



Ecosystem Restoration and Stewardship – Preserving, Restoring and Protecting America’s Natural Resources

“Once again, [federal] agencies are proving that growing our Nation’s economy and jobs goes hand in hand with protecting the environment and health of our communities.”

– Nancy Sutley, Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Civil Works environmental program focuses on two key areas: ecosystem restoration and stewardship of project lands. The purpose of the ecosystem restoration program is to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function and natural processes to a more natural condition. The mission of the stewardship program is to manage, conserve and/or protect the natural and cultural resources at Corps operating water resource projects, consistent with project authorities and sustainability practices. Corps environmental activities support over 21,000 direct jobs.¹

Funding

The President’s fiscal year 2013 budget of \$4.731 billion includes \$512 million for ecosystem restoration and \$96 million for the stewardship program. The budget was developed by placing the highest priority on studies or projects that contribute to the cost-effective restoration of regionally or nationally significant ecosystems where the Corps is uniquely well suited. The budget supports several high priorities of the Administration, most notably through five large ecosystems designated for enhanced interagency collaboration: California Bay Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, Great Lakes, and Gulf Coast. Additionally, the budget provides for restoration work in five ecosystems designated as Civil Works priorities: Puget Sound; Missouri River, Columbia-Snake, Upper Mississippi River Restoration, and Hudson-Raritan. In these ecosystems, the Corps coordinates closely with other federal agencies to synchronize activities and leverage the federal investment. This program also includes funding for compliance with existing biological opinions for the Columbia-Snake and Missouri River Basins. Corps stewardship has a significant geographic impact, with management of: 11.5 million acres or approximately 8% of Federal acreage east of the Rockies, over 4 million acres having significant waterfowl use or improvement potential, and 56,000 miles of shoreline.

Objectives

- Ensure healthy and sustainable lands and waters. Healthy ecosystems provide numerous ecological services that contribute to our economy, health and well being.
- Restore degraded ecosystem structure, function and processes to a more natural condition.

Key Ecosystem Restoration Studies and Projects

Continued progress will be made on planning, design and construction of projects critical to Administration and Civil Works priority ecosystems across the nation: Everglades, Louisiana Coast, Upper Mississippi River, Great Lakes, Chesapeake Bay, Missouri River, Columbia River, Hudson-Raritan Estuary, Puget Sound, and California Bay Delta.



Key Messages

- The President's fiscal year 2013 budget request maintains a strong commitment to the environment.
- Complex environmental problems require long term solutions developed in a collaborative environment.
- All Corps programs are guided by the environmental operating principles.

Facts & Figures

- During the period FY 2005 through FY 2011, the Corps restored approximately 73,800 acres to a less degraded, more natural condition.
- The Corps is responsible for stewardship of about 11.5 million acres of project lands.
- For more information about the Corps' environmental programs, visit:
<http://cw-environment.usace.army.mil/>

¹ US Army Corps of Engineers IWR- Regional Economic System. Computer Model and Online Database. Alexandria, VA: Institute for Water Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.