



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**Division of
Ecological
Restoration***Invested in Nature & Community*

Notice of Funding Opportunity Tidal Restoration Preliminary Field Investigations: Narragansett Bay Estuary Region

This is an announcement only

Overview

The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is seeking applications for potential tidal restoration sites within the Massachusetts portion of the Narragansett Bay Estuary region that need preliminary field investigations to support tidal restoration project planning and development. These studies, contracted and managed by DER, provide the agency with critical information for future ecological restoration planning. Likewise, the studies help landowners and partners assess opportunities and constraints during early planning phases of potential tidal restoration projects. DER is interested in tidal restoration projects that are at an early stage of development and/or decision-making. Selected projects will be eligible to receive technical assistance from DER staff and DER-led contracted technical services from qualified vendors.

There is no obligation for owners and/or partners to move forward with a selected tidal restoration project after the preliminary field investigations are complete. Nor is there any guarantee of further assistance from DER after this effort concludes.

Eligible Projects

DER is interested in tidal restoration projects with demonstrable ecological value and community benefits.

Eligible sites must be potential tidal restoration projects within coastal wetlands. Coastal wetlands are defined as tidally influenced systems with a direct connection to coastal waters which may include marine, estuarine, brackish or freshwater wetlands that are subject to tidal action on a routine basis. Eligible projects must address tidal restrictions. For the purposes of this RFR, tidal restrictions are defined as barriers to tidal flow conveyed through a channel that is the primary conveyance of flow to an upstream area. Structures addressed by the restoration may include undersized openings under transportation infrastructure such as culverts or bridges, or other barriers to tidal flow such as dams, berms or rock walls.

Eligible sites must be located within the boundaries of the Commonwealth and within the Narragansett Bay watershed. This includes coastal watersheds within the municipalities of

Berkley, Dighton, Fall River, Freetown, Raynham, Rehoboth, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, and Taunton (see map of region below).

Applicants may apply for more than one site but must submit an individual application for each. However, if a single site contains multiple associated tidal restrictions they can be submitted as a single project application. For example, multiple culverts under a road with a rock wall immediately upstream and an earthen berm immediately downstream may be considered part of one site as it is reasonable to assume that all features would need to be evaluated together to restore tidal flow to this area.

Eligible Applicants

The applicant may be the tidal restoration site owner, or another entity who applies on the owner's behalf. In either case, owner(s) permission for site access is required.

Eligible applicants include any State, Regional, or Municipal agency, Tribal government, Non-Governmental Organization, or public or private entity that either owns or has the written permission by the owner of the site to complete the study. Federal agencies are not eligible applicants for this opportunity; however, non-Federal applicants may apply to conduct work on ecologically valuable Federal lands located in the Commonwealth. Additionally, for-profit firms that are not site owners will not be considered as eligible applicants.

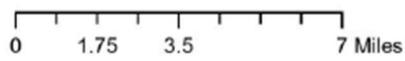
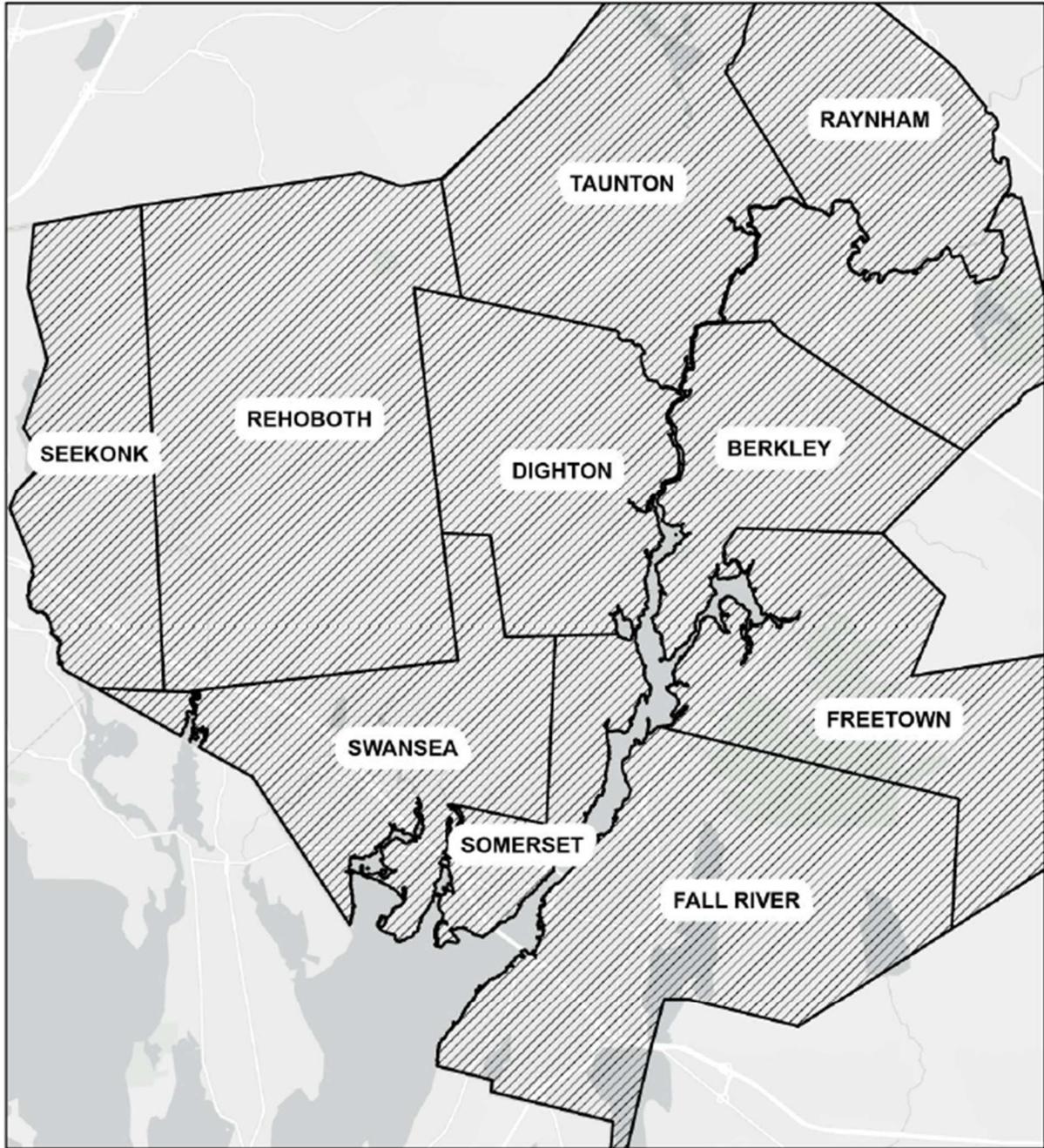
Request for Response (RFR)

The Request For Response (RFR) for this opportunity is expected to be released in March 2026, with a minimum of two weeks to apply. A formal written question and answer period will be held prior to the submission deadline. Status designation awards for selected sites will result in a one-year agreement, with a potential opportunity for a one-year renewal. A complete timeline will be included in the COMMBUYS RFR posting and on DER's website. DER reserves the right to designate additional sites for preliminary studies among applicants for the Request For Response if additional funding becomes available.

Applicants are solely responsible to monitor COMMBUYS for amendments to this announcement, if any, and for the complete RFR posting. Applicants may monitor the site through publicly accessible search and browse tools in addition to visiting DER's website:

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-ecological-restoration>

Map of Narragansett Bay Eligible Region



 Massachusetts Cities and Towns