



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

USACE’s Civil Works environmental program focuses on two key areas: aquatic ecosystem restoration and stewardship of project lands. The purpose of the aquatic ecosystem restoration program, one of the Army Corps’ three core mission areas, is to restore degraded ecosystem structures, function and natural processes to a more natural condition. The mission of the stewardship program is to manage, conserve and protect the natural and cultural resources at USACE-operated projects, consistent with project authorities.

Funding

The President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2017 (FY17) includes \$4.62 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) including \$375 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration and \$106 million for the environmental stewardship program.

The budget for the aquatic ecosystem restoration program prioritizes studies or projects that support the cost-effective restoration of nationally or regionally significant ecosystems that USACE is uniquely well-suited to manage. The Budget supports efforts in five ecosystems of significance with well-established interagency collaboration: California Bay Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, Great Lakes, and the Gulf Coast; as well as priority work in the Missouri River, Columbia-Snake, and the Upper Mississippi River. USACE coordinates closely with other Federal agencies with ongoing work in these ecosystems to synchronize activities and best leverage the Federal investment. This program also includes funding for compliance with existing biological opinions for the Columbia-Snake and Missouri River Basins, as well as a recent biological opinion for Mud Mountain Dam on the White River in Washington State. This budget also includes funding to continue designs for the Cano Martin Peña project in Puerto Rico and the Los Angeles River Ecosystem Restoration project in California.

The budget for the stewardship program will bring 24 high priority master plans into compliance, protect the most vulnerable and threatened cultural resources, and manage or control invasive plant and animal species on 580,000 acres. The program fully supports the Veterans Curation Program, which hires and trains more than 70 returning veterans. Additionally, the stewardship program in FY17 will complete work to maintain approximately 2,110 miles of Federal property boundary line, address an estimated 3,551 encroachments and trespasses, process an estimated 2,553 total land use requests, and manage a shoreline program with 74,000 dock and vegetation permits. The Budget includes \$6.9 million to improve pollinator health through treatment of invasive species, management of prairies, and maintenance of pollinator gardens.

Program Objectives

- Through proper land and water management, protection and conservation, ensure diverse and viable natural resources are available for future generations. Healthy ecosystems provide numerous ecosystem services that contribute to our economy, health and well-being.
- Restore degraded ecosystem structure, function, and processes to a more natural condition.



Key Messages	Facts & Figures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The President’s FY17 Budget request maintains a strong commitment to the environment.• Complex environmental problems require long-term solutions developed in a collaborative environment.• All USACE programs are guided by the environmental operating principles.• FY17 environmental budget activities include important initiatives that contribute to climate change resiliency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the period FY05 through FY14, USACE restored approximately 88,700 acres to a less degraded, more natural condition.• USACE is responsible for stewardship of about 12 million acres of project lands, manages over 500 species of concern and 51,000 cultural sites.• USACE has more than 390,000 acres of environmentally sensitive areas supporting unique ecosystems.• For more information about USACE’s environmental programs, visit: http://cw-environment.usace.army.mil/.