



US Army Corps of Engineers

Institute for Water Resources

BUILDING STRONG®

Environmental Data Studies (2012)

Status: **Project Manager:**

In Progress [Janet Cushing](#)

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide support for the development and analyses of environmental data to support Corps mission areas. This includes the refinement of an Ecosystem Restoration database and development of a Civil Works Project Mitigation database, as well as emerging data needs. Ecosystem restoration projects are an important part of the Planning Division in every U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) district across the United States. Currently, there is no single database used to relate, track and view all of the past and present environmental restoration (ER) projects.

Calls for environmental data from the Civil Works Program by OMB and CEQ and criticism of mitigation progress (American Rivers, based on GAO Report 02-574) prompted the need for a reliable resource for quick, effective reporting. This resource was initially developed in 2001-2002 as the Environmental Database, but by 2005, it became clear that a new database structure was needed. While the database would concentrate on providing ecosystem restoration program management data, components to address environmental compliance, data linking and conformance to the Corps' corporate-data and spatial standards also needed consideration.

The second purpose of this project is to provide support for the development of a project mitigation tracking database, in compliance with Section 2037 of WRDA 2007. The database will allow users at all levels to track the ecological mitigation of Civil Works projects and share information regarding the type and success of mitigation.

Objective: For FY 12, the objective of this project is to refine the Ecosystem Restoration Business Line and Mitigation databases, and develop additional reports and analyses, as requested. The second purpose is to provide support to and obtain other environmental data for management activities as needed.

Benefits: Benefits of this project include a: 1) More effective and efficient reporting of the Corps' ecosystem restoration efforts and mitigation efforts; 2) Standardized way for project managers and technical leads to input ecosystem restoration project data and mitigation data into user-friendly databases, which will facilitate information sharing within the Corps through the Ecosystem Restoration Gateway and future Planning Gateway; and 3) Method to contribute information to the National Estuary Restoration Inventory database, as an active partner with NOAA. 4) A systematic way to track the progress and success of ecological mitigation that is undertaken with for non-ecosystem restoration projects.

Progress: A working beta version of the Ecosystem Restoration dBase and working version of the Mitigation dBase exist. The Ecosystem Restoration dBase is awaiting direction from HQ to proceed with uploading onto the production server under OMBIL.

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