Session 6A: Funding monitoring programs

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Sustainable Financing for State and Tribal Wetland Programs

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EPA, in conjunction with the University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center (UNC EFC) held a webinar on October 15, 2008 to introduce state/tribal wetland program staff and managers to the concept of sustainable financing for their programs. During the webinar, we presented information on a variety of potential funding mechanisms for state and tribal wetland programs. We also gave an overview of different strategies that states and tribes are currently using to finance their wetland programs, and identified what has been working and why. Furthermore, we provided information on funding sources from federal agencies, and identified how best to access these sources. Finally, the webinar provided pointers on how to market a wetlands program to state legislators and to other stakeholders.

The recorded webinar can be downloaded from UNC EFC website at: http://www.efc.unc.edu/projects/wetlands/index.htm

Starting in 2009, EPA and the UNC EFC are conducting a number of full-day to day-and-a-half workshops around the country to help state and tribal wetland programs expand and be more effective with their financing resources. These workshops will cover the same basic topics as the webinar, only in significantly more detail, and with each workshop tailored to the circumstances of the particular audience of the given workshop. In addition to topics covered during the webinar, the training will also instruct attendees on which program areas (or "Core Elements") each of these funding sources are most appropriate to fund. During the workshops, we will present not only sources of direct funding for wetland programs, but examine ways in which programs can utilize partnerships to help target the resources of other organizations to help achieve program goals. The goal of the workshops is for attendees to leave with at least the framework of a financing plan appropriate for their given wetlands program. The UNC EFC will be available for free in a consulting role to help develop finance plans for workshop attendees for some weeks after they have attended a given workshop.

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