NERI

National Estuaries Restoration Inventory

Estuary Habitat Restoration Council

The Estuary Restoration Act (ERA) directed the establishment of a national database of restoration project information. Released in 2004, the National Estuaries Restoration Inventory (NERI) tracks estuary habitat restoration projects implemented by a variety of organizations in the United States. NERI contains information on restoration techniques, monitoring, and habitat acres restored in support of the ERA goals.

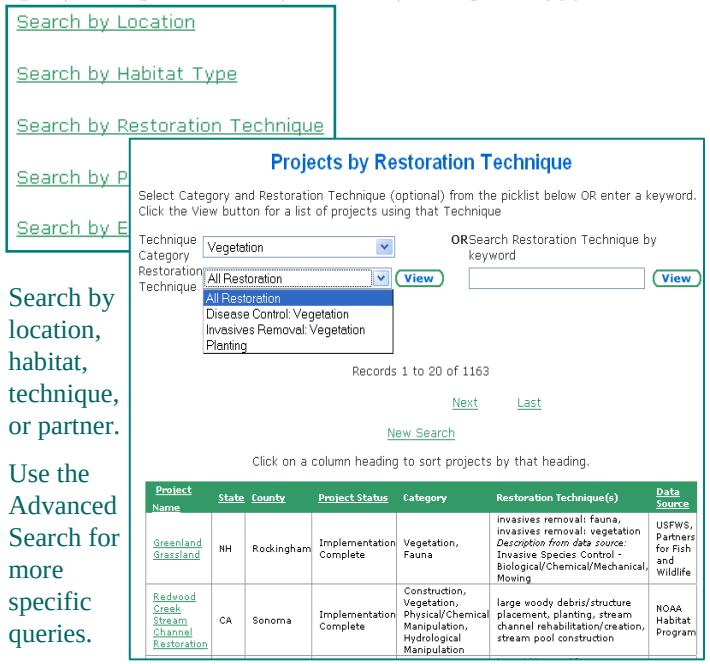
http://neri.noaa.gov

For More Information

or to inquire about including your restoration projects, please contact:

neri@noaa.gov

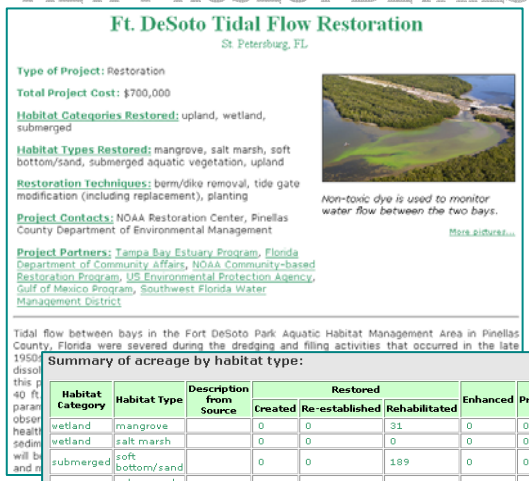
Search the Inventory...



Search by location, habitat, technique, or partner.

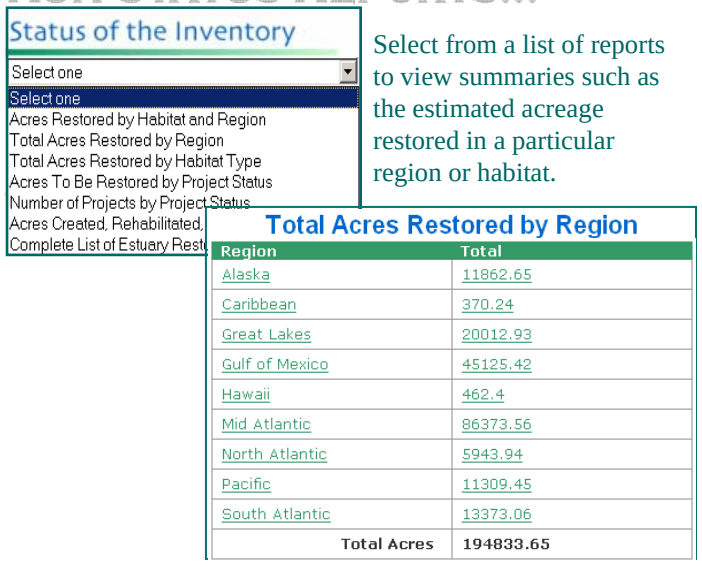
Use the Advanced Search for more specific queries.

View Project Details...



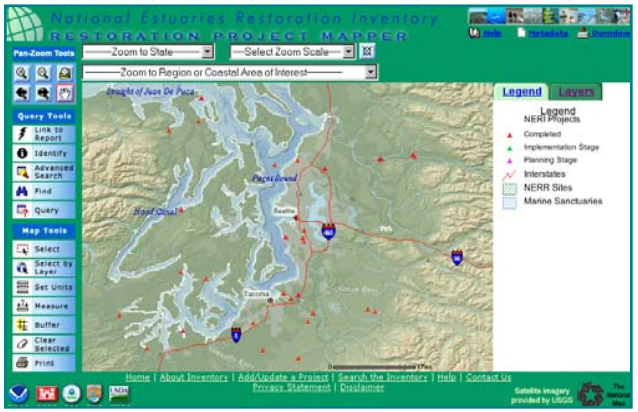
Click on a project of interest from your search results and view the summary or a detailed report.

Run Status Reports...



Select from a list of reports to view summaries such as the estimated acreage restored in a particular region or habitat.

Use the Interactive Mapper...



The Restoration Project Mapper allows users to explore NERI projects through an interactive map viewer. Pre-formatted regional maps are also available for viewing and download.

Project Requirements

Restoration projects in NERI must meet minimum requirements to be 1) included in the inventory, and/or 2) counted toward the acreage goal of the ERA.

Restoration projects in NERI must:

- aim to provide ecosystem benefits for estuaries and their associated ecosystems; *and*
- include monitoring to gauge the success of restoration efforts

To be counted toward the ERA goal, projects must also:

- have begun implementation on or after November 7, 2000 *(when the Act was signed into law)*
- have a monitoring plan that meets ERA Council Monitoring Standards *(see description on right)*
- not be required by state or federal law *(not compensatory)*

How to Submit Projects

Projects submitted to the inventory must undergo a data quality review in order to ensure that information provided is as accurate and complete as possible and that duplicate projects are not recorded.

NERI is looking to use existing tracking systems for data imports. NERI currently imports project data from NOAA and FWS restoration programs. Additional ERA Council agencies also plan to participate.

For more information on incorporating projects from your existing database into NERI, please contact:

neri@noaa.gov

NERI Data Fields

NERI contains a number of fields required for projects to be displayed on the NERI web site. In most cases, projects submitted to the inventory must include the following fields:

- **Project Title**
- Type of **Project** (ERA-funded, Compensatory, All other projects)
- NERI Project Requ**irements**
- Implementation Start and E**nd Dates**
- Project Statu**s**
- Project Descriptio**n**
- **Abstract**
- Proj**ect Benefits**
- Loca**tion** (Coordinates, City, County, State, Region)
- **Cost Estimates**
- Habitat Type(s) **Restored**
- Estimated and Actual Acres Created, Reestablished, **or** Rehabilitat**ed** (by habitat type)
- Restoration Techniq**ues**
- Monitori**ng**
- Contacts and **Partners**

A number of additional fields are also available, providing the option of sharing more specific project information. For a list and description of all NERI fields, please go to:

https://neri.noaa.gov/neri/inventory_help.htm

ERA Monitoring Standards

The Estuary Restoration Act (ERA) directed NOAA to develop standard monitoring protocols for estuary habitat restoration projects. These protocols outline basic guidelines for evaluating the success of restoration activities in meeting project goals. Monitoring can provide information to explain why goals are not met, and data from these projects can help evaluate relative efficacy of different methods and improve restoration techniques and project designs for future efforts.

A monitoring plan must include information to allow for successful implementation and evaluation of the project over the long term. The following five critical elements must be in monitoring plans for projects supported by ERA funds:

1. Monitoring **parameters** must be directly linked to the goals established for the project and/or the restoration of the watershed as a whole. These must include at least one functional and one structural parameter, and be monitored until a trend can be detected.
2. Methods for **evaluating results** must be established that directly relate to the goals for the project and/or watershed.
3. To establish initial conditions for each measure included in the monitoring plan, pre-construction or pre-design (**baseline**) monitoring must occur.
4. Project sites should be compared to a **reference site** or historical data representing a reference condition in order to evaluate progress toward reaching goals.
5. Monitoring must be conducted in a timely fashion with a **frequency and length of time** appropriate to each parameter in the context of project goals and the status of the project. Five years should be considered a minimum for projects with physical goals; for other projects, a longer time horizon might be more appropriate.

For more information on ERA Monitoring Protocols, go to:

https://neri.noaa.gov/neri/era_monitoring.html