# PLANNING AHEAD

***Notes for the Planning and Policy Community***

US Army Corps of Engineers

**November 2009** **Volume 12, Issue 10**


**Inside This Issue**



## A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

Greetings fellow Planners!! This month I would like to focus on three themes, our current program and the role of the Planner; changes in HQUSACE; and an update on critical items of importance to the Planning Community of Practice.

Last month I told you that Congress is putting their finishing touches on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. We now have a bill and it includes General Investigations (GI) funds of $160M and Continuing Authorities Program funds of $119.2M for FY 2010. Along with the carryover funds from last FY, we still have much work to do. Since many of you are involved in setting up the program for the year, I wanted to spend some time focusing on the role of the Planner in the project development team process.

Planners need to be involved in establishing aggressively attainable schedules for planning studies. These schedules should be consistent with policy guidance, so it is imperative that you know, understand and communicate the requirements within the team in order to "get it right the first time." Also, Planners must strive to maintain quality as a part of the planning process in order to ensure credible planning products. I challenge Planners to effectively partner with the project management community to ensure that sponsors, partners and stakeholders understand the planning process, its requirements and purpose.

As some of you may have heard, there are a few changes happening in HQUSACE. First of all, MG Don Riley, the current Deputy Commanding General for USACE and the former Director of Civil Works, will be retiring in January 2010. We certainly wish him well and thank him for his wonderful public service. Our current Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, MG Bo Temple will move into the Deputy Commanding General slot. MG William Grisoli will become the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations.

Also, Mr. Wes Coleman has been named as the new Chief of the Office of Water Project Review within Planning and Policy Division and Mr. Mark Matusiak has been named as a team leader within the Office of Water Project Review within Planning and Policy Division. Many thanks to Mr. Lee Ware for filling in as the acting Chief of the Office of Water Project Review.

Finally, I want to keep you apprised of the revisions to the "Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Resources Implementation Studies" dated March 10, 1983, as directed by Congress in

Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) is finishing coordination with Federal agencies and is scheduled to transmit the draft version of the Principles and Standards portion to the National Academy of Sciences, Water Science and Technology Board for independent external peer review this month. CEQ will also put a notice in the Federal Register for a public review. I encourage you to make your sponsors, partners and stakeholders aware. Thank you for all that you've done and for all your future efforts!

Essayons,

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Theodore A. "Tab" Brown, P.E., SES
Chief, Planning and Policy HQUSACE
Directorate of Civil Works
Planning Smart, Building Strong

## WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

This month's issue of *Planning Ahead* begins with an announcement of the release of Economic Guidance Memorandum (EGM) 10-01, Federal Interest Rates for Corps Projects, and EGM 10-02, Current Normalized Prices.

Dave Tazik, Ellen Cummings and Craig Fishenich report on a recently held workshop to kick off a research study by the Engineer Research and Development Center to evaluate the performance and outcomes of completed Corps ecosystem restoration projects.

JoAnne Castagna reports on collaborative effort on the part of the New York District to partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a GIS based website that monitors threatened and endangered shore species along the New York and New Jersey coastline.

Cindy Tejeda reports on the recent signing of a regional Memorandum of Understanding between the South Pacific Division and The Nature Conservancy.

Katisha Draughn reports on the efforts of the Baltimore District to work collaboratively with multiple stakeholders to develop a comprehensive Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan.

Also included in this month's issue of *Planning Ahead* is an announcement of a January 5-6, 2010 workshop on the identification and evaluation of the regional economic impacts, an announcement of the 62nd meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board scheduled to place on December 15 in New Orleans, a listing of employment opportunities from around the Corps, upcoming PROSPECT training courses, upcoming conferences, and recent publications in the field of water resources planning and engineering.

Thanks again to all the members of the Planning Community of Practice for their support and interest in the *Planning Ahead* newsletter.

Ken Lichtman, Editor
Institute for Water Resources
Kenneth.E.Lichtman@usace.army.mil

# PLANNING CoP NEWS

## Economic Guidance for Fiscal Year 2010

Federal Interest Rates for Corps Projects
U.S. Department of Agriculture Normalized Prices

USACE Headquarters has published Economic Guidance Memorandum 10-01, Federal Interest Rates for Corps of Engineers Projects for Fiscal Year 2010 (<http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PlanningCOP/Documents/egms/egm10-01.pdf>) and Economic Guidance Memorandum 10-02, Current Normalized Prices (<http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PlanningCOP/Documents/egms/egm10-02.pdf>).

The Federal interest rates for use in Corps studies and projects for Fiscal Year 2010 are as follows:

- Project Evaluation and Formulation Rate (Discount Rate): 4-3/8%.
- Water Supply Act of 1958 as amended by Section 932 of Public Law 99-662 (WRDA 1986) for a 30-year repayment: 4-1/8%. This value includes the 1/8% for transitions costs and is to be used for repayment for new projects and for reallocations.
- Water Supply Act of 1958 Section 301(b): 6.568%.
- Hydropower: 4%.

Normalized agricultural prices are published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Normalized prices for use in Fiscal Year 2010 can be found on the Department of Agriculture's web site at: (<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/normalizedprices/>). The effect of normalizing is to smooth out short term price variability.

For additional information on these and other EGMs please contact Bruce Carlson (CECW-PC) at: bruce.d.carlson@usace.army.mil.

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## Announcement of USACE Users Workshop on Regional Economic Impact Analysis

January 5-6, 2010, Phoenix, Arizona

The Institute for Water Resources will hosting a USACE users workshop on regional economic impact analysis on January 5-6, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. This workshop will focus on identifying and measuring the economic impacts associated with USACE economic stimulus expenditures and other Civil Works activities on local and regional economies.

Topics on the workshop agenda include:

What are the benefits of Regional Economic Modeling?
What types of economic impacts (e.g. income, employment, sales) should USACE consider when using the Economic Impact Tool?
What are the nature, magnitude and characteristics of USACE expenditures and investments?
What are the appropriate geographic study areas in evaluating USACE induced economic impacts?
What is the appropriate platform for an Economic Impact Tool?

More information concerning the workshop will be available in the near future. For additional information on the workshop, please contact Dr. Wen-Huei Chang at Wen-Huei.Chang@usace.army.mil or (703) 428-7214.

## ERDC Convenes Workshop at Outset of Retrospective Evaluation of USACE Ecosystem Restoration Projects

By Dave Tazik, Ellen Cummings, and Craig Fischenich

A successful two-day workshop was recently held in Dallas, TX to kick off a research study that will be conducted by the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to evaluate the performance and outcomes of completed Corps ecosystem restoration projects. The workshop, held during 20-21 October 2009, was designed to identify major opportunities and challenges, important questions to be addressed, study protocols, and expected outcomes. Workshop participants included representatives from USACE Headquarters, districts, and ERDC; academia, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It was a productive session that generated many good ideas, insights, and recommendations that will aid ERDC in carrying out this challenging yet important task.

The goals of the study are to compile data on completed Corps ecosystem restoration projects, assess project outcomes, and evaluate performance of commonly utilized techniques and practices. ERDC researchers hope to identify those project features that are generally most successful, highlight successful innovations and lessons learned, and assess the extent and utility of post-implementation monitoring.

The Corps needs a better understanding of its restoration projects, project success or lack thereof, what works best, and what to change. Outputs of the research will inform future project planning, design, operations and maintenance, and monitoring. At the programmatic level it will help to assess how successful restoration efforts have been to date and identify priority issues that need to be addressed.

District staff helped to keep the discussion grounded while others provided examples of similar efforts – e.g., National River Restoration Science Synthesis and National Estuaries Restoration Inventory. Many technical considerations of importance to success of the study were identified. There was also extensive dialogue on what information should be compiled. This included a discussion of the relationship between project objectives, benefit measures, project baselines and success criteria, metrics and monitoring. It is surmised that the links among these elements are often weak.

The population of completed projects is likely well over 200, including a considerable number of CAP projects as well as individually authorized projects and large-scale programs. One of the primary challenges faced will be to obtain planning and monitoring reports associated with completed projects. Researchers have begun to secure these documents with the help of district personnel. To ensure success, continued assistance from the districts will be indispensible.

The research project will carry on through fiscal year 2011. Interaction with the workshop participants is anticipated to continue over the next two years. Invitees from the Corps, academia, and other government and nongovernmental agencies who were unable to attend will be consulted in the future as the project progresses.

*Dave Tazik is a Research Ecologist at the Environmental Laboratory, ERDC, Ellen Cummings is a Senior Environmental Policy Advisor at HQ USACE. and Craig Fischenich a Research Civil Engineer at the Environmental Laboratory, ERDC*

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## Announcement of 62nd Meeting of Inland Waterways Users Board

15 December 2009, New Orleans, LA

The 62nd meeting of the Inland Waterways Users Board, <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/newusersboard/index.htm>, will be held in New Orleans, LA, on Tuesday, 15 December 2009. The meeting will take place at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place hotel, 100 Rue Iberville, New Orleans 70130. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM and the meeting will begin at 9:00.

For information on the Inland Waterways Users Board or for this meeting. contact Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman of the Institute for Water Resources at Kenneth.E.Lichtman@usace.army.mil.

## Engineer Research and Development Center Publication ERDC TN EMRRP-EBA-03 "Reducing Spreadsheet Errors"

By S. Kyle McKay, Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory

Increasing computational power and memory capacity in desktop computers has resulted in access to numerical techniques previously unavailable to many users. Although computational capabilities have increased, many users are unable to take full advantage of this power due to limited programming expertise. Spreadsheets offer these users a means to capitalize upon computational potential without extensive training, though spreadsheet models can confer risks due to high error rates and lack of quality control. Both researchers and practitioners have cautioned users about high rates and consequences of errors in spreadsheets.

Computational errors are not the only errors possible in spreadsheets, and many errors lie outside the realm of what model developers can control, including: data errors, input errors, user errors, appropriateness of application to the problem, reliance on conceptual or technical information that may be uncertain or erroneous, misinterpretation of results, and deliberate errors associated with fraud.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Engineer Circular 1105-2-407 (Planning Models Improvement Program: Model Certification) requires that all models used for planning be peer reviewed and certified. Within USACE, spread-sheets are often used to represent systems and inform decisions ranging from dredging schedules to restoration outcomes to budget allocation. These tools range in complexity from simple data storage to intricate models of complex system properties depending on an array of inputs, conditional arguments, and possibly third party add-ins.

Although spreadsheets are ubiquitous, high error rates suggest that thorough checking, testing, and auditing are uncommon. This paper provides guidance for quality assurance and quality control practices and techniques for avoiding or reducing errors by: 1) planning spreadsheet development, 2) avoiding errors in development, 3) finding errors, and 4) self-improvement. This document is not intended to be a hard and fast set of "rules," but rather to provide guidance for spreadsheet developers.

The entire publication (13 pages, 156 kb) is available for downloading in pdf format through the ERDC library website. The address is: http://libweb.wes.army.mil/uhtbin/hyperion/TN-EMRRP-EBA-03.pdf

Also, a webinar on this subject was given in July 2009 and is available to Corps of Engineers personnel for viewing at the following website:

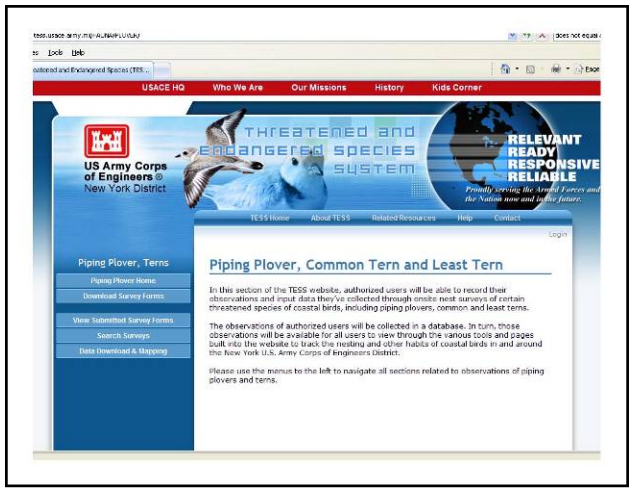
<http://cw-environment.usace.army.mil/webinar.cfm?CoP=Restore&Id=10>

## New York District partners with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Develop GIS Based Website to monitor Threatened and Endangered Shore Species

By JoAnne Castagna, Ed.D., New York District

According to the recent report, "*The State of the Birds, United States of America 2009*", produced through a collaborative effort between federal government conservation agencies and private conservation groups, bird populations in many habitats are declining—a warning signal of the failing health of our ecosystems  One of the federal conservation agencies which collaborated on the State of the Birds report, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), has partnered with the New York District to develop a system to monitor the status of threatened and endangered species along the New York and New Jersey coastline.

The agencies collaborated in the creation of a website that includes a Geographic Information System (GIS) feature that serves as a user-friendly repository of information on threatened and endangered bird and plant species living along the New York and New Jersey coast.  The website is called the Threatened and Endangered Species System (TESS) - http://tess.usace.army.mil




**The TESS website allows users to download survey forms, view and search survey submissions, and plot observations of Piping Plover, Terns or Seabeach Amaranth in Google Earth. Credit:  Rose Dopsovic, GIS Contractor, Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District.**

Scientists, decision-makers and interested citizens can use this information to develop solutions for protecting these species.  "The purpose of the website is to provide a central point of data entry for surveys and site observations related to threatened and endangered species," said Rose Dopsovic, a Geographic Information Systems contractor with the Mobile District, who is assisting the New York District.

Any agency who has an interest in the monitoring and management of these threatened and endangered species can submit their observations to the website. Presently the website has data on threatened and endangered birds including Piping Plovers, Common Terns and Least Terns and plants including the Seabeach Amaranth.

The GIS takes information from various sources, such as aerial photographs and electronic data, and combines these layers of information in various ways to perform analyses.  The GIS on the TESS website provides two ways for people to retrieve information about the species – electronic maps or a database of raw information.

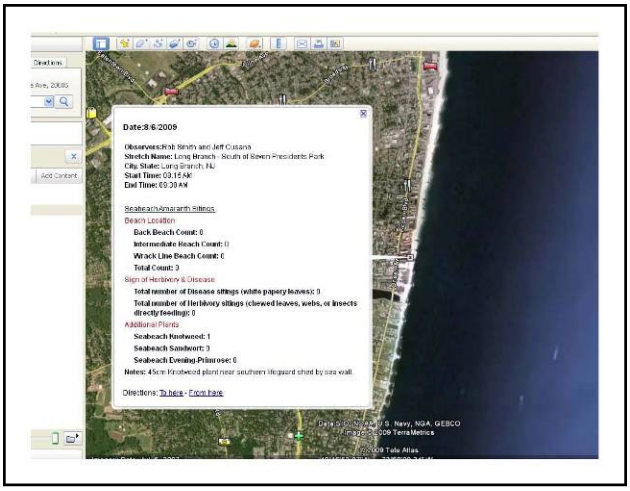
On the website, visitors can view a map of the New York and New Jersey shoreline.  To retrieve information about a species, visitors can either select a portion of the map and retrieve data on a particular geographic area or they can perform a search of the database.

The TESS website provides several seasons worth of habitat information that can be used to analyze and make decisions that will improve the survival of these threatened and endangered species.

Users of the system can see where birds are nesting and plants are growing each season.  If they notice a change in these habitat locations from one season to another, this can prompt an investigation as to why this has occurred.

According to Robert Smith, acting regional endangered species expert in the New York District, who has personally conducted many sight observations and posted them to the TESS website said, "Wildlife can change where it lives for a number of different reasons, including if a predator

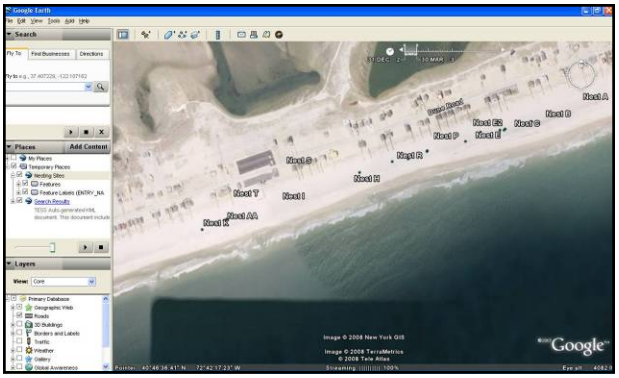
has entered a habitat or because a man-made project is in progress in the habitat area. In fact, the Army Corps is required to monitor and protect wildlife near any of its projects."




**Users of the TESS website can input coordinates and information to generate Google Earth files, so they can view, track and compare species observations and nesting locations across seasons. Credit: Rose Dopsovic, GIS Contractor, Army Corps, Mobile District.**

Having several seasons worth of bird and plant habitat information also helps people find relationships between information. "For example, we can see how a storm event affects the population of a species in a specified area by viewing the habitat before and after the event," said Dopsovic.

The website can provide both qualitative and quantitative information. For example, after a storm event, a person can find out what types of habitats were chosen by species (qualitative), and the number of young per nest or the total change in population caused by an event (quantitative).




**Users of the TESS website can input coordinates and information to generate Google Earth files, so they can view, track and compare species observations and nesting locations across seasons. Credit: Rose Dopsovic, GIS Contractor, Army Corps, Mobile District.**

"We can also track trends in habitats. For example, we are able to see if birds are more or less likely to nest in beach fill areas" Dopsovic said . Beach fill areas are portions of the coast that eroded and were replenished with sand dredged from the ocean.

Having seasonal habitat information can also improve the quality of life for New York and New Jersey residents that want to visit the beach.

Jeff Cusano, project geographer with the New York District said, "Often we place fencing along the coast to protect threatened and endangered wildlife from being harmed from people visiting the beach. Usually when this is initially done a large area is fenced off, which can be annoying to the public that wants to visit the beach. Having seasonal habitat information helps us to monitor where these species are actually living and enables us to adjust where we have the fencing."

In the near future, the TESS website will include more threatened and endangered species and may cover more of the Northeast's coastal region.

Using GIS on a website "provides a great tool for managers to see what is going on with a click of a button," said Smith. "If more of our partners and local groups adopt and use the website it will be a great benefit to all parties interested in the monitoring and protection of these species."

**Piping Plover image. Credit: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

*Dr. JoAnne Castagna is a technical writer-editor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. She can be reached at joanne.castagna@usace.army.mil*

## Partnership with The Nature Conservancy Grows in the South Pacific Division

By Cindy Tejeda, South Pacific Division

On September 25, 2009, Colonel Scott F. "Rock" Donahue, Commander of the South Pacific Division, signed a Regional Memorandum of Understanding with The Nature Conservancy's Western Division, formalizing a partnership at the regional level that is well established at the national level. As a non-government organization (NGO) partner, The Nature Conservancy brings a science-based focus on ecosystems and sustainability that leads to new possibilities for USACE project delivery. The synergy created by such a partnership is particularly relevant in SPD, which encompasses many of our nation's most arid States.

Water resources management is particularly challenging in the West given the trend of population growth, scarcity of water, the presence of hundreds of Threatened and Endangered species and future uncertainty brought on by climate change. The Corps and the Conservancy share a common vision of developing sustainable solutions through collaboration with partners and stakeholders. It is precisely this kind of partnership that will enable USACE to make this vision a reality.


**Regional MOU Signing Ceremony on 25 Sep 2009**

**Project Highlight – The Nature Conservancy Partnership on the McCormack-Williamson Tract Project (CALFED Levee Stability Program)**

The Nature Conservancy's Cosumnes River Project is a broad-based effort to restore and safeguard the integrity of the Cosumnes River and its surrounding landscape. The Nature Conservancy and its partners established the Cosumnes River Preserve in 1987 with 1,480 acres. By 2000, the Preserve had grown to encompass more than 40,000 acres. The Cosumnes River Project continues to grow and expand; it now encompasses more than 46,000 acres.

**The Cosumnes River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

While the Preserve was initially created primarily to protect and restore a viable valley oak woodland ecosystem, the scope of the project expanded considerably and includes all associated Central Valley habitats and their dependent wildlife. Public education and recreation opportunities are strategically aimed at increasing public awareness and support for the project.

Staten Island, a 9,000 acre island in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) is what TNC calls a "working landscape." Corn and other food products are grown through the year providing employment and revenue for the Delta community. The wildlife friendly practices that are used extensively result in an amazing array of diverse wildlife, including Sandhill cranes.

An important component of the Cosumnes River Project is the McCormack-Williamson Tract. The McCormack-Williamson Tract is owned by TNC, who is partnering with the University of California at Davis, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and USACE to explore integrated flood risk management and ecosystem restoration on this island. USACE is participating in this collaboration through the CALFED Levee Stability Program, a multi-purpose program that authorizes the Secretary of the Army (through PL 108-361) to implement projects

addressing flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, water supply, water quality and the beneficial reuse of dredged materials for levee stability. It is lead by the Sacramento District, whose intent is to prioritize "early implementation" projects in the Delta – those that are consistent with the longer term, future visions for the Delta currently being developed by a multitude of stakeholders across the state of California.

The McCormack-Williamson Tract plays a key role in North Delta hydraulics and provides potential for a balancing of flood risk management and ecosystem restoration. The property typically floods by overtopping at the Northeast end during large flood events and then breaches downstream in an uncontrolled fashion, causing stress on and failure of adjacent levees and local marina moorings.

Project alternatives would allow the passing of flood flows through McCormack-Williamson in a way that minimizes flood impacts to the rest of the system. Because McCormack-Williamson Tract's topography varies from roughly minus four to plus five above sea-level, the Tract provides an ideal landscape gradient for a continuum of habitat types as part of the flood risk management solution.

This project presents unique opportunities for synergy in achieving flood risk management and ecosystem restoration goals. Components considered for flood risk management, such as setback levees and flood bypass areas, may also be configured to create quality habitat for species of concern in the North Delta area. Through well-integrated flood risk management and ecosystem restoration objectives, efficient solutions can be achieved that maximize benefits for both.

This project is just one of many exciting, collaborative endeavors to achieve sustainability in the South Pacific Division. As the partnership continues to grow, we look forward to future opportunities to strengthen the partnership and better serve the public.

For more information about the SPD's regional Corps-Conservancy partnership, contact Cindy Tejeda, Regional Watershed Planner at Cindy.L.Tejeda@usace.army.mil or Michael Powelson of TNC at mpowelson@tnc.org.

For more information on the McCormack-Williamson project, contact Brooke Schlenker, Sacramento District at Brooke.E.Schlenker@usace.army.mil, or Matt Reeve of DWR at mreeve@water.ca.gov. For more information on the Cosumnes River Project, contact Leo Winternitz of TNC at lwinternitz@tnc.org.

**Sandhill Cranes Flying Over Staten Island**

## Baltimore District Leads Collaborative Effort in Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan

By Katisha Draughn, Baltimore District

The Anacostia River which flows the heart of the Nation's capital is also thought to be one of the most polluted rivers in the United States. Through the efforts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, the watershed will soon have a comprehensive restoration plan as a result of an ongoing collaborative effort between various federal, state and local agencies.

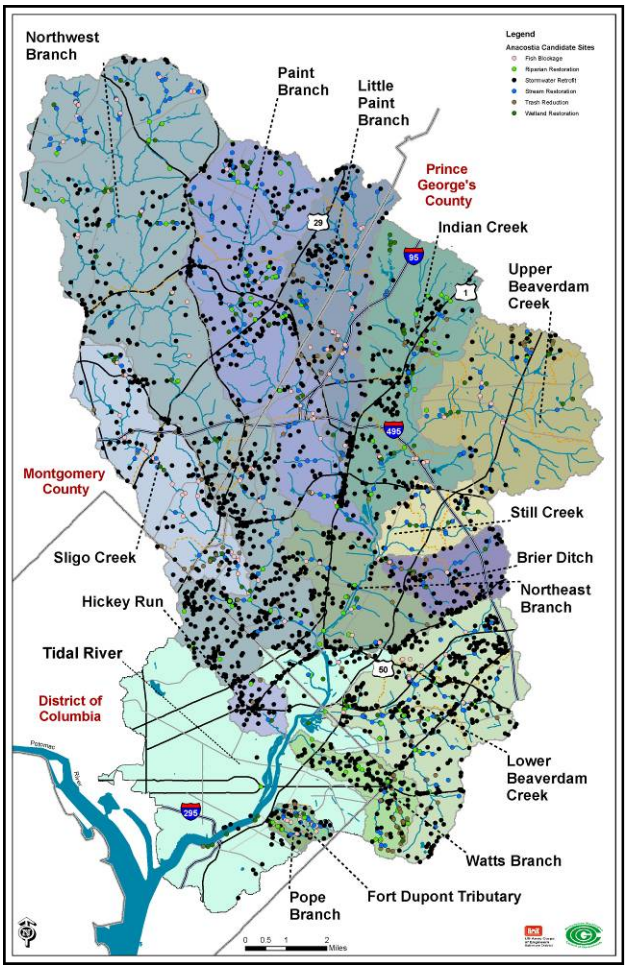
The Anacostia River flows from Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland., through Washington, D.C., to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Baltimore District is the lead agency for the preparation of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan (ARP) and has been coordinating with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the District of Columbia, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on a comprehensive plan for environmental restoration for the river.

This team has worked together diligently since November 2007 to develop the ARP. The plan will define the existing conditions, identify specific problems and recommend actions to improve the ecological health of the river and its tributaries.

"This Anacostia Restoration Plan reflects a level of collaboration and coordination that should be a model for watershed plans across the country," said Mary Dan, Baltimore District project manager for the ARP. "We have stakeholders that range from jurisdictions, state and federal agencies and sub-watershed residents that have been fully engaged in the development of this plan. That reflects a lot of people who have learned to trust each other to do good things for the watershed."

According to the Draft Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan and Report, the primary objective for the ARP is to present a 10-year restoration plan that systematically identifies and prioritizes restoration opportunities, as well as to help ARP achieve its 2020 indicators and six restoration goals.




**Shown are some restoration opportunities identified as part of Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. (Courtesy of USACE, 2009)**

These restoration goals include the following: to dramatically reduce pollutant loads; protect and restore ecological integrity; improve fish passage; increase wetland acreage; expand forest cover; and increase public and private participation. All of these concepts will benefit the health of river and allow the community to enjoy the watershed.

To help achieve these goals, the project development team (PDT) receives input and guidance from a steering committee, a management committee and a citizen's advisory committee, all of which are part of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership.

The PDT also holds monthly meetings to identify the problems within the watershed, develop restoration strategies and discuss methods and concepts.

"The collaboration between the federal, state and local agencies has been excellent," said Robert Pace, Chief of the Planning Division and member of the

steering committee for the ARP. “It’s unique because this is the first time there has been a common methodology and approach among the partners on how to restore the watershed.”

**A channelized section of a tributary within Little Paint Branch watershed. Little Paint Branch is one of 14 major tributaries draining to the Anacostia River. (Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 2008)**

"This effort is unprecedented in the Nation," said Dana Dunmire Minerva, Executive Director of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership. "I don't know of other places in the Nation where multiple jurisdictions will have a serious plan to implement green retrofits to clean polluted waters and restore a watershed."

With more than 860,000 people currently living within the Anacostia River Watershed, the need to incorporate citizen input is imperative. The collaborative effort also involves the residents of the community and sub watershed committees. “Government agencies cannot do it alone,” said Dave Robbins, Baltimore District study manager on the ARP. “We need local residents to do their part as well.”

The draft restoration plan for the entire Anacostia Watershed will be available to the public later this winter at http://www.anacostia.net.

**Anacostia River wetland creation project. (Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, 2008)**

# EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**These are but a few of the many available positions advertised on the Army's Civilian Personnel on line website, http://cpol.army.mil and USAJOBS website, http://www.usajobs.gov. Note that clicking on the vacancy announcement number redirects the reader to the job description on the www.usajobs.gov website.**

(1) Vacancy Announcement Number: NCFL09778311
Opening Date: October 21, 2009 Closing Date: November 20, 2009
Position: YF-03: Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Community Planner (0020), Supervisory Economist (0110), Supervisory Social Scientist (0101), Supervisory Biologist (0401), Supervisory Geographer (0150), Supervisory Anthropologist (0190), Supervisory Archaeologist (0193), Supervisory Physical Scientist (1301)
Salary: $96,460 - $160,860 Annual
Place of Work: HQ, US Army Corps of Engineers; Directorate of Civil Works, Planning Community of Practice, Washington, DC
Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time
Number of Vacancy: 1

(2) Vacancy Announcement Number: WTKC09LJASACPD110
Opening Date: November 10, 2009 Closing Date: November 23, 2009
Position: Regional Economist, YA-0110-02
Salary: $48,725 - $93,814 Annual
Place of Work: (Salary includes 21.53% Local Market Supplement)
U.S. Army Engineer District, Sacramento District, Planning Division, Water Resources Branch, Economic & Risk Analysis Section, Sacramento, CA
Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time
Number of Vacancy: 01

(3) Vacancy Announcement Number: SWHB09744202R
Opening Date: November 17, 2009 Closing Date: December 01, 2009
Position: REGIONAL ECONOMIST, GS-0110-11/12
Salary: $63,555 - $99,024 Annual
Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Galveston, Planning and Environmental Br., Planning Section, Galveston, TX
Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time
Number of Vacancy: 1

(4) Vacancy Announcement Number: SWHB09905916
Opening Date: November 18, 2009 Closing Date: November 24, 2009
Position: GS-12: Economist (0110), Biologist (0401), Landscape Architect (0807), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Physical Scientist (1301)
Salary: $76,177 - $99,024 Annual
Place of Work: U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston, Planning, Env & Reg Div, Planning & Env Br, Planning Sec, Galveston, TX 77553, Duty Station; Galveston, TX
Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time
Number of Vacancy: 1

(5) Vacancy Announcement Number: WTHE09821187
Opening Date: November 09, 2009 Closing Date: November 08, 2010
First Cut off Date: December 09, 2009
Position: YD-02: General Engineer (0801), Landscape Architect (0807), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Fish Biologist (0482), Wildlife Biologist (0486), Physical Scientist (1301), Community Planner (0020)
Salary: $47,995 - $95,805 Annual
Place of Work: U.S Army Engineering District, Portland, Planning, Programs & Project Mgmt Div, Planning Branch, Duty Station: Portland, OR
Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time
Number of Vacancy: 1

# PROSPECT TRAINING COURSE

## Upcoming USACE sponsored PROSPECT training courses of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include:

### PCC4 ECONOMIC ANALYSIS **Control Number: 270**

April 19-23, 2010 Alexandria, VA

This course is designed to provide an overview of the requirements and procedures for conducting economic analysis of Corps of Engineers water resources planning projects. Some form of economic analysis, including benefit/cost analysis, cost effectiveness analysis and/or economic impact analysis is required of all Corps projects, whether they be for flood control, navigation, dredging, water supply, environmental mitigation and restoration or other project purpose. The course is designed to help students better understand the Corps planning process and where they, as economist, fit into that planning process. The course will also provide information on how to think about and analyze new problems and situations.

This course includes discussion on (a) the economist's role in the Corps of Engineers (Who is your audience, your customer? What are your products?); (b) introduction on principles and guidelines -- how the economist's job is influenced by P&G; (c) how to think as a Corps economist in National Economic Development (NED) terms (including new technologies such as risk and uncertainty); (d) evaluation by project purpose using the NED manuals (the incorporation of R&U into evaluation by project purpose); (e) other evaluation techniques (cost effectiveness, incremental cost analysis, economic impact analysis); (f) the changing role of economic analysis: Environmental Restoration, Rehabilitation, Watershed Planning, Section 216; (g) expected problem areas and how to think about them -- emphasis will be on with/ without project condition, NED vs. Regional, Economics vs. Cost Sharing; and (h) how to plan your work with emphasis on Initial Project Management Plan (IPMP).

This course is designed primarily for NEW Corps Economists and/or those personnel requiring a basic understanding of what economists do in conducting economic analysis of water resources projects, particularly project managers. Priority placement will be given to CW planners with less than 3 years of planning experience at the GS7-11 grade level. It is highly recommended that students have taken the CW Orientation Course and the Planning Principles & Procedures Course before taking this course.

### PCC5 H & H Considerations for Planning **Control Number: 409**

March 15-18, 2010 Phoenix, AZ

This course provides less experienced district and division planners with a basic overview of the Corps of Engineers basic hydraulic and hydrologic concepts in accordance with current policies and procedures. It is developed for those who are relatively new to civil works planning; or, individuals who require an overall understanding of the policies and procedures involved in hydraulic and hydrologic process.

This course provides basic information in layman's terms on hydraulics, hydrology, geomorphology, sediment transport, and associated models. Many hands-on demonstrations are utilized to reinforce these concepts. The concepts are then specifically applied to the Corps water resources mission areas of flood damage reduction, coastal and storm damage reduction, navigation, ecosystem restoration, etc. In addition, the course provides a discussion of the development of Project Management Plans and scope versus consequences and includes a field trip and a major class exercise. The target audience for this class is new planners with no formal education in hydraulics and hydrology. While engineers may take this class, it should be recognized that basic principles will be discussed.

Nominees should be beginning/newly assigned to the Civil Works Planning and/or Project or Program Management areas of the civil works planning programs. Typically, with less than 3-years of related hydraulic and hydrologic experience; or, in fields having a nexus with and relevant need for an understanding of the hydraulic and hydrologic processes and their relationships to civil works project development. Nominees should be currently involved in the planning of civil works water resources development projects. Prior completion of the "Planner Orientation" and "Planning Process" courses from the Planning Core Curriculum; or, the "PCC1 Civil Works Orientation" and "PCC2 Planning Principles and Procedures" PROSPECT courses is highly recommended. Grades: GS 5-11.

To attend these courses or to receive additional information about other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at http://pdsc.usace.army.mil.

# Conference Announcements

## Restore America's Estuaries National Conference - Call for Papers

Restore America's Estuaries (http://www.estuaries.org) is pleased to announce its Call for Dedicated Sessions, Presentations, and Posters for its 5th National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration - Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy, to be held November 13-17, 2010 at the Galveston Island Convention Center, Galveston Island, Texas.

This is the only national conference that focuses exclusively on coastal habitat restoration. Healthy coasts and estuaries are essential to the social, economic, ecological wellbeing of everything that depends on them. Successful habitat restoration at all scales is critical to ensuring vibrant coasts. The Conference will bring timely national attention to the challenges and opportunities for restoration and will bring together a unique blend of people involved in policy, science, strategy, business, and on-the-ground restoration work.

The overarching theme for the Conference is "Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy." Every aspect of restoration will be affected by climate change. Because of its power to effect change, restoration can be a key element on an adaptive or mitigating strategy in facing climate change that cuts across all disciplines. As such, the topic of climate change will be interwoven throughout the Conference and will serve as a unifying element.

The Conference Program will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration, in all habitats, at all scales, and all regions. Habitat restoration--the manipulation of the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics of a site with the goal of returning self-sustaining natural or historic structure and functions to former or degraded habitat--offers great promise for reversing the trend of habitat loss and degradation, and is a crucial component of comprehensive ecosystem restoration, protection, and management.

The Conference is an international gathering encompassing all disciplines within the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community. Restore America's Estuaries will work with 200 partnering and supporting organizations to develop and host the Conference.

The deadline for Sessions, Presentations, and Posters is March 2, 2010.

For more information and to submit a proposal, visit: http://program.estuaries.org.

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## ASBPA Coastal Summit 2010
## "America's Coast: Becoming an Administration Priority"
## March 9-11, 2010, Washington, DC

Registration is now open for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association's 2010 Coast Summit to be held March 9-11, 2010 in Washington, DC.

Target audience include policy makers and policy implementers, City and County commissioners, State legislators, City and County Managers, coastal geologists, marine biologists, Department of Natural Resources staffers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staffers, State and local planners, coastal property owners, Environmental agency staffers, Anyone committed to the future of the coast

For additional information, go to http://www.asbpa.org

# CONFERENCES

**The following is a list of conferences, workshops, and symposia that may be of interest to members of the Planning Community of Practice, as well as other practitioners in field of water resources. Those conferences, workshops and symposia in which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been involved in the organization, sponsorship, or where members of the Corps have been identified as speakers or presenters, are identified in *italics.***

23rd Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology
February 3-5, 2010 Indianalantic, FL
Additional information: http://fsbpa.com/seminar.htm

International Erosion Control Association Annual Conference
February 16-20, 2010 Dallas, TX
Additional information: http://www.ieca.org/conference/annual/ec.asp

International Drought Symposium: Integrating Science and Policy
March 24-26, 2010 Riverside, CA
Additional information: http://cnas.ucr.edu/drought-symposium

2010 American Water Resources Association Spring Specialty Conference "Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Water Resources IV
March 29-31, 2010 Orlando, FL
Additional information: http://www.awra.org/meetings/Florida2010/

***Ports 2010***
April 25-28, 2010 Jacksonville, FL
Additional information: http://content.asce.org/conferences/ports2010/

***National Mitigation and Ecosystem Banking Conference***
May 3-6, 2010 Austin, TX
Additional information: http://mitigationbankingconference.com/mitigation_initial.htm

Association of Floodplain Managers 34th Annual National Conference
May 16—21, 2010 Oklahoma City, OK
Additional information: http://www.floods.org

River Management Society and National Association of Recreation Resource Planners 2010 Symposium "Bridging Conservation and Recreation"
May 18—20, 2019 Portland, OR
Additional information: http://www.river-management.org/symposium-2010/home.htm

***Joint 9th Federal Interagency Sedimentation Conference and 4th Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conference***
June 27—July 1, 2010 Las Vegas, NV
Additional information: http://www.jfic2010.org/

2010 Watershed Management Conference "Innovations in Watershed Management Under Land Use and Climate Change"
August 23-27, 2010 Madison, WI
Additional information: http://content.asce.org/conferences/watershedmanagement2010/index.html

# PUBLICATIONS

**The following is a list of recently published reports, studies, or articles prepared by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, or other research organizations**:

***"Building a Stronger Corps—A Snapshot of How the Corps is Applying Lessons Learned From Katrina",*** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 30 April 2009, Available at: http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/USACE_PK_Update_Report_Final.pdf

***"Sustainable Water Systems: Step One—Redefining the Nation's Infrastructure Challenge",*** The Aspen Institute Energy and Environment Program, Available at: http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/WaterInfrastructure.pdf

***"Disaster Recovery: Experiences from Past Disasters Offer Insights for Effective Collaboration after Catastrophic Events",*** Government Accountability Office, GAO Report -09-811, Available at: http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-811

***"Elevated East Coast Sea Level Anomaly: June—July 2009",*** NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 051, August 2009, Available at: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/EastCoastSeaLevelAnomaly_2009.pdf

***A Greener Shale of Blue? State of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary 2008",*** San Francisco Estuary Project and CALFED, Available at: http://sfep.abag.ca.gov/pdfs/soe/SOE-2008.pdf

***"Capabilities-Based Approach to Measuring the Societal Impacts of Natural and Man-Made Hazards in Risk Analysis"*** by Paolo Gardoni and Colleen Murphy, Natural Hazards Review, Volume 10, Number 2, May 2009.

***"Risk Analysis of a Protected Hurricane-Prone Region. I: Model Development"*** by Bibal M. Ayyub, Jerry Foster and William L. McGill, Natural Hazard Review, Volume 10, Number 2, May 2009.

***"Risk Analysis of a Protected Hurricane-Prone Region. II: Computations and Illustrations"*** by Bibal M. Ayyub, Jerry Foster, William L. McGill and Harvey W. Jones, Natural Hazard Review, Volume 10, Number 2, May 2009.

***"Fast Forward: Key Issues in Modernizing the U.S. Freight Transportation System for Future Economic Growth"*** by Richard Hillestad, Ben D. Van Roo, and Keenan D. Yoho, RAND Supply Chain Policy Center, Available at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG883/

***"State Transportation Statistics 2008"***, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, August 2009, Available at: http://www.bts.gov/publications/state_transportation_statistics/state_transportation_statistics_2008/index.html

***"America's Container Ports: Freight Hubs That Connect Our Nation to Global Markets"***, U.S. Department of Transportation, Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, June 2009, Available at: http://www.bts.gov/publications/americas_container_ports/2009/

***"Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making",*** by Thomas Dietz and Paul Stern, Editors, Panel on Public Participation in Environmental Assessment and Decision Making, National Research Council, 2008. Available at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12434

## HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

*Planning Ahead* is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format. Please send articles to Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman, at Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is
Wednesday, December 9, 2009

*Planning Ahead* is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 25-30. It is published by the Planning Community of Practice, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

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