



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Charleston District

Section 206 – Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

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What is it?

Section 206 gives the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the authority to carry out aquatic ecosystem restoration projects if the project will improve environmental quality, is in the public interest and is cost effective. These projects cannot be done to improve water quality only. There must be an aquatic ecosystem benefit other than improved water quality.

Who can apply?

Any non-Federal government entity can serve as the Sponsor for a Section 206 project. In some cases, non-government agencies may serve as Sponsors. All it takes is a simple request to the local Corps office and a representative will discuss your problem with you and let you know if you qualify for the program.

What does it cost?

- The initial Preliminary Restoration Plan (PRP) cost of \$10,000 is paid 100% by the Federal Government. This document establishes whether a Federal interest exists in continuing the study.
- All feasibility phase expenditures, including plans and specifications, are initially funded at Federal expense, but are recouped at the beginning of construction at a cost shared rate of 65% Federal, 35% Sponsor. The Sponsor may contribute 100% of their share of the feasibility costs as in-kind services.
- There is a spending cap of \$5 million of Federal expenditure per Section 206 project.

How long does it take?

A Section 206 study can take one of two paths. The PRP is completed typically in 6 months. If it is determined from estimates that the Federal expenditure will exceed \$1 million, an Environmental Restoration Report (ERR) must be completed and submitted for project approval. This takes approximately one year. Once approved, the six months plans and specifications phase can be completed. If the Federal cost is estimated to be under \$1 million, then a combined feasibility phase taking approximately 12 months will be completed using a Planning and Design Analysis (PDA) report. Regardless of reporting path, the feasibility study includes all alternatives analysis, design work, NEPA compliance and benefit-cost analysis. Construction time varies depending on the project being implemented.