

# Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto - ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve in South Carolina - Final Management Plan

## Restoration Plan Database: Crystal Reports of Individual Plan Summaries

### I. BASIC PLAN DATA

**Plan name:**

Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto - ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve in South Carolina - Final Management Plan

**Brief description of plan:**

The state of South Carolina established the Ashepoo-Combahee-Edisto (ACE) Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) to provide representative natural areas for long-term research, monitoring and education. The mission of the ACE Basin NERR is to improve coastal resource management by increasing scientific understanding of estuarine systems and to provide useful information for decision makers and the public. This plan will guide the activities carried out for the reserve program and ensure that they are consistent with this primary mission. The purpose of this management plan is to inform interested parties about the reserve and provide a framework for activities that will be conducted. The plan covers the ACE Basin, which is located southeast of Walterboro, South Carolina and encompasses approximately 350,000 acres of undeveloped land and water areas, largely devoted to the forest products industry and wildlife management. The heart of this area is a series of remote coastal islands in southeastern Colleton County, which are accessible only by water. The NERR was viewed as a compatible tool to provide for habitat protection, long-term management, and opportunities for research and education.

**Region the plan is located within:**

South-Atlantic Region

**Watershed(s) included within the plan:**

S090x , S093x , S095x

**Area plan covers (in square miles):**

3,000.00 square miles

**Plan scale:**

Multi-county

**Plan's lead organization(s):**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), South Carolina Coastal Council (SCCC), South Carolina Wildlife & Marine Resources Department (SCWMRD)

**Plan's Main Contact Information:**

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**On-line version of plan:**

[www.csc.noaa.gov/acebasin/execsum.htm](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/acebasin/execsum.htm)

**Date of original plan:**

6/1992

**II. TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

**Plan includes restoration goals:** Y

**Level of detail of the goals:**

G

**Summary of the goals:**

The mission of the ACE Basin NERR is to improve coastal resource management by increasing scientific understanding of estuarine systems and to provide useful information for decision makers and the public. This plan will guide the activities carried out for the reserve program and ensure that they are consistent with this primary mission.

**Plan recommends restoration of specific project sites:**

Y

**Plan includes a discussion of funding sources:**

Y

**Plan addresses long-term protection of restored sites:**

Y

**Partners included in developing the plan:**

Federal  
State  
Local  
Business/Industry  
Non-profit Organizations  
Academia  
Foundations  
Private landowners

**Type(s) of public outreach included during plan development:**

Held public workshops, meetings, open house, or scoping meetings  
Kept a contact list of interested parties  
Formed an advisory group(s)

**Plan includes public outreach as part of plan implementation (e.g. annual public meeting, local group participation):**

Y

**Plan discusses the application of innovative approaches to restoration:**

N

**Plan make use of GIS mapping capabilities:**

N

**Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for ecosystem level monitoring (baseline conditions) by:**

G

**Plan addresses monitoring/reference sites for project level monitoring by:**

G

**The plan discusses or coordinates with other restoration plans covering the same geographic area:**

N

**Other plan names:**

**Plan contains detailed information on historic and/or current habitat size, rate of loss, acres restored or protected, etc.):**

Y

**Summary of this habitat information:**

The reserve contains a diverse assemblage of representative outer coastal plain communities, including the full array of communities typically associated with barrier islands, marsh islands and major estuarine rivers. Especially well represented are salt and brackish marshes and maritime forest communities. An abundance of managed estuarine impoundments, the total absence of industrial pollution and the isolated, undeveloped character of the area add considerably to the ecological significance of the reserve.