



US Army Corps of Engineers

Institute for Water Resources

BUILDING STRONG®

BSI Implementation Project (2011)

Status: Completed

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to facilitate implementation of the Biodiversity Security Index (BSI) in Civil works project and program planning contexts.

Objective: Project objectives include: 1) complete a BSI applications manual for ecosystem restoration project planning in 2012; 2) initiate and conduct one or more Case Study applications of the BSI and report on the results in 2012-14; 3) make necessary improvements in the BSI concept and applications manual; and 4) add BSI elements to IWR Plan, WIDT and training modules for the Ecosystem Restoration Planning course and other courses as appropriate.

Benefits: The BSI was designed to address shortcomings in existing metrics that complicate the ecosystem restoration project and program planning process. The BSI is a population-based indicator of project and program benefit that is expected to be an improvement over habitat based metrics used by Corps planners because it explicitly and directly indicates reduced scarcity and long-term sustainability of the desired ecological resources in terms that can be directly compared across plans, projects and programs. More efficient and effective planning should result in more beneficial projects.

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