

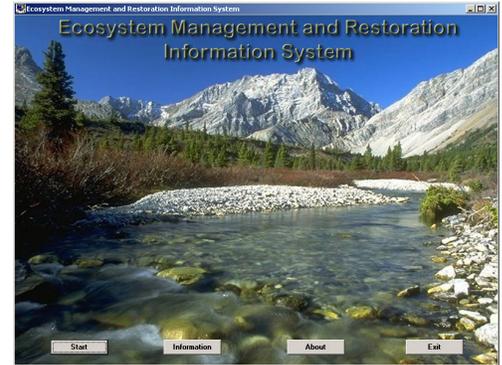


**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Engineer Research and  
Development Center

# Ecosystem Management and Restoration Information System

## Technology

The **Ecosystem Management and Restoration Information System (EMRIS)** is an easy-to-use information retrieval system. EMRIS provides computer-based decision support and information systems that allow rapid access to resources on a variety of ecosystem management and restoration topics. While the technical content of EMRIS is based on the most recent information on ecosystem management and restoration, EMRIS also captures classical sources that were not available electronically in the past. EMRIS is available to all users online at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/emrrp/emris/emrishelp.htm>. EMRIS is also available as an interactive CD-ROM, which can be obtained by sending an e-mail message from the online version or by contacting Sherry Whitaker (601-634-2990, [Sherry.Whitaker@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:Sherry.Whitaker@erdc.usace.army.mil)).



## Problem

As the knowledge base concerning ecosystem management and restoration expands, the need for effective and rapid information transfer and decision support becomes increasingly more important. In addition, not only is the knowledge base enlarging rapidly, but new evaluation and analysis tools are being developed that will require more efficient information management tactics. The Ecosystem Management and Restoration Information System (EMRIS) provides planning and operations personnel (both public and private) as well as regulators, ecologists, and natural resources personnel with computer-based decision support and information systems that allow rapid access to resources on a variety of ecosystem management and restoration topics.

## Expected Cost To Implement

The user incurs costs only in discretionary time spent using the system. EMRIS runs on computer setups that are readily available, i.e., IBM-compatible personal computer with Pentium processor and Microsoft Windows 95 and higher family with mouse support.

## Benefits/Savings

EMRIS saves significant amounts of time, and therefore, dollars, since critical and important information is easily accessible in one location and can be accessed at the office, laboratory, and/or field locations. Information in the system is organized by the Corps' planning process plus reference topics, which again saves time and money for the user. Content is interlinked and indexed so the user can reach specific information in more than one way. The organized format of EMRIS improves the quality of ecosystem management activities and allows these activities to be accomplished more quickly and with greater ease. EMRIS encourages users to plan their studies with an ecosystem perspective by showing the regional context of their study area. By accessing a large selection of information, users have more flexibility in planning their projects and stronger confidence in their outcome. They are also able to take advantage of the efforts of other researchers and operational personnel. For those who are new to ecosystem work or do not conduct such evaluations on a regular basis, the structured interaction of EMRIS increases their efficiency. In addition, this system facilitates exchange with other agencies and academia, and brings new ideas into the entire process.

**Status** EMRIS will continue to provide new technology transfer items as part of the Ecosystem Management and Restoration Research Program and is being funded to maintain its currency and to add content to the online version. The most recent CD is dated February 2001. The online version contains "New Items" and "Supplemental Information" links that contain information that is added to the CD coverage. That information will be inserted directly into the online version of EMRIS.

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**Distribution Sources** EMRIS is available online to both Corps users and the public at <http://www.wes.army.mil/el/emrrp/emris/emrishelp.htm> . EMRIS is also available as an interactive CD-ROM, which can be obtained by sending an e-mail message from the online version or by contacting Sherry Whitaker (601-634-2990), [Sherry.Whitaker@erdc.usace.army.mil](mailto:Sherry.Whitaker@erdc.usace.army.mil).

**Available Documentation** Documentation on the content and operation of EMRIS is found within EMRIS.

**Available Training** No training is necessary or offered (see Available Support below). EMRIS is provided at several Corps PROSPECT classes and is often demonstrated there.

**Available Support** EMRIS is a user-friendly computer-based decision support and information system. Guidance that accompanies EMRIS should make the system easy to use and navigate. However, if users experience problems in using EMRIS, they are asked to contact Michael Grodowitz (601-634-2972) or Sherry Whitaker (601-634-2990). For questions concerning the technical content of EMRIS, please contact Jean O'Neil (601-634-3641).