

NATIONAL ESTUARIES RESTORATION INVENTORY (NERI)

The National Estuaries Restoration Inventory (NERI) contains over 2,700 restoration project records that provide the public with information on a range of activities including ERA-funded restoration projects, compensatory projects, and other projects implemented through the assistance of various federal restoration programs.

The restored acreage for all projects currently in NERI is more than 218,000 acres with an additional 40,000 acres to be enhanced or protected. The acreage that contributes to the ERA goal is less than this total acreage as there are requirements set forth by the Act that must be met. These include meeting the ERA monitoring standards, being a non-compensatory project, and project implementation must have started after the Act was signed in 2000. One of the challenges of collecting project information from a variety of external data sources is having sufficient data to determine whether those projects meet the ERA requirements.

In 2007, the **US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** and NOAA completed a significant effort to import restoration project data from both the USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife and the Coastal Program. As technologies change over time and database structures are updated, modifications to the data sharing process are inevitable. USFWS and NOAA are currently evaluating the best process for future imports in order to continue adding new projects to NERI and updating existing projects.

The **US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** is nearing completion of a restoration tracking system. Significant coordination between USACE and NOAA database managers has maximized the compatibility of the new system with NERI, which will greatly facilitate data imports once the USACE system is implemented.



Activities in the upcoming year include:

- refining the process amongst ERA Council Agencies for existing and additional data imports,
- upgrading the NERI mapping capabilities by incorporating a user-friendly Google Maps® interface,
- refining reporting options, and
- conducting outreach at local and national meetings and events.