

Relating the Corps Six-Step Planning Process to EBA Phases and Activities

Planning Process	EBA Activities	
1--Specify Problems and Opportunities	Develop an understanding of the ecosystem to be restored including the history, landscape setting, source of problem, etc.	Qualitative Phase
	Prepare a conceptual ecological model including the drivers, stressors, ecological responses and indicators (or equivalent factors if using a different type of CEM). The CEM may include other factors if needed.	
	Identify the spatial and temporal scales for evaluation and key uncertainties. Determine the potential for adaptive management.	
	Identify key uncertainties and preliminary reference conditions.	
	State the project objectives. Choose among objective-, service- or whole ecosystem-based approaches for characterizing benefits.	
2--Inventory and Forecast Conditions	Establish metrics and performance measures for the project objectives and/or targeted ecological parameters.	Quantitative Phase
	Evaluate existing forecasting models and select preferred model or modify or develop needed model for forecasting conditions.	
	Forecast the FWOP and alternative scenarios (if required), including appropriate sensitivity and uncertainty analyses.	
3--Formulate Alternative Plans	Assess potential for adaptive management and include appropriate considerations in alternative formulation	Quantitative Phase
	Revisit and adjust the CEM, objectives and constraints as needed.	
4--Evaluate Effects of Alternative Plans	Forecast the ecological conditions for each alternative plan. Assess forecasting data to compute net changes to ecosystem quantity and/or quality, annualize outputs; make any necessary changes to metrics to capture values in terms of output metrics. Quantify and assess uncertainties for each plan.	Quantitative Phase
5--Compare Alternative Plans	Conduct cost-effectiveness and incremental cost analyses.	Decision Phase
6--Select Recommended Plan	Apply other decision criteria based on thresholds, constraints, reference conditions, stakeholder criteria, etc., and identify recommended plan.	
	Document the process and information helpful to decision makers.	
	Monitoring and adaptive management implementation phase is required to substantiate and optimize benefits.	AM Phase