques as needed

Wetland Water Quality Standards CE

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Obj 1, Action a Adopt an appropriate definition of wetlands	**Obj 1, Action b** Ensure the appropriate wetlands definition is included in WQS	**Obj 2, Action e** Better define state/tribal antidegradation policies for wetlands, requiring full protection of existing uses (functions and/or condition), maintenance of functions/condition in high quality wetlands, and a prohibition against lowering functions/conditions in outstanding national resource waters
Obj 2, Action a Gather and analyze monitoring data and other information that will become basis of water quality standards	**Obj 2, Action b (*adopt*)** [1] Establish and *adopt* appropriate wetland-specific designated uses to be achieved and protected	**Obj 3, Action b** Use water quality standards as basis for evaluating restoration/protection projects and mitigation/compensation projects
Obj 2, Action b (*establish*)[1] *Establish* and adopt appropriate wetland-specific designated uses to be achieved and protected	**Obj 2, Action c (*adopt*)** [1] Establish and *adopt* narrative criteria that qualitatively describe the condition or suite of functions that must be achieved to support a designated use	**Obj 3, Action c** Incorporate water quality standards into monitoring and assessment program
Obj 2, Action c (*establish*) [1] *Establish* and adopt narrative criteria that qualitatively describe the condition or suite of functions that must be achieved to support a designated use	**Obj 2, Action d (*adopt*)** [1] Establish and *adopt* numeric criteria representing wetland specific values for chemical, physical, and biological parameters that may not be exceeded, must be exceeded, or some combination to protect or restore designated uses	
Obj 2, Action d (*establish*) [1] *Establish* and adopt numeric criteria representing wetland specific values for chemical, physical, and biological parameters that may not be exceeded, must be exceeded, or some combination to protect or restore designated uses		
Obj 3, Action a Use water quality standards as basis for regulatory decisions		

[1]Obj 2, Actions b-d can fall under both Tier 1 & 2 depending on what part of the definition you use. We determined that if a S/T is "establishing" then it would fall under Tier 1. If the S/T is "adopting", then it would fall under Tier 2. The other 2 options are to: 1) split up the Action(s) between "establishing" and "adopting" into different Actions, or 2) add in the term "and/or" between "establish" and "adopt" to allow for flexibility in committing to Tier 1/2.

Regulatory

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Obj 1, Action a Provide clear and comprehensive jurisdictional coverage of aquatic resources	**Obj 1, Action b** Clearly identify a comprehensive scope of activities to be regulated	**Obj 1, Action d** Evaluation: Periodic review of state/tribal program to ensure all potentially regulated activities are addressed, and take appropriate programmatic action
Obj 2, Action b Develop and operate according to a clear and effective set of criteria for reviewing and responding to applications	**Obj 1, Action c** Provide clear guidance to public on how to identify jurisdictional waters and activities	**Obj 2, Action a** Adopt regulations or rules to implement State/Tribal and/or federal water quality statutes
Obj 2, Action c Actively review proposed impacts to waters of the state	**Obj 2, Action d** Adopt and apply comprehensive project review criteria	**Obj 3, Action b** Enforce aquatic resource protections
Obj 2, Action g Track permit\certification program activity	**Obj 2, Action e** Coordinate among agencies, programs, and industry groups to reduce duplicative efforts by the programs and the regulated public	**Obj 3, Action c** Ensure impact assessments and mitigation crediting lead to replacement of aquatic resources with similar structural, functional or condition attributes
Obj 3, Action d Incorporate the watershed approach into the regulatory decision-making process	**Obj 2, Action f**[2] Require effective mitigation for authorized impacts	**Obj 3, Action f**[3] Measure Environmental Results
	Obj 2, Action h Track / Evaluate	
	Obj 3, Action a Monitor the implementation of permit/certification conditions	
	Obj 3, Action e Perform public education and outreach about wetland protection, regulated waters and activities, and authorization process	

[2]We determined a Tier 1 Action is missing before a S/T can accomplish Obj 2, Action f. For example, the S/T needs to be on an IRT, and work with the IRT to develop mitigation guidelines before they can require effective mitigation, long-term protection, financial assurances, or establish minimum requirements for a mitigation proposal. In the Regulatory CE, we did not see an Action/Activity identified under any Objective that captured this effort.

[3]Obj 3, Action f is missing a follow-up Action/Activity. For example, what do they do with the data they are collecting in Obj 3, Action f? There were follow-up actions in the other CEs, but not this one.