



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

Hudson-Raritan Estuary Hackensack Meadowlands

Environmental Restoration

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: The Hackensack Meadowlands, located in Bergen & Hudson Counties, New Jersey is an integral part of the New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary. The approximately 8,450 acres of wetlands that remain in the Meadowlands make it the largest remaining brackish tidal wetland complex in the estuary. These remaining wetlands and open space are especially significant for concentrations of federal trust species including waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, raptors, anadromous fish, estuarine fish, and terrapins. Much of the wetland area in the Meadowlands is degraded due to physical disturbances, such as filling and alterations to natural hydrologic connections, and the prevalence of Phragmites. Leachate contamination from extensive landfills in the area is common. Numerous point sources, stormwater runoff from developed areas and highways, and other non-point sources have severely degraded water and sediment quality in areas of the habitat complex.

Major opportunities for habitat restoration will be sought, focusing on large undeveloped, but environmentally degraded areas of the Hackensack Meadowlands. The major restoration focus in this area will be the selected and careful removal of undesirable fill and phragmites dominated areas on former high-value tidal wetlands and the restoration of tidal flow to enhance fish and wildlife habitat value and water quality function. Opportunities also exist for the careful removal of impairments to fish migration on tributaries and the remediation of contaminated areas within restoration sites will also be targeted for implementation. Identification and implementation of beneficial use of dredged material for habitat enhancement and restoration from large-scale port channel deepening projects is an additional goal.

AUTHORIZATION: House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution dated 15 April 1999, Docket Number 2596

STATUS: The District initiated the Reconnaissance Phase for the comprehensive Hudson-Raritan Estuary in January 2000 and submitted its Section 905(b) WRDA 86 Analysis factsheet to HQ's, USACE for policy review and approval in June 2000. HQ approved the fact sheet in July 2000. The District completed the Project Management Plan (PMP) for the separate Hackensack Meadowlands Restoration Study, which details the full scope, cost and schedule of the ecosystem restoration study of the Hackensack Meadowlands, in April 2003. Also in April 2003, the District executed the Feasibility Cost-Sharing Agreement with the study's non-Federal sponsor, the New Jersey Meadowlands Commission and have initiated the feasibility study, which is now underway.

PROJECT STUDY COST:

Estimated Feasibility Federal Cost	\$ 2,600,000
Estimated Feasibility Non-Federal Cost	<u>\$ 2,600,000</u>
Total	\$ 5,200,000

CONTACT: Mr. Bryce Wisemiller, Project Manager

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
Programs and Project Management Division, Harbor Programs Branch
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2119
New York, NY 10278-0090

Phone:(212) 264 – 5797
FAX: (212) 264 – 2924

[mailto: Bryce.W.Wisemiller@usace.army.mil](mailto:Bryce.W.Wisemiller@usace.army.mil)

New Jersey	
District	Senator/Representative
NJ	Honorable Jon S. Corzine
NJ	Honorable Frank Lautenberg
NJ-09	Honorable Steven R. Rothman
NJ-11	Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
NJ-13	Honorable Robert Menendez