



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

Hudson-Raritan Estuary New York & New Jersey Ecosystem Restoration (Overall Feasibility Study)

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: The Hudson Raritan Estuary is within the boundaries of the Port District of New York and New Jersey, and is situated within a 25 mile radius of the Statue of Liberty. The HRE study area includes 8 Planning Regions: 1) Jamaica Bay; 2) Lower Bay; 3) Lower Raritan River; 4) Arthur Kill/Kill Van Kull; 5) Newark Bay, Hackensack River and Passaic River; 6) Lower Hudson River; 7) Harlem River, East River, and Western Long Island Sound; and 8) Upper Bay. The study purpose is to identify the water resources problems, existing conditions and factors contributing to environmental degradation within the estuary in order to develop potential solutions aimed at ecosystem restoration, building upon existing restoration efforts and management plans (e.g., Harbor Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan).

The HRE Ecosystem Restoration Program will enable the Corps of Engineers, its non-Federal cost-sharing sponsors, and other regional stakeholders to restore and protect lost or degraded aquatic, wetland and terrestrial habitats within the HRE study area. These activities will be accomplished by implementing various site-specific ecosystem restoration projects formulated within the context of an overall strategic plan. As a first step, the Corps, with participation of the regional stakeholders, has developed a Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP). The CRP will serve as a master plan and blueprint for future restoration in the HRE region. Projects to be implemented within this program include the restoration and protection of aquatic habitat, coastal wetlands, waterbird islands, maritime forests, and other ecosystem resources.

The CRP provides the framework for an estuary-wide ecological restoration program by utilizing restoration targets - Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) developed by the region's stakeholders. The CRP Program Goal is to develop a mosaic of habitats that provides society with renewed and increased benefits from the estuary environment. Each TEC is an important ecosystem property or feature that is of ecological and/or societal value including restoration of coastal wetlands, shellfish/oyster reefs, eelgrass beds, waterbird islands, public access, maritime forest, tributary connections, shorelines and shallow habitat, fish crab and lobster habitat, reduction of contaminated sediments and improvement of enclosed and confined waters. The CRP will provide a strategic plan to achieve the TEC goals, identify potential restoration opportunities and mechanisms for implementation.

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

STATUS: The District's Reconnaissance Phase commenced in January 2000 and a Section 905(b) WRDA 86 Analysis was approved in June 2000. The Project Management Plan (PMP) was completed in May 2001 and the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) was executed on 12 July 2001 with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), the non-Federal sponsor.

Overall goals and restoration targets were established as a collaborative effort among the region's stakeholders through a series of stakeholder workshops in 2007 and 2008. A Draft Comprehensive Restoration Plan will be released in winter 2009 for public review and outreach, in addition to plan implementation and management.

Ongoing Feasibility Study activities include preliminary plan formulation for the CRP, a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and evaluation of the restoration opportunities associated with ecological benefits and costs.

In addition, the HRE-overall study has spun-off several projects, including HRE-Gowanus, HRE-Hackensack Meadowlands, HRE-Lower Passaic River and HRE-Liberty State Park.

STUDY COST:

Estimated Feasibility Federal Cost:	\$ 9,500,000
Estimated Feasibility Non-Federal Cost:	<u>\$ 9,500,000</u>
Total	\$19,000,000

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