

Making the Case for Ecological Enhancements

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ecological enhancements considered at the inception of planning for environmental remediation at Superfund, RCRA, and brownfield sites can be a cost-effective and efficient way to increase, create, and/or improve wildlife habitat. A remedial plan that embraces the concepts presented in this white paper can contribute greatly to protection of human health and the environment. An ecological enhancement modifies a site to increase/improve habitat for plants and animals while protecting human health and the environment. An ecological enhancement can include natural remediation technologies and/or also represent an end use which restores/increases the ecological value of the land. Incorporation of ecological enhancements can benefit multiple stakeholders, such as regulatory agencies, the regulated community, local communities, and the general public.

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As illustrated in the case studies in Appendix D, ecological enhancements can efficiently and effectively contribute to the success of many projects via the harnessing of remediation technologies, thereby facilitating the attainment of specified remediation goals.

Providing ecological enhancements is not a “one size fits all” process. Site-specific considerations and engineering evaluation of goals and objectives, regulatory constraints, potential technologies, probable costs, and likely benefits need to be objectively studied at each potential site.