

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project



Public Scoping Issues Identification Report

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HDR



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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CHAPTER 1

PUBLIC OUTREACH

1.0 Introduction

The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorized the mitigation of 48,100 acres of fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River to be part of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project (Mitigation Project). An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this Federal Action was prepared and completed in 1987. In the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Congress modified the Mitigation Project by an additional 118,650 acres, increasing the total acreage of the Mitigation Project to 166,750 acres. The potential environmental impacts related to the development of the additional 118,650 acres are being evaluated in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

As part of the SEIS process, scoping meetings were conducted to solicit comments on the scope of the SEIS from individuals, Native American tribes, organizations, and agencies. This chapter describes the public outreach that was performed to inform the public of the opportunity to comment on the scope of the SEIS and participate in the scoping process.

1.1 Notice of Intent (NOI)

A NOI for the *Intent To Prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Located on the Missouri River From Sioux City, Iowa to the Mouth Near St. Louis, Missouri in the States of Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri* was published in the November 2, 2001 Federal Register (Volume 66, Number 213). The NOI included a summary of the project, points of contact for the public, and the dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings.

1.2 Media Announcements

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) issued a news release to various forms of media, including newspaper, television, and radio. In addition, a legal notice was published in various local and regional newspapers to announce that, as the lead federal agency, the Corps would be seeking input on the project at public scoping meetings. The legal notices were published at least seven days prior to the day of the public scoping meeting. Legal notices appeared in the following newspapers:

- Sioux City Journal (Sioux City, Iowa)
- Onawa Democrat (Onawa, Iowa)
- Enterprise Publishing (Blair, Nebraska)
- Omaha World-Herald (Omaha, Nebraska)
- Plattsmouth Journal (Plattsmouth, Nebraska)
- Sidney Argus-Herald (Sidney, Iowa)
- News Press (Nebraska City, Nebraska)

- St. Joseph News Press (St. Joseph, Missouri)
- Leavenworth Times (Leavenworth, Kansas)
- Odessan (Odessa, Missouri)
- Columbia Daily Tribune (Columbia, Missouri)
- News Tribune (Jefferson City, Missouri)
- Missourian (Washington, Missouri)

1.3 Public Scoping Announcement Mailing

A mail flyer was sent out to approximately 1,900 individuals, organizations, Native American tribes, government agencies, and elected officials. The flyer detailed the Mitigation Project, including the project needs, proposed action, and potential issues. The flyer provided an overview of Mitigation Project work to date and an anticipated schedule for completion of the SEIS. The flyer also solicited comments from the public on the scope of the SEIS, included the dates, times, and locations of the public scoping meetings, and provided information to allow the public to send comments by mail.

CHAPTER 2 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

2.0 Introduction

Public scoping meetings were held on the following dates and at the following locations to solicit public input regarding the scope of the SEIS for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project:

- November 13, 2001: **Sidney, Iowa** - Sidney Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1004 Illinois Street;
- November 14, 2001: **Onawa, Iowa** - West Monona Community High School, Commons Area, 1314 15th Street;
- November 15, 2001: **St. Joseph, Missouri** - St. Joseph Civic Center, Meeting Room, 100 N. 4th Street;
- November 19, 2001: **Blair, Nebraska** – Arbor Park Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1717 Adams Street;
- November 26, 2001: **Leavenworth, Kansas** - Riverfront Community and Convention Center, 123 S. Esplanade;
- November 27, 2001: **Columbia, Missouri** - Columbia College, Dulany Hall, Banquet Room, 1001 Rogers Street;
- November 28, 2001: **Lexington, Missouri** - Lexington High School, Cafeteria, 2309 Aull Lane;
- November 29, 2001: **Plattsmouth, Nebraska** - Plattsmouth High School, 1916 E. Highway 34;
- December 5, 2001: **Washington, Missouri** - Washington Elementary School, Blue Jay Gym, 600 Blue Jay Drive.

Attendees were encouraged, but not required, to sign an attendance sheet. Handouts were available for the public, including a Project Overview sheet, Questions and Answers sheet, Comment Form, and copies of the Mailing Announcement Flyer (Appendix A). The public scoping meetings were held using an open house format. Members of the project team from the Corps and HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) were available to answer questions and receive comments from the public. All meetings were from 5:00 PM until 8:30 PM. Attendance ranged from six people at the Onawa meeting to 25 at the Columbia meeting. Average attendance at the public scoping meetings was 15 people.

The following sections describe each public scoping meeting, including facilitators present, comments received, and issues identified. Twenty-nine written comments were received. In addition, many comments were noted during conversations with meeting attendees. All of the comments included in this chapter were verbal comments received from conversations with attendees except where identified as a written comment. The frequency of individual verbal comments is not included in this chapter, however, the summary table (Table 3-1) attempts to present the frequency that each issue was mentioned. The sign-in attendance sheets from each public scoping meeting are included

in Appendix B. Written comments are summarized in the following sections of this chapter. Copies of all written comments received are included in Appendix C.

2.1 Sidney, Iowa

2.1.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Sidney, Iowa meeting included Mike Barnes, Dwight Olson, and Luke Wallace from the Corps, Omaha District, and Scott Gard, Jeff Turner, George Oamek, and Mike Snyder from HDR.

2.1.2 Comments

There were eight attendees at the Sidney, Iowa meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is utilizing U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds to purchase environmental easements for flood control and wetland restoration. The NRCS has reportedly purchased 6,800 acres in Fremont County in two years and has a goal of 10,000 acres in the county for this program.
- The NRCS method of appraisal reportedly provides higher value than the Corps appraised value for the same property. NRCS easement purchases of farmland in Fremont County reportedly average approximately \$1200 per acre versus \$900 per acre priced by the Corps'.
- The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is also purchasing land for conservation purposes in the Missouri River floodplain area. The Nature Conservancy has reportedly restricted their purchases in the county to the loess hills area of Iowa.
- A farmer in Fremont County reportedly sold an easement to the NRCS and then was able to lease 160 acres for an additional \$25,000 per year for duck hunting.
- Concern was expressed that the development of aquatic mitigation sites will adversely impact pheasant and quail populations by flooding nesting areas.
- Fremont County has a high percentage of agricultural land in the floodplain.
- NRCS environmental easement lands may be taxed at lower rates by the county due to the change in land use.
- It was expressed that as more land becomes public land, the tax burden is shifted to remaining landowners.
- There have reportedly been lower numbers of geese in the Missouri River floodplain that may reflect the dispersion of the migratory bird flyway due to lakes that have been built elsewhere in Iowa. It was expressed that the Mitigation Project may shift the flyway back to the Missouri River.
- What is the potential for the Corps to acquire land for mitigation sites along tributaries? It was stated that there would be a potential for mitigation sites along the Nishnabotna.

- Belief that the priority for the use of tax money within the current budgetary environment should be on social services and not to reclaim wetlands. (written comment).
- Comment that the expanded Mitigation Project is the only feasible way that the Corps will be able to stimulate endangered fish and wildlife. Creation of side channels and sandbar habitat has a much better chance of benefiting the endangered fish and wildlife than spring rises. This work could, and should, be done on a multi-agency level with cooperation between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NRCS, and the Corps. (written comment)

2.1.3 Issues Identified

- Potential cumulative impacts of reduced tax revenues, resulting from other agencies and not-for-profit groups acquiring land along the Missouri River for similar conservation purposes
- Difference in land appraisals by government agencies
- Potential impacts to tax base and tax revenues
- Use of tax money for wetland reclamation
- Use of tributaries for the Mitigation Project
- Habitat restoration for threatened and endangered species

2.2 Onawa, Iowa

2.2.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Onawa, Iowa meeting included Mike Barnes, Jerry Smith, and Luke Wallace from the Corps, Omaha District, and Scott Gard, Jeff Turner, and Mike Snyder from HDR.

2.2.2 Comments

There were six attendees at the Onawa, Iowa meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Two landowners in the area expressed their desire for more access to the Snyder-Winnebago mitigation site, which is managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). They also indicated that the one boat dock in the area is crowded on the weekends with fisherman and that an additional access point for the fisherman would open up the boat dock for the boaters.
- Statement from local landowner that the existing mitigation sites in the area could have done more, such as directing more water from the channel for increased scour.
- A farmer expressed his concern regarding the loss of tax revenue from the Mitigation Project and that it would increase the tax burden for remaining landowners.

- Comment that the Mitigation Project is really a balance between the needs and uses of the river.
- Comment that the Corps needs to develop a plan for implementation of the Mitigation Project to accomplish the best mitigation sites with the land and money available.
- It would be beneficial to the willing sellers if they received a capital gains tax exemption.
- The federal government should allow a grace period during which the landowner could reinvest the money they receive for their land to reduce capital gains tax.
- Concern expressed regarding the use of all-terrain vehicles at the mitigation sites. A recreationist was in support of all-terrain vehicle access.
- An agency representative stated the purpose of the mitigation sites are for fish and wildlife, and the sites should be managed with a primary goal of fish and wildlife enhancement. If that means that access to the site needs to be restricted, then that is how the land should be managed.
- The project is long overdue and has been needed for some time. In full support of the Mitigation Project.

2.2.3 Issues Identified

- Public access to mitigation sites
- Mitigation for capital gains tax
- Conflicts with recreational uses of mitigation sites
- Potential impacts to tax revenue
- Desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat

2.3 St. Joseph, Missouri

2.3.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the St. Joseph, Missouri meeting included Kelly Ryan and Ralph Werthmann from the Corps, Kansas City District, and Scott Gard, Jeff Turner, Tim Fobes, and Mike Snyder from HDR.

2.3.2 Comments

There were nine attendees at the St. Joseph, Missouri meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Does the Corps have any locations planned for acquisition and development of the 118,650 additional acres?
- Concern was expressed as to the potential impacts of the mitigation sites to levees. Particularly, could the retention of water cause soil boils or breaches in the levees?

- Some agencies inquired about what monitoring would be done on the mitigation sites.
- Existing sites in Missouri are attracting many hunters. Some problems have been reportedly encountered with hunters using all-terrain vehicles.
- Agencies expressed concern regarding the accuracy of the current Missouri River stage models.
- Agencies expressed interest in cost-sharing the monitoring of chutes.
- Agencies would only want boat access at some sites.
- Agency is concerned about the transfer of land process. For example, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) would like to see each parcel be turned over for their management as they are acquired. They have had problems with cottonwoods growing up in the sites while they are waiting to receive management control and this makes it difficult for them to manage the land, as opposed to receiving the land straight out of agriculture.
- Capital gains tax cuts for willing sellers would help land acquisition opportunities.
- The payment in lieu of taxes is reportedly being made to the state and then passed on to the counties, however, the counties may not be passing payments on to the levee districts.
- Concern that spreading out flows from the river across the floodplain will decrease the amount of water in the navigation channel and also not allow the river to flush itself of sediment to maintain the nine-foot channel depth.
- Comment in support of the Mitigation Project.

2.3.3 Issues Identified

- Potential impacts to flood control structures
- Monitoring of mitigation sites
- Enforcement of public land regulations, especially with regard to all-terrain vehicles
- Need to develop more accurate Missouri River stage models for use in the design of mitigation sites
- Limiting public access to boat ramps at some mitigation sites
- Mitigation related to capital gains tax
- Need for some of the payment in lieu of taxes to be distributed to levee districts
- Need to transfer management of mitigation sites to states as they are acquired in order to make management more efficient
- Impacts to navigation
- Desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat

2.4 Blair, Nebraska

2.4.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Blair, Nebraska meeting included Mike Barnes, Jerry Smith, and Luke Wallace from the Corps, Omaha District, and Scott Gard, Mike Snyder, George Oamek, John Morton, and Dick Gorton from HDR.

2.4.2 Comments

There were 21 attendees at the Blair, Nebraska meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Corps appraisals of land have seemed low.
- What is the relationship between the Master Manual project and the Mitigation Project?
- One farmer questioned the “willing seller only” statement based on his experience with a fellow landowner in the area who had reportedly agreed to a condemnation of his property. However, that land acquisition was for an 1135 project.
- Concerns expressed about the local Natural Resource District (NRD) or other government agencies using condemnation to obtain land that could then be transferred to the Corps for the Mitigation Project.
- Concerns expressed about owning property that is surrounded by land purchased by government agencies for wetland restoration.
- Concerns expressed about buying land in a checkerboard fashion.
- The emphasis on saving wildlife should have changed after the events of September 11, 2001.
- Mitigation sites for the additional 118,650 acres may be difficult to find, particularly in the lower areas where the Missouri River floodplain is very narrow.
- Only limited monitoring of existing mitigation sites. There is not enough information on how existing sites are performing from an ecological enhancement and wetland restoration standpoint.
- Existing mitigation site chutes were reported to look like extensions of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project work, and should appear more natural.
- If aquatic habitat is going to be emphasized more in this authorization, will it be more expensive than terrestrial habitat mitigation sites?
- Concern expressed regarding the Corps’ requirements to provide access to mitigation sites. For example, if the Corps was to purchase a mitigation site that was landlocked and this landowner was adjacent to the site, could the Corps take his land to provide land access to the site?
- Concern expressed regarding increased trespassing on private lands adjacent to mitigation sites.
- The Mitigation Project has merit.

- Comment in disagreement with the Mitigation Project from a landowner along the Missouri River. Stated that he is not a willing seller and has a long-term lease on his farmland. (written comment)

2.4.3 Issues Identified

- Corps land appraisal procedures are inaccurate
- Confusion with other government programs (e.g. 1135 projects), especially as it relates to condemnation of property
- Potential impacts to adjacent privately owned lands
- Difficulty in acquiring all additional 118,650 acres authorized
- Need to do more monitoring of mitigation sites
- The purchase of private land to provide public access to mitigation sites
- Cost of aquatic habitat versus terrestrial habitat
- Increased trespass on private property adjacent to mitigation land
- Desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat

2.5 Leavenworth, Kansas

2.5.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Leavenworth, Kansas meeting included Kelly Ryan, Nickie Perry, and Jud Kneuvean of the Corps, Kansas City District, and Scott Gard and Mike Snyder of HDR.

2.5.2 Comments

There were 15 attendees at the Leavenworth, Kansas meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Concerns expressed regarding the interests of recreational boaters on the Missouri River. Not enough access and the wing dikes are dangerous.
- A citizen gave information on the location of a historic camping site at Diamond Island, in Wyandotte County.
- Members of the Sierra Club expressed their support of the Mitigation Project.
- One attendee wrote, “I encourage full mitigation of the project and buying out entire levee districts where feasible.” (written comment)
- “Looks terrific – let’s get on with it!” (written comment)
- Will the Corps be able to purchase land along tributaries between the bluffs for the project?
- Regarding the Benedictine Bottoms, an attendee was concerned about wetlands holding water after the expense that was incurred to buy and install the pumps. He was concerned about this oversight happening again, however, is in support of the project.
- What is the process for approval of individual sites?

- There is not sufficient access for canoeing on the Missouri River.
- Comment in support of the Mitigation Project. In support of the preservation and restoration of threatened and endangered species and other fish and wildlife habitat. Feels that the land acquisition policies of the Corps are restrictive and the project is acquiring land too slowly. Suggests the Corps use an aggressive marketing campaign for the project to identify willing sellers. Recommends utilizing a “Right of First Refusal” agreement with landowners, lowering the minimum acreage requirement from 100 to 50 acres, accepting land transfers when the Corps is successful in civil or criminal lawsuits, being diligent in locating historic sites on proposed mitigation sites, constructing supplemental levees, and making all project documents available on the internet. (email)
- Comment in support of the Mitigation Project and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River. The commentor suggests speeding up land acquisition and would like to see the Corps invest time and money into a marketing strategy that would publicize the Mitigation Project and educate landowners. (email)

2.5.3 Issues Identified

- Need to improve boating access to Missouri River
- Use of tributaries for mitigation sites
- Impacts to adjacent agricultural land, especially Benedictine Bottoms
- Criteria for purchasing mitigation sites
- Need to be more flexible and proactive in land acquisition
- Need to include habitat for threatened and endangered species
- Desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat

2.6 Columbia, Missouri

2.6.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Columbia, Missouri meeting included Glenn Covington and Richard Lenning of the Corps, Kansas City District, and Scott Gard, Tim Fobes, and Crystal Thomas of HDR.

2.6.2 Comments

There were 25 attendees at the Columbia, Missouri meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Notching of dikes that facilitate wildlife habitat development reportedly created shallow water in the main channel and barges are reportedly dragging in these areas.
- Will notching be used for mitigation site development?
- Does the Corps have criteria for how deep they will cut dikes?

- Are the mitigation sites for the 118,650 acres already identified?
- Concern that the Mitigation Project will cause localized significant indirect impacts and losses to local economies. For example, as more and more land was put into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in northern Missouri, the amount spent locally on machinery, fertilizers, and at mills has decreased and in turn decreased sales tax collected on these agricultural commodities.
- There is a need for monitoring the mitigation sites.
- Will there be funds for monitoring? There is a need for increased funding for monitoring and a greater need to monitor for threatened and endangered species.
- Concern expressed about whether or not the government would be a good neighbor (e.g. weed control, making sure wetlands do not impact adjacent landowners).
- The Farm Bureau wants to keep farmers on the land.
- Taking land out of farmland production will impact the supply side by increasing prices.
- What are the benefit/cost ratios of the Mitigation Project?
- Increases in property values may not be positive to young farmers who lease farmland.
- Impacts to landowners adjacent to existing mitigation sites are reportedly making more willing sellers by default.
- Concerns expressed about the overall increase in acreage for the Mitigation Project. With 118,650 acres for the Mitigation Project and 60,000 for the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), how much land is really needed for mitigation?
- The number of birders has increased nationally and the mitigation sites would represent significant opportunities for recreational activities such as bird watching.

2.6.3 Issues Identified

- Potential impacts to navigation, especially as it relates to notching of dikes
- Potential impacts to tax revenue and local economies
- Need for monitoring of mitigation sites
- Potential impacts to adjacent landowners, especially as it relates to weed control
- Impacts to agricultural community, especially as it relates to:
 - Taking farmland out of production
 - Displacing farmers
 - Generally making it more difficult for the remaining farmers
- Cumulative impacts from other programs acquiring land, specifically the Big Muddy NWR
- Desire for increased threatened and endangered species habitat

2.7 Lexington, Missouri

2.7.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Lexington, Missouri meeting included Jud Kneuvean, Nickie Perry, and Dave Monnig of the Corps, Kansas City District, and Scott Gard, Tim Fobes, and Jeff Turner of HDR.

2.7.2 Comments

There were 15 attendees at the Lexington, Missouri meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Not in favor of Mitigation Project based on impacts to agriculture.
- Payment in lieu of taxes should cover all taxes lost and payments should go directly to local entities.
- Payment in lieu of taxes needs to pay for local bond commitments.
- Local government should be able to acquire mitigation land from the government for local government needs.
- “Willing seller” is an intimidation process. It was alleged that the Corps has a list of desired land and they won’t fix levees if they want the land.
- Land acquisition takes several years and the Corps allows farmers to continue to farm until all land for a site is acquired. This was stated to be unfair to adjoining landowners and is “part of the intimidation process”.
- Corps needs to work with landowners and levee districts to maintain flood control structures.
- Need to control noxious weeds.
- If the federal government doesn’t make payment in lieu of taxes for two years the land should be sold.
- Wetland conservation and wildlife is not supported because it is administered in Washington. The federal government should establish wetland banks and transfer private wetland acreages to wetland banks. “Wetland banking would improve wetland quality and create a positive attitude of landowners.”
- “Mitigation Project is a monster”
- River bank protection “is absolutely paramount”. Must maintain channel and flow protection.
- Local government infrastructure needs river flow potential for wastewater treatment and water works.
- Opposed to Corps’ notching of banks. The Corps is reportedly cutting banks if it doesn’t affect navigation, but it is taking private land.
- Mitigation sites will increase the water table on neighboring lands and increase traffic. Need to consider impacts to tributaries and landowners.
- Mitigation sites should be developed on tributaries. They are just as important as along the river.
- Create habitat in upland areas.

- Willing sellers is a misnomer. The project squeezes a landowner to sell and the landowner only has one buyer.
- Corps needs to evaluate land acquisition policies.
- Concern that the emphasis of the Mitigation Project is switching from fish and wildlife to recreation, to the detriment of threatened and endangered species.
- Need to have levee districts and farmers represented on a coordination committee.
- Presiding Commissioner of Carroll County, Missouri stated his concern regarding the loss of tax revenue and the payment in lieu of taxes program. He also expressed concern regarding potential impacts to levees and who would pay for potential relocation of levees. (written comment)
- Concern expressed regarding spring flooding and the loss of agricultural land and corn production. (written comment)
- Concern expressed that more water control and bank stabilization is needed. Also added that he already has trouble with trespassing from hunters. (written comment).
- Mitigation site goal should be to also create good opportunities for passive recreation.
- When the Corps buys a small parcel from a landowner with the anticipation of buying adjacent lands, but those deals fall through, this can create problems for adjacent landowners. Small sites are also thought to be hard to manage and provide less habitat benefits.
- Should not have high maintenance mitigation sites.
- The purchase and development of 118,000 acres along the Missouri River is a significant change of land use and a major land use issue.
- Landowners adjacent to mitigation sites are concerned that they are losing control over the management of their property and have increased risk to their property.
- There are overlaps in determining what acreage is aquatic and what is terrestrial on a mitigation site. It depends on the amount of moisture, upstream management, and the spring rise associated with the Master Manual operation of the Missouri River.
- Corps may buy some small sites that the state may not want to manage.
- There can reportedly be problems if the Corps purchases land along a levee that does not have documented rights.
- When the Corps purchases land in a levee district where the cost of repairing the levee during floods is a 80/20 match, the Corps reportedly won't be required to provide the 20 percent cost share for the land they own in the levee district.
- Need detailed information on the Overton Bottoms and the Corps support and good working relationship with the levee district in that area and the benefits the levee district received from the Mitigation Project.
- The Mitigation Project can be a practical and effective way to meet the objectives of habitat restoration, increased recreation opportunities, and flood control. Concern that public schools will be significantly and adversely impacted due to the loss of property taxes from transfer of land from private to public ownership unless effective provisions are made to replace revenue. Consideration should be made to include the tributaries in the Mitigation Project. (written comment)

- The purchase of significant acreage and its removal from the real property tax role, in some rural counties, can have a significant negative impact on the county's annual budget. Corps should lobby Congress to allow a payment in lieu of taxes to counties, which is comparable to the pre-purchase real property tax assessment. (written comment)

2.7.3 Issues Identified

- Impacts to adjacent landowners and other infrastructure in and adjacent to the river
- In lieu tax payments need to go to local governments and cover all tax losses
- Corps' willing seller and other management policies are in conflict, resulting in owners being forced to sell
- Need better interim management of mitigation land as it is acquired
- Need to consider other alternatives, such as mitigation banks
- Use of tributaries for the Mitigation Project
- Desire for increased threatened and endangered species habitat

2.8 Plattsmouth, Nebraska

2.8.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Plattsmouth, Nebraska meeting included Mike Barnes, Luke Wallace, and Dwight Olson of the Corps, Omaha District, and Scott Gard and Jeff Turner of HDR.

2.8.2 Comments

There were 11 attendees at the Plattsmouth, Nebraska meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- Who owns accretion land along the Missouri River in Iowa? Iowa is giving away accreted land by not claiming it. Accreted land could be used for mitigation if the state would claim it and would have to buy less land.
- An EIS has been prepared for well fields located in Ashland, Nebraska and it designated the Missouri River flood plain as an area for mitigation for pallid sturgeon. Saunders County, Nebraska farmers are reportedly seeking compensation for impacts on crops associated with a lowered water table. The Municipal Utilities District (MUD) is reportedly maintaining that during the wet season there may be benefits to farmers from a lowered water table that will improve their crop production.
- Existing Corps mitigation projects have had adverse impacts on farm field drainage and on drainage district operations and associated additional costs.
- On the upper Hamburg mitigation site there have been some trees and grasses planted that are alleged to inhibit the river from meandering.

- If water could be stored on a mitigation site, operation and maintenance costs could be reduced on a nearby drainage district.
- The state of Iowa can claim ownership of accretion formed lands, which may provide opportunities for the Corps to obtain mitigation sites from public ownership.
- In Nebraska, the farmer can reportedly claim ownership of accretion lands if they own the bank line and the claim is based on what is determined to be the thread of the river.
- The states of Nebraska and Iowa have identified ideal sites for the Mitigation Project. One commenter stated that every loop in the river was an opportunity for mitigation site development.
- The Corps has allegedly over-engineered and designed the mitigation sites. Mitigation site planning needs to allow more natural development of the mitigation sites.
- Adaptive management is the key for achieving Mitigation Project objectives.
- Generally larger mitigation sites will provide better opportunities to maximize habitat as well as recreational benefits on the site.
- The location and development of 166,750 acres of mitigation sites along the Missouri River has been characterized as a “String of Pearls”. Because the original river habitat consisted of over 500,000 acres, individual sites may be difficult to manage. Trying to create individual sites may require a goal of focusing on the development of only high quality habitat.
- The use of tributaries as a source of mitigation sites may provide more opportunities to obtain land from willing sellers and to potentially develop larger parcels and provide better habitat development options for the limited land available.
- The development of larger mitigation sites may be better for agricultural interests due to the potential to store water that would alleviate flooding on croplands downstream and would result in fewer impacts to levee districts and adjacent landowners.

2.8.3 Issues Identified

- Potential impacts to adjacent landowners due to increases in groundwater elevation
- Make sure engineering, design, and adaptive management of mitigation sites are consistent with objectives
- Use of tributaries to obtain mitigation sites
- Use of larger sites for better habitat and recreation
- Potential effects to flood control
- Ownership and, where applicable, use of accretion lands

2.9 Washington, Missouri

2.9.1 Facilitators

Public scoping meeting facilitators at the Washington, Missouri meeting included, Glenn Covington, Nickie Perry, Jud Kneuvean, Dave Monnig, and Don Meier of the Corps, Kansas City District, and Scott Gard and Mike Snyder of HDR.

2.9.2 Comments

There were 23 attendees at the Washington, Missouri meeting. Comments obtained at this meeting are listed below:

- One landowner stated that the willing sellers policy is a “big lie”.
- Corps needs to spend more money on the operations and maintenance of the navigation and stabilization works than on mitigation sites.
- By acquiring land along the river for the Mitigation Project, the Corps is creating competition for land and driving up land prices.
- How is the Master Manual related to the Mitigation Project?
- Concern regarding the impacts to the counties from tax revenue that is lost from land that is acquired for the Mitigation Project.
- A landowner stated that the Mitigation Project is “part of the problem”. He claimed to have lost 35 acres of land when a dike was notched in the river adjacent to his property.
- Concern about how the land acquisition is reported. For example, if the land is acquired by the Corps and then turned over to the MDC, it will look as if more conservation lands have been acquired than actually have been if both agencies report the same land.
- Question as to whether or not the Corps would competitively bid for land that is for sale at public auction.
- Question as to whether or not a levee district could take borrow from the river side of a mitigation site.
- Would an adjacent landowner have to give access to a mitigation site that did not already have access?
- The Corps is creating willing sellers by buying out the land around them.
- The Mitigation Project has taken away productive farmland.
- The Mitigation Project impacts local communities. Loss of agriculture will decrease expenditures on agricultural products (such as fertilizer, etc.). Elevators would go broke.
- Mitigation land will allegedly not serve as a cushion for flooding downstream.
- Question regarding the effectiveness of how the Corps is managing mitigation sites.
- Concern regarding potential impacts of the Mitigation Project to local levees.
- Comment in opposition to the Mitigation Project. Stated that the buy up of land in the Missouri River bottom by government agencies causes a loss of revenue to

the counties and surrounding communities. Alleged that the benefits of channelization of the Missouri River outweigh the lost habitat. Suggested that no land should be purchased inside levee districts. Stated concern that construction and management of mitigation sites will adversely impact adjacent private landowners and force them to sell their land. (written comment)

2.9.3 Issues Identified

- Willing seller and land acquisition policies, including impacts to landowners due to property value increases and reporting of acquired land
- Potential impact to tax revenue and local economies, including agricultural dependent businesses
- Potential impact to flood control structures
- Potential impact to adjacent lands, esp. from dike notching and access requirements
- Are existing mitigation projects achieving objectives

2.10 Additional Written Comments

In addition to the comments obtained at the public scoping meetings, written comments on the scope of the SEIS received by December 20, 2001 were also included in this report. This section includes written comments that were not identified as being associated with a particular public scoping meeting.

2.10.1 Comments

Sixteen such comments were received and are summarized below:

- Comment in support of the Mitigation Project. (email)
- Comment that the existing mitigation sites in Missouri have been focused between River Mile (RM) 219 and 155 and have created high-quality habitat that has drawn birds away from the marginal habitat where this commenter frequents. He suggests focusing new mitigation sites in Missouri between Waverly, MO and the Iowa state line, specifically between RM 280 and 330. He also commented that the potential recreation benefits of the Missouri River have been an untapped resource and need to be considered in the future management of the river. (mail)
- A statement from the Missouri Coalition for the Environment was received indicating their strong support for the modified Mitigation Project. Stated that they feel the goals of the Mitigation Project would be best served by focusing expenditures on land acquisition and “non-structural” restoration efforts. Also, suggested locating mitigation sites near metropolitan areas where possible. (mail)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project and improving fish and wildlife habitat. (email)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project and encouraging it to move as expeditiously as possible. (email)

- Written comment on behalf of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club, representing 10,000 members, in support of the Mitigation Project and habitat restoration for fish and wildlife and threatened and endangered species along the Missouri River. (email)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project and its many benefits to restoring habitat, greater recreation opportunities, and greater flood protection. (email)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project and enhancement to fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River and the riverine ecosystem. (email)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project. (email)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project and to urge the Corps to provide non-consumptive forms of outdoor recreation at the mitigation sites, in addition to hunting and fishing. (email)
- Written comment in support of the Mitigation Project. (email)
- Comment from the MUD for the City of Omaha and surrounding communities which stated that MUD would like to see the following issues addressed or studied in the SEIS: 1) ice formation, 2) water quality, and 3) riverbank stability. (mail)
- Comment from the Endangered Species Coalition in favor of the concept of acquiring lands for the purpose of restoring fish and wildlife habitat. Also recommends that when funds for habitat acquisition and restoration are received:
 - The Corps should move levees back from the main channel or not rebuild levees in order to restore connection between the river and floodplain. This would restore shallow water habitat for the pallid sturgeon.
 - The Corps needs to be selective in land acquisitions, giving first priority to lands at the confluences with major tributaries and lands in minimal need of restoration. The Corps should also consider suitable habitat on major tributaries for mitigation sites.
 - The Corps should decommission wing dikes or replace them with chevron dikes, which would allow for sand and silt deposition and create nesting habitat for the interior least tern and piping plover. (mail)
- Comment from the St. Louis Audubon Society stating their strong support of the Mitigation Project. (mail)
- Comment from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) stating that the scope of the SEIS should be broader than just acquiring additional floodplain areas, but should include enhancing existing resources whether in public or private ownership. Stated that the SEIS should address how the Mitigation Project will be used to benefit the endangered and threatened species along the Missouri River. Stated the MDNR's belief that the Mitigation Project is a major mechanism available to the Corps to address the needs of these species. Also, stated that the Corps should develop a strategic plan to guide the Mitigation Project implementation and should coordinate with other programs such as WRP and the Big Muddy NWR. (mail)
- Written comment stating the following concerns:
 - Payment in lieu of taxes

- Congress should provide full funding every year for personal property and improvement taxes at the time of purchase, plus amounts for real property taxes on the purchased lands.
- If Congress does not make full payments three years out of five, then the land should be sold for back taxes.
- All local lawfully authorized tax increases should be paid on all government lands purchased for this project.
- The bonding capacity of an entity should not be reduced due to the exclusion of agency owned lands.
- When land is purchased for the Mitigation Project, payments should be made for the remaining current tax year and the prorated taxes paid by the seller so that local entities do not experience a revenue shortfall.
- Statutory powers
 - Mitigation lands should be subject to all local laws regulating lands, including zoning, condemnation and/or sale of lands for rights-of-way.
 - Mitigation lands should be considered as being held in trust and should be made available to local entities for worthwhile public works projects if necessary. Local public projects should have the right to condemn mitigation lands.
- Management of mitigation project lands
 - Mitigation Project lands should be managed according to local laws, including noxious weed control, floodplain development ordinances, and access regulations.
 - Mitigation lands should not be subtracted from the base acreage of levee and drainage districts for the computation of benefit cost ratios for 84-99 levee repair program funds or other public projects.
- Provisions in the Mitigation Project
 - The scope of the Mitigation Project should include provisions for complete maintenance and operation of the navigation channel and its channelization and bank stabilization structures
 - The scope of the Mitigation Project should include provisions for operating wetland banks on U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated “Prior Converted” lands purchased for the project.
 - The scope of the Mitigation Project should include a comprehensive economic study and benefit cost ratio for the areas where land is to be purchased.
- Buying from willing sellers
 - The Corps should not engage in unfair or scare tactics to force landowners to sell.
- Land use regulations
 - Concern regarding the change in land use within levee districts as a result of mitigation sites. Stated that acquisition of a mitigations

site should require an approval for the change in land use from the County Commission.

- The mitigation sites should not be operated in such a manner as to change the character of the existing land use on adjacent lands.
(mail)

2.10.2 Issues Identified

- Should focus on land acquisition and non-structural projects
- Should focus on threatened and endangered species
- Impact to existing recreation and conversely, potential recreational opportunities at mitigation sites
- Ice formation
- Water Quality
- Potential impact to flood control structures
- Potential impact to navigation
- Willing seller and land acquisition policies, including impacts to landowners due to property value increases and reporting of acquired land
- Potential impact to tax revenue and local economies, including agricultural dependent businesses
- Potential impact to adjacent lands
- Desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat

2.11 Coordination Team Meeting

A meeting of the Mitigation Project Coordination Team was held on January 17, 2002 in St. Joseph, Missouri to obtain agency comments regarding the scope of the SEIS and potential issues associated with the Mitigation Project. Representatives from MDC, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP), IDNR, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC), and the EPA, along with members of the Omaha and Kansas City Corps Districts were present. Issues identified by agency representatives were consistent with issues identified during the public scoping process.

CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY OF ISSUES

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a summary of the issues identified during the public scoping process. Some of these issues have the potential to be significant to the Mitigation Project and may require evaluation in the Draft SEIS for the Mitigation Project. Table 3-1 presents a summary and frequency of the issues identified during the public scoping process. It should be noted that the frequency that an issue was mentioned does not solely determine the importance of an issue. For example, the cumulative effects of multiple governmental land acquisition programs was only specifically mentioned four times, however, this issue was present in discussions of other related issues such as: increased tax share on remaining landowners, decline in sales tax revenue, increase in non-taxable land, and being forced to sell land. Therefore, the Corps has determined that certain important issues will be addressed in the SEIS regardless of the frequency they were mentioned during the scoping process.

3.1 Potential Impacts to Tax Revenue and Tax Base

Issue: How will the removal of land from agricultural use impact the tax revenue of a county? Concerns regarding how the Mitigation Project would impact tax revenue and the local tax base were common at the public scoping meetings. There were concerns that although the Mitigation Project includes a payment in lieu of taxes, these payments are reportedly not making their way to the local level (e.g. levee districts) to compensate for loss of tax revenue. This issue will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Removal of a large amount of land from agricultural use will result in a decline in sales tax revenue. Less spending for machinery, fertilizer, and other agricultural commodities would result in less sales tax revenue that could cause an impact to local economies. Several meeting attendees expressed concern about how the local economy would be impacted by such a loss in agriculture. These types of impacts to local economies have reportedly been experienced in northern Missouri after a large amount of agricultural land was enrolled in CRP. This issue will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Landowners were concerned that if neighboring landowners sell their land, they will be left with a higher tax burden to make up for lost tax revenue. As landowners sell their land to the Corps, fewer landowners would remain to bear the tax burden in that county. There is a concern that taxes would go up for the remaining landowners. This issue will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: If the Corps begins to buy land inside of levees, how will the distribution and payment of levee assessments be handled? Concern was expressed regarding the



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Table 3-1. Summary and Frequency of Public Scoping Comment Issues

MISSOURI RIVER FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROJECT

PUBLIC SCOPING ISSUES IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Scoping Meeting	Increase in non-taxable land	Decline in sales tax revenue	Increased tax share on remaining landowners	Payment in lieu of taxes	Cumulative effect of multiple agencies acquiring land	Corps' land appraisals not competitive	Capital gains tax relief	Evaluate acquisition policies	Develop acquisition plan	Provide access facilities to river	All terrain vehicle use of mitigation sites	Increased trespassing	Increased flooding or rises in water table	Loss of lands to levee assessments	Being forced to provide access to mitigation sites	Address impacts to soil land	How does the Corps handle levee and flood control structures	Mitigation site monitoring and relocation	Construction of sites affect on navigation	Desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat	Increased T&E species habitat	Water quality and ice formation	Mitigation sites on tributaries	Reduced project size	Other Issues
Sidney, IA	2	2	2	1	1	1													1			1	1		
Onawa, IA	1	1			2	1	2	3										2							
St. Joseph, MO	1		1		1		2	1	1					1			2	1	1						
Blair, NE				1	4					1			1	1			1	1				1	2		
Leavenworth, KS					2	1	2										1	4	1			1			
Columbia, MO	4	2	1	1			1				1		1	3			2	1							1
Lexington, MO	6		3	7			5	3		2	2	1		5	6	1	1	1	1	1				2	
Plattsmouth, NE							3	4			3	3			1		1								1
Washington, MO	5	2	1	1	1		2				3		1	2	3		1	2							
Additional Written Comments	1	1	1	1			8	3	1		1	1		1	3	1		1	12	3	1	1			
Total Comments	20	5	9	10	4	2	3	25	15	6	4	3	10	5	2	10	17	2	9	6	22	6	1	7	4

Note: Frequency alone may not indicate importance of an issue. See text for further explanation.

Corps' financial responsibility to a levee district if it becomes a landowner inside of the levee. This issue will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Potential cumulative impacts of decreased tax revenue due to multiple agencies and not-for-profit organizations acquiring land along the Missouri River.

The public scoping meetings also brought attention to the fact that the Corps is not the only agency acquiring land along the Missouri River. The NRCS has been buying environmental easements for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation has purchased land, the Nature Conservancy is expressing an interest in the Missouri River area, and the USFWS is acquiring land for the Big Muddy NWR. This issue will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

3.2 Land Acquisition

Issue: Corps' land appraisal is lower than that of other governmental entities.

Comments were received that the Corps is not paying as much for land acquisition as other governmental agencies. Because land is acquired from willing sellers only, landowners do not feel the Corps is offering a fair price for land. The policies that guide the Corps' Real Estate Division in its land appraisals will be included in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: A cut or exemption in capital gains taxes for lands sold to the Mitigation Project would most likely encourage willing sellers. Several informative comments were received regarding how capital gains taxes could be modified to encourage willing sellers. A bill is currently in Congress that would, if passed, cut the capital gains tax on lands sold for conservation purposes by 50 percent. Tax legislation is beyond the authority of the Corps and will not be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Corps should revise its land acquisition policies. The Corps has been operating under a willing seller policy for the Mitigation Project and will continue acquiring land on a willing seller basis. This will not be evaluated in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Corps should develop a land acquisition plan. The Corps will develop a plan for the acquisition of land under the modified Mitigation Project. However, development of a land acquisition plan will be done after completion of the Draft SEIS during the implementation of the Mitigation Project and will, therefore, not be included in the Draft SEIS.

3.3 Public Access to Mitigation Sites

Issue: Provide increased access to the river at mitigation sites. Public access to the mitigation sites was a point of concern for recreationists and landowners. One individual expressed a desire for more canoe access points while others expressed a desire for more boating access. The stated purpose of the Mitigation Project is to restore fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River to mitigate for the impacts of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project. Because the mandated purpose of the mitigation sites is for fish and wildlife, access does not fall within the scope of the Mitigation

Project authorization. Although recreational and access benefits from the mitigation sites will likely occur, these will depend largely on how the sites are developed and managed once they are turned over to the states. Therefore, this issue will only be addressed in a general way in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Hunters and recreationists using all terrain vehicles on mitigation sites, requires state to find it necessary to restrict access to these sites. This is an issue that depends on the objectives of the mitigation site. Therefore, this issue will only be addressed in a general way in the Draft SEIS.

3.4 Potential Impacts to Adjacent Lands

Issue: Increased trespassing on adjacent lands. Trespassing on adjacent lands is a potential impact that will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Increased flooding or rises in the water table on adjacent lands from creation of wetlands or water bodies. The potential for the construction of mitigation sites to result in increased flooding or rises in the water table on adjacent lands will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Increased taxes and levee assessments. The potential impacts to the taxes and levee assessments of adjacent landowners will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Can/Will the Corps seize private lands adjacent to mitigation sites to provided access to these sites. The Corps is not required to provide public access to mitigation sites. It is also the policy of the Corps to only acquire land from willing sellers. Therefore, the Corps would not take private lands adjacent to mitigation sites in order to provide public access to these sites. These facts will be presented in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: Adjacent private landowners being forced to sell their land. Concern was expressed that remaining landowners in the area of a mitigation site would be left with no choice except to sell their land as a result of the impacts (e.g. increased taxes or levee assessments, increased flooding) of the Mitigation Project. The potential impacts to adjacent private landowners will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

3.5 Potential Impacts to Levee Districts and Flood Control Structures

Issue: Potential for the mitigation sites to adversely impact levees. Concern about the potential for soil boils or breaches in the levee. Concern was also expressed about the impacts of notches on dikes. Comments were received regarding the potential for the construction of a mitigation site to impact levees and other flood control structures. Concern was expressed that the integrity of levees needs to be maintained. The potential impacts of the Mitigation Project to flood control structures will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: How will the Corps handle the relocation of levees? Concern about who would pay for levee setbacks. Whether or not a mitigation site requires a levee setback will be on a site-specific basis. However, the relocation of a levee would be considered part of the construction of a mitigation site and, therefore, would be funded by the Corps. This issue will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

3.6 Monitoring of Mitigation Sites

Issue: Need for more monitoring of the mitigation sites and funding for monitoring projects. Many agency personnel commented on the need for more monitoring of the mitigation sites. There was also concern about what funding would be available for monitoring projects. The opinion was common that monitoring will be essential for determining the effectiveness of mitigation sites and the success of the Mitigation Project. Monitoring of mitigation sites is a component of the Mitigation Project authorization and as such will be described in the Draft SEIS.

3.7 Potential Impacts to Navigation

Issue: How would construction of mitigation sites impact navigation on the Missouri River? Comments were received that barges are currently dragging bottom in the river at points adjacent to the existing mitigation sites. Potential impacts to navigation will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

3.8 Natural Resources

Issue: There is a desire for increased fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River. Many comments were received in support of the Mitigation Project and stating a desire to see an increase in fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River. The purpose of the Mitigation Project is to restore fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River. The potential effects of increased fish and wildlife habitat will be addressed in considering the Preferred Action and any other build alternatives evaluated.

Issue: Threatened and endangered species along the river need to be protected. Many comments were received regarding a need to protect threatened and endangered species along the Missouri River. Many comments noted the potential for the Mitigation Project to benefit threatened and endangered species. In compliance with NEPA, the potential impacts of the Mitigation Project to threatened and endangered species are required to be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

Issue: The potential effects of the Mitigation Project on water quality and ice formation. The MUD expressed concern about the Mitigation Project's potential impact on ice formation. Excessive ice formation may lead to ice damming, which has the potential to lower river levels. Because MUD is responsible for treating Missouri River water to make it potable, any potential change in water quality would be a concern. These issues will be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

3.9 Other Issues

Issue: Use of tributaries for the Mitigation Project. Several comments were received at the public scoping meetings regarding the potential use of land located on tributaries of the Missouri River for mitigation sites. There are not currently mitigation sites located on tributaries. Due to the large amount of acreage being acquired for the project, it may become necessary to acquire land along the tributaries to meet the 118,650-acre goal of the project. For purposes of the SEIS, the potential use of tributaries for mitigation sites will be addressed.

Issue: The size of the project is too large. Other comments were received stating that the cost and size of the Mitigation Project are too large. The 118,650 acres in the modified Mitigation Project is the acreage that was authorized by Congress. This acreage must be addressed in the Draft SEIS.

**Appendix A:
Public Scoping Meeting
Handouts**



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MISSOURI RIVER FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS)

PROJECT OVERVIEW SCOPING MEETING OPEN HOUSE

WELCOME TO THE OPEN HOUSE

The purpose of the open house is to provide the public with information on the proposed Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project. Native American tribes, agencies, organizations, and individuals are encouraged to participate in the SEIS process by providing comments on the scope and issues related to the proposed action for the Mitigation Project. Please feel free to take the information packets and look at the materials and maps displayed. Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and the consulting firm responsible for conducting the technical analysis for the SEIS are available at the display areas to answer your questions.

You may provide input to this scoping process by discussing your thoughts on the project with the scoping meeting facilitators, by writing down your thoughts on the comment sheets, or by using the tape recorder to record your opinions regarding the Mitigation Project.

MITIGATION PROJECT STUDY AREA

The Mitigation Project Study Area extends the length of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). The BSNP was authorized to provide bank stabilization and to provide for a 9-foot deep and not less than 300-foot wide navigation channel of approximately 738 miles located between Sioux City, Iowa to the mouth near St. Louis, Missouri.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE MITIGATION PROJECT

The purpose of the Mitigation Project is to restore a portion of the approximately 550,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat that have been and will be lost through the year 2003 due to the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project. The proposed action to be analyzed in the SEIS will include the acquisition of

mitigation sites from willing sellers, project design, and construction of mitigation sites on 118,650 acres to restore or enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat. The SEIS will evaluate the no action alternative and other reasonable alternatives that may be identified during the scoping process. Under the no action alternative, the additional 118,650 acres proposed for terrestrial and aquatic mitigation would not be purchased or developed. The original 1986 authorized Mitigation Project consisting of the development of 48,100 acres for mitigation will be completed as planned.

KEY ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Potential environmental issues identified for consideration in the SEIS include land acquisition impacts, tax revenue, maintenance of channel for navigation, impacts to levee districts, mitigation site maintenance, maintaining flood protection, effects on private lands from modification of existing bank stabilization structures, and law enforcement issues. Beneficial effects of the Mitigation Project include increased habitat for fish and wildlife, increased land available for outdoor recreation, and improved flood protection for the basin.

SEIS SCHEDULE

The Draft SEIS is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2002. The public will be given an opportunity to provide comments on the Draft SEIS during the review and public hearings period required for the SEIS. A Notice of Availability, press release, and public notices in selected newspapers will be issued to announce the availability of the Draft SEIS for public review. The Final SEIS and publication of the Record of Decision for the Mitigation Project is anticipated in the fall of 2002.

SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD

Comments on the scope of the SEIS should be received no later than December 20, 2001 and directed to: Mr. Kelly Ryan, CENWK-PM-CJ, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, 601 East 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, 64106-2896.



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MISSOURI RIVER FISH AND WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROJECT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (SEIS)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT AND THE SEIS

Q1. What is the purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement?

A1. To anticipate, prevent, and minimize environmental impacts to the extent possible by evaluating Federal projects while they are still in the proposal stage. An EIS provides information to the Federal decision-maker and the public so that informed choices can be made for proposed Federal actions. The EIS also serves as a public disclosure document, and it ensures that the policies and goals of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) are incorporated into Federal planning and decision-making. An EIS is required to provide a full and fair discussion of potentially significant environmental impacts and of reasonable alternatives that are available to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Q2. Why is this a *Supplemental* Environmental Impact Statement?

A2. The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 authorized the mitigation of 48,100 acres of fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River to be part of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project. An EIS for this Federal Action was prepared and completed in 1987. In the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, Congress modified the Mitigation Project by an additional 118,650 acres, increasing the total acreage of the Mitigation Project to 166,750. As a result of this modification, it became necessary to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of developing the additional 118,650 acres. This evaluation is being performed in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Q3. Will the public be involved in this SEIS process?

A3. The lead agency is required by law to involve the public in the SEIS process. The public has been formally notified of the beginning of the SEIS process through a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare a SEIS, which was published in the Federal Register, by a public scoping announcement mailing, by press releases to news and media, and by public notices in

selected newspapers. This NOI began the public scoping process, which continues with public scoping meetings being held in Sidney, IA; Onawa, IA; St. Joseph, MO; Blair, NE; Leavenworth, KS; Columbia, MO; Lexington, MO; Plattsmouth, NE; and Washington, MO. These locations were selected because they are located along the Lower Missouri River, which is the project area. Comments on the scope of the SEIS from individuals, organizations, and agencies are encouraged. These comments will help identify the significant issues to be evaluated in the SEIS. The public will also be given an opportunity to provide comments on the Draft SEIS when it becomes available. A Notice of Availability, press release, and public notices in selected newspapers will be issued to announce the availability of the Draft SEIS for public review.

Q4. Why is there a need to mitigate fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River?

A4. U.S. Congressional acts of 1912, 1925, 1927, and 1945 (Public Laws 62-241, 68-585, 70-560, and 79-14) mandated the Corps of Engineers to construct, operate, and maintain a navigation channel and bank stabilization works on the Missouri River, known as the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). The result of the BSNP was a navigation channel not less than 300-feet wide and 9-feet deep between Sioux City, IA and the mouth, near St. Louis, MO.

Before the BSNP, the Missouri River channel was uncontrolled and free to meander across the river valley with the associated erosion, deposition, and lowland flooding processes. The natural channel occupied roughly 300,000 acres and consisted of numerous islands, channels, chutes, sandbars, and slack water supporting vegetation in various stages of succession. The meander belt of the river was an area of over 600,000 acres adjacent to the natural channel that supported wetlands and various types of herbaceous and woody habitats.

It is estimated that the BSNP will have eliminated over 500,000 acres of aquatic and terrestrial habitat from the natural channel and meander belt by the year 2003. The purpose of the Mitigation Project is to restore a portion of this lost habitat.

Q5. How will land be acquired for the Mitigation Project?

A5. The land will only be purchased from willing sellers in the project area.

Q6. Will the public get an opportunity to comment on individual mitigation sites purchased for this project?

A6. In addition to the SEIS, site specific environmental assessments will be performed to determine the effects of development alternatives at each acquired site. All activities will require full compliance with environmental laws and regulations. Coordination with various Federal, State, and local entities, as well as Native American tribes will occur prior to completion of site specific environmental review. Public involvement will be accomplished by news releases, public notices, public meetings, or by other means, as necessary.

Q7. What is the “no action” alternative for the Mitigation Project?

A7. The additional 118,650 acres proposed for purchase and development for terrestrial and aquatic mitigation along the 738 miles of the Lower Missouri River would not be purchased or developed.

Q8. Who will be able to use the mitigated land once it is developed? Will hunting and fishing be allowed?

A8. Public access for fishing, hunting, and other recreational activities will be permitted on all mitigation sites after acquisition, subject to site specific management objectives.



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Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO
64106-2896



Public Scoping Announcement

**Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project
Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

PUBLIC

Scoping Meetings



A series of nine meetings (open house format) will be held in November and December 2001 to provide information about the Mitigation Project, the SEIS process, and to provide an opportunity for individuals, organizations and agencies to offer comments on the scope of the SEIS. All meetings will be informal and members of the project team will be available between 5:00 pm and 8:30 pm at each meeting.

NOVEMBER 13, 2001 : SIDNEY, IOWA - Sidney Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1004 Illinois Street;

NOVEMBER 14, 2001 : ONAWA, IOWA - West Monona Community High School, Commons Area, 1314 15 Street;

NOVEMBER 15, 2001 : ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI - St. Joseph Civic Center, Meeting Room, 100 N. 4 Street;

NOVEMBER 19, 2001 : BLAIR, NEBRASKA - Arbor Park Elementary School, Cafeteria, 1717 Adams Street;

NOVEMBER 26, 2001 : LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS - Riverfront Community and Convention Center, Riverview Room, 123 S. Esplanade;

NOVEMBER 27, 2001 : COLUMBIA, MISSOURI - Columbia College, Delaney Hall Banquet Room, 600 N. 8th Street;

NOVEMBER 28, 2001 : LEXINGTON, MISSOURI - Lexington High School, Cafeteria, 2309 Aull Lane;

NOVEMBER 29, 2001 : PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA - Plattsmouth High School, Commons Area, 1916 E. Hwy 34;

DECEMBER 5, 2001 : WASHINGTON, MISSOURI - Washington West Elementary School, 1570 W. 5th Street

The Mitigation Project

- ▶ Original Authorization of 48,100 acres in 1986
 - ▶ EIS Completed 1987
 - ▶ Land Acquisition, Design and Construction Began in 1991
 - ▶ 1999 Congress Modified Mitigation Project by an Additional 118,650 Acres
 - ▶ Approximately 25,000 Acres have been Purchased and Implementation is Underway or Complete
 - ▶ Approximately 5,000 Acres Developed on Existing Public Land
 - ▶ Supplemental EIS Initiated in Fall 2001
 - ▶ Corps of Engineers is Lead Agency; Other Federal and State Agencies will be Participating



Numerous other environmental projects are being undertaken by the Corps and/or other federal and state agencies. A separate project, the Missouri River Master Water Control Manual Review and Update Revised DEIS, has been recently released for public comment. The Mitigation Project is not associated with the Master Manual Revised DEIS.

Providing

COMMENTS

Members of the public including individuals, organizations and agencies are encouraged to participate in the SEIS process by attending a public scoping meeting and providing comments on the scope of the SEIS. The Corps will consider all comments in it's preparation of the SEIS. Please send your written comments on the scope of the SEIS **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001 TO:**

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

Project

NEEDS

- ▶ Restoration of aquatic habitat lost by past channelization efforts
- ▶ Restoration of bottomland forest and other lost terrestrial habitat
- ▶ Improvement of conditions along river for threatened and endangered species

Proposed

ACTION

- ▶ Restore or construct aquatic and terrestrial habitat
- ▶ Sioux City, Iowa to the mouth at St. Louis, Missouri (735 miles)
- ▶ Acquisition and development of an additional 118,650 acres
- ▶ Acquire from willing sellers
- ▶ Environmental monitoring
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Cooperation with fish and wildlife agencies
- ▶ Opportunities for threatened and endangered species

ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE

	2001	2002	2003
Scoping	█		
Draft SEIS	█	█	
Public Comment		█	
Final SEIS		█	
Land Acquisition			█
Implementation			█



Side Channel

USGS

Backwater Slough MDC

Types of Terrestrial and Aquatic Habitat Mitigation



Wetland



Bottomland Forest MDC



Native Prairie

MDC

Photos by USACE unless otherwise noted
MDC Photos Copyright 2001 by the Conservation Commission
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tential

ISSUES

- Land acquisition impacts
- Threatened and endangered species habitat
- Mitigation site maintenance
- Integrity of flood control structures

Background photo Benedictine Bottoms Mitigation Site, Constructed 1996

**Appendix B:
Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-In Sheets**



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Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Patrick Dant _____ _____	Address: <u>8205 3rd Street</u> <u>Rock Port Mo 64482</u> Phone Number: <u>660-744-2367</u>	Add to Mailing List (✓) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Kristie McKinley NRCS _____ _____	Address: <u>P.O. Box 490</u> <u>Sidney IA 51652</u> Phone Number: <u>712-374-2014</u>	Add to Mailing List (✓) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	David Carter Fremont Co. SWCD david.carter@iowadnr.gov _____ _____	Address: <u>Same</u> Phone Number: _____	Add to Mailing List (✓) <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Doug Doty ISUD Extension doty + iastate@eddy _____ _____	Address: <u>660 Clay St</u> <u>Sidney IA 51652</u> Phone Number: <u>712-374-2351</u>	Add to Mailing List (✓) <input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Jim M'Alexander FSA Fremont Co jmc@iowadnr.gov _____ _____	Address: <u>2762 215th St</u> <u>Sidney Ia 51652</u> Phone Number: <u>712 374 2259</u>	Add to Mailing List (✓) <input type="checkbox"/>

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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Richard J Payne S&S Farms	1908 Bluff St HAWKERS, Jc 51640 Phone Number: 712-382-2324	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bill Sheldon Sheldon Farms	2079 185th Ave. Percival, Iowa 51648 Phone Number: 712-529-4283	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don S Payne Box 185 Nормонг IA 51640	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Name:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Ed WEINER IOWA DNR	Po Box 118	712- 423 423-2426	
Chester D. Creswell	22363-3057th st Blencoe IA 57833-4017	712-452-2110	
STAN Johnson	P.O. Box 81 SALIX IA 51052	712 946-7109	* copy of map
Tom Cottle	10005-1027th St Sioux Falls 57055	712-428-3221	* copy of map
Ed Sibley American Rivers/Sierra Club caboase42@qol.com	3408 Pine Crest Ct. Sioux City IA 51106	712-276-0342	* copy of Maps



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Name: Affiliation: Email:	<i>James Alexander</i>	Address: Phone Number:	22417 260TH ST. Owawa, IA 51040 712-423-1650	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Name: Affiliation: Email:		Address: Phone Number:		
Name: Affiliation: Email:		Address: Phone Number:		
Name: Affiliation: Email:		Address: Phone Number:		
Name: Affiliation: Email:		Address: Phone Number:		



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
John Fleming	MDC	flemij@mil.conservatio.mn.us	701 NE College Dr. St. Joseph, Mo. 64507	816/271-3100	✓
Ken Cook	MDC	cookk@ " "	" "	" "	
Ed Williams	Citizen	ewilliamsccw@netnet.com	P.O. Box 313 Oregon, Mo.	660-446-3723	
Kyle Hedges	MDC	hedgek@mil.conservatio.mn.us	302 E. Hwy 136 Rock Port MO 64882	660-744-6201	
Randy Asbury	Coalition to Protect the Mo River	moriver@sackett.net	RT1 Box 47 Highbee Mo 65257	660 273 9903	✓



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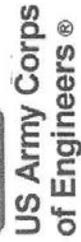
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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Name: <u>Stuart G. Baum</u> Affiliation: <u>Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks</u> Email: _____	Address: <u>900 SW Jackson</u> <u>Topeka, KS 66617 66617</u> Phone Number: <u>785-296-2281</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: <u>Marc Morehead</u> Affiliation: _____ Email: <u>marc-morehead@yahoo.com</u>	Address: <u>1616 Harlan Street</u> <u>Falls City, NE 68355</u> Phone Number: <u>402-245-2484</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: <u>M. Ted Miller</u> Affiliation: <u>MO Dept. of Conservation</u> Email: _____	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: <u>Dan Bowen</u> Affiliation: <u>Benedictine College</u> Email: <u>dbowen@Benedictine.edu</u>	Address: <u>Hitchison 656603</u> Phone Number: <u>9133675340x2436</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Jim Becic	PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER N.R.D.	jbecic@papiomrd.org	8901 S. 154 th ST. OMAHA NE 68138	(402) 444-6332	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cliff Williams	NE Game & Parks		Mike Stefferson	NR	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kody Kraemer	NE GAP		2200 N33 rd		<input type="checkbox"/>
REN Hatten	NE Game & Parks		Lincoln NE 68503		<input type="checkbox"/>
David M. Inoué	NE Game & Parks				<input type="checkbox"/>



PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

 8901 S. 154th Street

 Omaha, NE 68138-3621

 Phone 402-444-6222

 Fax 402-895-6543

 www.papiomrd.org

Jim Becic

 Environmental Coordinator

 E-mail: jbecic@papiomrd.org



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Brooke Stansberry	Nebraska Game & Parks		Lincoln, NE Headquarters		
Tasar Skold	NG & PC		2200 N. 33rd Lincoln, NE 68509	(602) 471-5418	
Steve Freezing	NG & PC		Same		
Jeff Shafer	Nebraska Dept. of Natural Resources jshafer@dnr.state.ne.us		PO Box 94676 Lincoln, NE 68509	402 471 0586	✓
GENE ZUERLEIN	NEBR GAME & PARKS zuerlein@ne.state.ne.us		2200 N. 33rd LINCOLN NE 68503	402 / 471-5555	

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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
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TERRI SHEHON	HAZARD #671	TERRI.SHEHON@MutualofAmerica.com	P.O. Box 156 Herman NE	402-456-7423	
Steve P Smith			7518 Co Rd P 26 Fort Calhoun Mo	426 5473	
Quid Pro			18761 GR P31 Blair Ne 68008	402-456-7591	
Tom Mearns			31938 1304th St Mo. Valley, IA 57555		

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Name: Corey J McIntosh	Address: 2929 Monroe Ave	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Affiliation:	Missouri Valley, IA 51555	
Email: coreymcintosh@hotmail.com	Phone Number:	
Name: Caren Jensen	Address: 2992 Co. Rd. P 51	✓
Affiliation:	Omaha, NE 68023	
Email: genesisdecglass@genesis.net	Phone Number: 453-9853	
Name: Bobb Janice Summy	Address: 14897 Marigold Ln	
Affiliation:	Crescent Ia 51526	
Email:	Phone Number: 545-3058	
Name: Keith Rydberg	Address: 235 N 10th St #104	✓
Affiliation: Enterprise Publications	Bluff, NE 68008	
Email:	Phone Number: 402-426-5757	
Name:	Address:	
Affiliation:	Phone Number:	
Email:		



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
R. Kathleen Coleman Richard Coleman	SICRAN Club TIME KE@AOL.COM		438 W 67 th KC MO 64113	816-444-0721	
Betty L. Johnson SICRAN Club			7171 Mulchard Way CV KC MO 64152	(816) 741-8752	
DAN WALLEN SOLE	NPDOW@HOTMAIL.COM		6221 ARMSTRONG KANSAS CITY, KS	(913) 788-5553	
Nelson Cum Becks Unlimited Help ALurray@jcs.wa.org			1506 Arrowhead Dr Achevon KS 66002	913-367-0068	
Vicki Richmond Blue River Watershed Assn VICKI@OE.santitaserver.org			5815 Central KC MO 64113	816-333-5048	✓



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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Larry O'Donnell Friends of Lakeview Nature Center lurd@lvc50.org	6103 N. 44th KT no 64133 816-356-4040	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ron Little KAW Wildlife & Park ron.little@state.ks.us	3300 SW 29th Topeka KS 66614	
Kirk Thompson KS Wildlife & Parks kirk@wp.state.ks.us	P.O. Box 113 Lancaster, KS 66041 (913) 367-7811	
Bill Griffiths Sierra Club bgriff@leavenworth.com	1940 Pottawatomie Leavenworth, KS 913-772-8960	
Bill Nichols w.nichols@bsspr/hw.com	7217 N.W. Tomahawk Platte Woods, MO 64151 816-587-6044	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Eileen McNanus Sierra Club eileenm@planetkc.com	4200 Walnut K.C. MO 64114 816-523-7823	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bob & Davis Sherrick Sierra Club bjsherrick@aol.com	10807 E 205 th St Peculiar, MO 64108 816-779-6708	<input type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Blakley Sierra Club	6731 N. Oregon KC Mo 64117 816-741-8200	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name:	Address:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliation:	Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email:		
Name:	Address:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliation:	Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email:		
Name:	Address:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliation:	Phone Number:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email:		



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Name:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Name: <u>JESSE LYBARGER</u> Affiliation: <u>SUN-DE TRANSPORTATION</u> Email: <u>LYBARGER@CYALLEY.NET</u>	Address: <u>P O B O X 175</u> <u>DEWITT, MO.</u>	Phone Number: <u>660-549-3347</u>	
Name: <u>Randy Asbury</u> Affiliation: <u>Coalition to Protect the Fox River</u> Email: <u>morner@suckat.net</u>	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____		
Name: <u>JIM LOVELESS</u> Affiliation: <u>MO DEPT CONSERVATION</u> Email: <u>lovely@maui.conservations.state.mo.us</u>	Address: <u>6700 W. RT K</u> <u>COLUMBIA MO 65203</u>	Phone Number: <u>573-445-3882</u>	
Name: <u>MIKE WELLS</u> Affiliation: <u>MO Dept. of Nat. Resources</u> Email: <u>mrwells@mail.dnr.state.mo.us</u>	Address: <u>P.O. Box 176</u> <u>Jefferson City, Mo 65102</u>	Phone Number: <u>(573) 751-2867</u>	
Name: <u>CHARLES PHILLIPS</u> Affiliation: <u>ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION</u> Email: <u>cphillips@stopextinction.org</u>	Address: <u>1027 E. WAYNUT ST</u> <u>COLUMBIA, MO 65201</u>	Phone Number: <u>573-442-0726</u>	



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
<i>Wale Johnson</i>	<i>Farmers</i>		<i>2683 Hi 5-240</i>	<i>Raytown Mo. 65234</i>	
				<i>660 338 2437</i>	
<i>FOR BINDER</i>	<i>STATS MO</i>		<i>1701 E. GARD</i>	<i>COLUMBIA MO</i>	
				<i>443-1593</i>	
<i>JOE GIBBS</i>	<i>MLDDA UMIMRA</i>		<i>115 CLUB MEADOWS DR</i>	<i>COLUMBIA, MO 65203</i>	
		<i>JIB66267@AOL.COM</i>		<i>573 815 0347</i>	
<i>Pam Haverland</i>	<i>USGS</i>		<i>4200 New Haver Pd</i>	<i>Columbia, MO 65201</i>	
		<i>pamela-haverland@usgs.gov</i>		<i>573-876-1841</i>	
<i>August Stamenca</i>	<i>KBI A Parlo, 4th Flr Jesse Hall</i>				
		<i>Columbia, MO 65201</i>			



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Joe Engen	Missouri Dept. Natural Resources	arengej@mail.dnr.state.mo.us	PO Box 176 Jefferson City 65102-0176	(573) 751-9813	
Bill Bryan	Missouri Attorney General's Office	bill.bryan@mail.ag.state.mo.us	P.O. Box 899 JC MO 65102	573 751 3321	
Dan Cassidy	Missouri Farm Bureau	dcassidy@mail.mofb.com	P.O. Box 658 Jefferson City, MO 65102	(573) 893-1408	
Rep. Matt Bertinich	State Rep. 18th		22612 Long Path Rd. Sedalia, Mo. 65301	573-751-9774	
JEANNE HEUSER	USGS	JEANNE-HEUSER@USGS.GOV	4200 NEW HAVEN RD COLUMBIA MO 65201	573-876-1876	



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
GARY CHRISTOFF	MDC		POB 180 JC MO 65102	573-751-4115	
PAUL DAVIS	INTERSTATE MARINE TERMINALS	intemid-mo.net	P.O. 43 Boonville MO 65233	660-882-8369	
Sharon Clifford	MDNR	srclifs@dnr.state.mo.us	PO Box 176 JC MO 65101		
Troy Gordon & Janni Prinson	Franks of Bro Monday	gordonm@missouri	PO Box 58 Columbia MO 65205	573-445-0076	
Debrah & Chris Hombs	Overton/Woodridge Leuy		1512 Eleventh St Boonville, MO 65233	660-882-5224	



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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Paul Whitself MU Natural Resource Student pwhitself@mizzou.edu	Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAVID BEARD AUBURN MISSOURI dbeard@earthlink.net	Address: 2001 CHAPEL WOOD RD. ROLANDIA, MO 65203 ✓	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ALEX STEMME MISSOURI SOBIBAN ASSOCIATION astemme@mssoy.org	Address: P.O. Box 104778 JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65110	<input type="checkbox"/>
Phone Number: 573.635.3819	Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____	Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliation: _____	Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email: _____	Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____	Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Affiliation: _____	Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email: _____	Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Name:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Name: Steve Gates Affiliation: River Bottom Farmer Email:	Address: 3024 Hwy 221 Napoleon, MO 64074 Phone Number: 816-240-8322	Address: 3024 Hwy 224 Napoleon, MO 64074 Phone Number: 816-240-8322	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name: JANICE GATES Affiliation: Farm Affiliate Email:	Address: 11950 Littlehans Lexington Phone Number: 660-257-6906	Address: 12622 Country View Dr. Wellington, Mo. 64092 Phone Number: (816)-934-2512	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: Calvin H. Hays Affiliation: FFA Farm Worker Email:	Address: 8 South Main Suite 6 Carrollton MO 64633 Phone Number: 660-542-0615		
Name: Alfred R. Johnson Affiliation: Farmer bound by Swiss Pass. Ch. Email:			
Name: Nelson Heil Affiliation: Carroll County Email: CCarroll@Carrollnet.com			



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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Tom & Linda Hawley	7000 S Hard saw Rd Oak Grove Mo 64075 Phone Number: 816-224-3898	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bob McCoy Bartlett Grain Co bmacoy@bartlett-grain.com	Box 247 Waverly Mo 64096 Phone Number: 660 493 2294	
Kent Rogge farmer - Sandover	P.O. Box 396 Wellington Mo. 64097 Phone Number: 816-540-8156	
JOE GIBBS MLODA - UMMARA - SELF JBG6267@AOL.COM	1115 Club Meadows Dr COLUMBIA, MO 65203 Phone Number: 573-915-0347	
ROY RITCHHART RT1 50X65 FARAFA CARROLLTON	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	



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Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Name: <u>STAN KRUSE</u> Affiliation: _____ Email: <u>Stankruse2001@greenhillg.net</u>	Address: <u>RR #2, Box 131</u> <u>NORBORNE, MO 64668</u> Phone Number: <u>660-593-3381</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name: <u>ROY LINNEMAN</u> Affiliation: <u>FARMER + LEVY BD</u> Email: _____	Address: <u>RT 5 Box 207</u> <u>CARROLLTON MO</u> Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: <u>ROY GIBSON</u> Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Address: <u>405 GRIDER AVE</u> <u>NORBORNE, MO 64668</u> Phone Number: <u>660 594-3422</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name: _____ Affiliation: _____ Email: _____	Address: _____ Phone Number: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>



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				Add to Mailing List (✓)
Name: <u>ELMER KRUSE</u>	Address: <u>301 W 3rd</u>	Phone Number: <u>660-594-3854</u>		
Affiliation: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Email: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Name: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Affiliation: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Email: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Name: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Affiliation: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Email: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Name: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Affiliation: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		
Email: _____	Address: _____	Phone Number: _____		



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Fred Kula	Neb. Public Radio		33rd + Kellogg Lincoln NE	4723611 ext 470	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Bryman	NE Game & Parks	m.bryman@ngpc.state.ne.us	2200 N 33rd Lincoln NE	68502 402-471-5599	
Frank Albrecht	NGPS	albrecht@ngpc.state.ne.us	2200 N 33rd Lincoln NE	68502 402-471-5422	
S. Scott Luedtke	Nebraska Game & Parks Comm.	sluedtke@ngpc.state.ne.us	2200 N 33rd Lincoln NE	68502 402-471-5561	
Quirt/Mary Sederburg	Landowner	em.seder@aol.com	6528 Darlington Ct. Lincoln, NE	68510 402-488-1125 - May-Dec.	

520-648-6437 - Jan - April



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Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
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Ray L. Smith	Farmer	rayroy@a1tel.net	12200 24 th St Platteville NE 68048	402-298-8570	✓
Kay Strong	Farmer's Daughter	Strong-Kay@hotmail.com	4110 Virginia St #1d Omaha NE 68157	402-738-1774	
CEMG Rolfs	UNL	crofcs2@bigred.unl.edu	2926 CR Q PRAGUE NE 68050		
Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	
Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	

contacted
10/25/01
10/26/01
10/27/01
10/28/01
10/29/01
10/30/01
10/31/01



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Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name:	Address:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
M. Ali Almai KC, MO. Water Services Dept Ali-Almai@kcmo.org.	324 East 11th Street 9th Floor Kansas City, MO 64126 Phone Number: 816-513-2208	
Ed Heisel Farmer heisel@mali.usmo.com	1776 Hwy 7 Labadie, Mo. 63055 Phone Number: 636-451-4382	
ED HEISEL MO COALITION FOR THE ENV. eheisel@moenviron.org	6267 Delmar Blvd St. Louis, MO 63130 Phone Number: 314-727-0600	✓
REP. JIM FROBLER St. Rep.	7437 Hwy. H Gerald, MO. 63037 Phone Number: 573-264-2658	
Paul Reitz Reitz & Jews preitz@reitzjewis.com	1055 Corporate Square St. Louis, MO 63132 Phone Number: 314-993-4132	



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November 12-5, 2001

Kansas City District

SIGN IN SHEET

Public Scoping Meeting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
JERRY J. JASPER	CITY OF WASHINGTON	PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.	405 JEFFERSON ST WASHINGTON, MO 63090	636-390-1080	
Lynn Nebel	COE (MUS)		1222 Spivey St, St. Louis, MO	314-331-8820	
Danny McCendon	COE (MUS)		321 Bessybrook Ct. Winwood, MO 63011	314-331-8580	
Harold Gloe	Tri-County levee District		30198 Hwy 94 Herman, MO 65041	573-486-3534	✓
MIKE SMITH			701 E. 1st St WASHINGTON, MO	636-239-0178	



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November 12-5, 2001

Kansas City District

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Public Scoping Meeting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
Wayne Diermann	Landowner		P.O. BOX 65 DUTZOW MO 63342		
Kenneth Schwespe	Landowner & Levee Dist		731 Mill Rd Apartmentville Mo 63357	636 932-4459	
FRANCIS LIERMANN	LANDOWNER		81 PEERS BLVD RD MATHASVILLE MO 63357	636 932-4421	
Rick Rehmeier	Landowner		5234 Hwy T Augusta, MO 63322	636-228-4373	
Bryan K Niemeyer	Landowner		103 Scott Main St. Mathiasville, MO 63357	636-433-5500	



November 12-5, 2001

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Kansas City District

SIGN IN SHEET

Public Scoping Meeting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
DEAN REHMGIGR	LAND OWNER		183 Femme Osage Ridge Rd. Augusta, Mo. 63332	(636) 228-4829	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mark Beorkrem	Mississippi River Basin Alliance	mbeorkrem@hotmail.com	PO Box 370, 204 N. Wyandotte St. Morrisonville, IL 62546	217-526-4480	
GERALD ENGEMANN	HERMANN SANDY GRAVEL		R#3 Box 139 A Hermann Mo	573 486-3288	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wilmer Ertling	MLDDA		R#3 Box 23030 MASSES Cr. Rd. Hermann, Mo.	573-486-3590	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Garrett Reinhardt	Land owner		RT 3 Box 145. B Hermann MO	573-486-2469	



US Army Corps of Engineers

November 12-13, 2001

Kansas City District

SIGN IN SHEET

Public Scoping Meeting for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	Add to Mailing List (✓)
John E. Guesheimer	State Representative		MO House of Rep State Capital 201 W. Capitol Ave Jefferson City MO 65101	573-781-3078	✓
Caroline Pufalt		cpufalt@swbell.net	13415 Land O Woods #3 St Louis MO 631416078	314 878 3165	
Diane Albright		dianealbright@hotmail.com	1438 Timberbrook Dr. Kirkwood MO 63122	314 966-3645	
Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	
Name:	Affiliation:	Email:	Address:	Phone Number:	

**Appendix C:
Public Scoping Meeting
Written Comments**



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Kansas City District

COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 14, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <u>Doug Doty</u>	Address: <u>660 City St</u>
Affiliation: <u>Iowa State University Extension</u>	Phone Number: <u>712-374-2351</u>
Email:	

My biggest concern now is reduced funding by federal and state budgets. The American people have voted for less government and lower taxes which the current administration is adhering to. That's great because it our democracy.

Many people didn't correlate voting for reduction of taxes as actually affecting their services. The effects of budget cuts are beginning to be felt by people whose services are being cut. Social services are being cut or closed down completely. The Department of Human Services in Iowa is drastically cutting jobs and programs. Local staff is being cut. Workforce Development office in Sidney that administers WIC and aids the unemployed and low income families is fighting to remain open. Three local pre-schools will be closing effective immediately due to loss of state funding. K-12 school budgets and teacher salaries are always struggling issues. The Department of Transportation is meeting their budget reductions by selling snow plows and road equipment. The Highway Patrol has reduced officers. Waubesaie State Park, a local park, closed some of its area due to loss of ground keeping funds by the DNR. The list goes on.

In this new budgetary environment we have to set priorities for spending. Food, water, and shelter are basic biological needs for human survival as well as mammals. Safety has become more important of late. I don't like to see government spending by buying land to reclaim wetlands or other purposes in the name of endangered species or recreation revenue when education and basic human services are suffering. In our current budgetary environment, the Corps should make their decisions weighted more heavily on commerce, food, water, shelter for humans than habitat and endangered species. This is my opinion of course. Doug Doty



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 28, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <u>Steve Gates</u>	Address: <u>2024 Hwy 294</u>
Affiliation: <u>Farmer</u>	Phone Number: <u>816-240-8392</u>
Email:	

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

We need better water control of the M River. Our banks need better stabilization. You do nothing to help rebuild banks destroyed by high water and allowed shipping during flood stage. We already have trouble with burbers that trespass and are continually willing to have people arrested.

What about the endangered species of the farmer?

Continue on other side



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: December 5, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name:	<u>Harold Glos</u>	Address:	<u>30198 Hwy 94</u>
Affiliation:	<u>Private landowner</u>	Supervisor - Tri. County levee Dist.:	<u>Hermann, MO 65041</u>
Email:		Phone Number:	<u>573-486-3534</u>

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.**

I am opposed to this project. I am against government agencies buying more and more of the land in the Missouri River basin. This causes a loss of revenues to the counties and surrounding communities. This policy of government owning the land is in direct conflict with the ideas of our founding fathers who advocated opening the land for farming and development and private ownership. With other countries are working to develop their river transportation systems, there are groups in this country trying to destroy ours. The benefits of the canalization for more fuel efficient and less polluting movement of bulk cargo more than offset the preserved lost habitat.

If it is too late to stop this project, I would like to see other side

Harold Glos
30198 Hwy 94
Hermann MO 65041

Place
Postage
Stamp Here

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896



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will be accomplished without violating the property rights of present owners of the river valley. I would suggest that no land be purchased inside of levee districts. This land could not be used to accomplish the stated purposes of this project without jeopardizing the other land in the district. It would be better to buy non-leveed land and levee on the lower portion of the tributaries that are subject to backwater flooding. These areas would provide benefits to a wider range of wildlife species.

The proposed action states that land will be acquired from willing sellers. This would be fine if not for the fact that other actions and policies developed by the DOE and Fish Wildlife can adversely affect current landowners and force them to become sellers.

Example: Klamath Falls Basin. That type of action is American and the equivalent of a terrorist act against these people.

Once again, I feel private ownership by a large and diverse group of people will better serve the continuation of our great and free nation.

^{Together} A copy of this will be sent to my senators and representative.



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 28, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <i>Nelson Heil Presiding</i>	Address: <i>8 South Main Suite 6</i>
Affiliation: <i>Carroll County</i>	Phone Number: <i>660-542-0615</i>
Email: <i>Ccarroll@carrollnet.com</i>	

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

My concern is payment in lieu of taxes - our experience with MDC has been that the payment has been 75% of that of surrounding landowners. This has an adverse effect on taxing entity budgets - County - School - Fire Dist etc.

My other concern is the destruction of levees on land that may be acquired. Will they be maintained or will they be relocated if so who would pay for the relocation. I am not in favor of USFW or MDC owning land along the MO or any other River.

Continue on other side

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Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
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601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896



As a private landowner, I believe that wildlife can be increased without asserting to govt. Entity ownership of land.

*Nelson Heil
Presiding Commission
Carroll County*

Tape here



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Kansas City District

COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 22, 2001

**Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project**

Name:	<i>Mark R. Haddock</i>
Affiliation:	<i>12602 Country Club Dr Lawrence, Kansas 66044</i>
Email:	<i>Wellington@msc.com</i>
Phone Number:	<i>916 834-7312</i>

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

Learning is my livelihood - Spring Cleaning funds my kids' education & expenses.

Every time I'm driving shopping center sat. Can we save the runoff when it rains (P.O. who?) The same will be here in 10 years NO! The Corps.

Control Channel provides for thousands of birds & game to be shipped on a ~~train~~ timely situation. A MUST!

Continue on other side

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Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896



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On the posters presented at this meeting named - "Benefits & Impact of Mo. River Bank Stabilization & Navigation project" stating 550,000 acres and loss of 15 million lbs of fish (prior to project) from loss habitat -

What about the loss due to loss of the same (waters) 550,000 acres of crop land loss? Corn production @ 120 bushel per acre = 550,000 acres x 120 = 66,000,000 Bushels of Corn @ 56 lbs/bushel = 3,696,000,000 lbs of Corn

15,000,000 lbs fish expenses compared to 3,696,000,000 lbs of Corn @ 11/lb = compared to 311,000,000

What a Comparison

Tape here



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 25, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <u>Bill Griffith</u>	Address: _____
Affiliation: <u>Sicco Club</u>	Phone Number: _____
Email: <u>bgri@kenver.kc.us</u>	

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

I encourage full mitigation of the project and asking cost estimates. Please contact of above fourth

Continue on other side



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November __, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <u>JIM LOVELESS</u>	Address: <u>6100 W. 121 K</u>
Affiliation: <u>Mo Dept of CONSERVATION</u>	Phone Number: <u>COLUMBIA MO 65205</u>
Email: <u>lovej@moil.conservn.kan.state.mo.us</u>	

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

In some rural counties, the purchase of equipment average and it's removal from the real property tax role can have a significant, negative impact on the county's annual budget. This project would be more acceptable if the COE would lobby the US Congress to allow a payment in lieu of taxes to counties, which is comparable to the pre-purchase real property tax assessment.

Continue on other side



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 20, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <u>Robert & Janice Sammy</u>	Address: <u>14897 Mergolds Ln Crescent Ia 51526</u>
Affiliation: <u>land owner along Missouri River</u>	Phone Number: <u>712 545-3058</u>

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

We are land owners along the Iowa side of the Missouri River Sec. 5-R-9-15-22 Crescent Twp and Sec 28-22 Rockford Twp. Pott Co. We have lived and farmed this land for 58 years and have raised four children here. We know this land better or as good as anyone in this country. This is some of the best land in the country for raising bumper crops year after year. We are not in agreement with your fish and wildlife mitigation project. We are NOT willing sellers of any of our farm land. We have a long term lease with our son to farm this land for as long as he is available then it goes to our grandsons to operate.
Robert Sammy

Continue on other side



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COMMENT FORM

Meeting Date: November 20, 2001

Public Scoping for the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement
Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Name: <u>Jim Welch</u>	Address: <u>6221 Adams Ave</u>
Affiliation: <u>SEICF</u>	KANSAS CITY, KS 66202
Email: <u>ADWEL@ATTNVA.COM</u>	Phone Number: <u>(913) 288-5633</u>

Please write your comments on the scope of the SEIS in box below. Your comments may also be sent to the address on the reverse side, and must be post marked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 20, 2001.

LOOKS TERRIFIC - LETS GET ON WITH IT!

Continue on other side



1723 HARNEY ST • OMAHA NE 68102-1960
www.mudomaha.com

December 10, 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan, CENWK-PM-CJ
U. S. Army Corp of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

Mr. Ryan:

With this letter, I wish to provide input for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) on behalf of the Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha, Nebraska.

The Metropolitan Utilities District (District) provides drinking water for the City of Omaha and surrounding communities including Bellevue, Elkhorn, Carter Lake (IA), Bennington, LaVista, Ralston, Waterloo, and Fort Calhoun. Our water comes from two sources: The Florence Water Treatment Plant, which treats surface water from the Missouri River in northeast Omaha and the Platte Water Treatment Plant, which treats groundwater taken from the alluvium along the Platte River southeast of Omaha.

First, I would like to thank the US Army Corps of Engineers for the opportunity to comment on this project and for considering our views.

In your preparation of the SEIS, the District would like to see the following issues addressed or studied: (1) ice formation, (2) water quality, (3) riverbank stability.

The SEIS should consider the mitigation project's impact on ice formation. The District's primary concern is excessive ice formation leading to ice damming. Ice damming has the potential of lowering river levels to a point where the District's intake pumps are unable to move water to the treatment plant.

The SEIS should discuss the mitigation project's impact on water quality. The District is required to treat Missouri River water in order to make it potable. Any potential change in river quality, should be examined in the SEIS. The District and other Public Water Suppliers should be informed if water quality is being affected.

Your customer-owned natural gas and water utility since 1913
As a former Government Employee

Kelly Ryan – Corps
Page 2
December 10, 2001

The SEIS should also assess riverbank stability if such work is being considered in the mitigation project. The District is most concerned with the integrity of the riverbank in the vicinity of the Florence Water Treatment Plant intake structures.

The Metropolitan Utilities District looks forward to continuing an open dialogue with the Corps as we all strive to enhance the river's benefits for all. If you should have any questions, please contact me at (402) 554-7774. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Joel G. Christensen
Manager, Water Operations
Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha
402-554-7774
joel_christensen@muduhtr.com

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
USACE
Kansas City District
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City MO 64106-2896

December 8, 2001

Dear Mr. Ryan:

I have in hand some information on the Mitigation Project. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the public scoping meeting in nearby Lexington MO as I had planned, due to the death of a friend's wife, so some of my comments may be on issues the Corps is well aware of.

So far, since the effort to restore some health to the Missouri River ecosystem has become an issue, most of the efforts within the state of Missouri, both Federal and State, have taken place roughly between River Mile (RM) 219 and 155, with the majority of that work taking place between approximately RM 190 and 155. Within that area there are some 34 river miles of nearly contiguous public ownership, with extensive developed and opportunistic wetlands and a great deal of riparian habitat for waterfowl and other migrant and native wildlife species.

This work, coupled with the MDC's Grand Pass CA from roughly RM 272 to 264, have had the pervasive effect of leaving the area of river I frequent, from about RM 290 to 355, far less attractive as regards hunting, birdwatching, or other wildlife-related activities than it was before the high-quality habitat downriver drew the birds away from the marginal habitat they had been using in our area. Granted, we do have MDC's Coolidge Lake CA, and Big Muddy NFWR Jackass Bend unit, both in the RM 335 to 342 range, and Big Muddy is in the process of obtaining land at, as I understand it, about RM 296 or so to about RM 300, but compared to the RM 155 to 190 area these bits of habitat are still tiny, fragmented, and about forty miles apart from bit to bit. These isolated fragments are not enough to begin to hold any significant numbers of migratory water birds. Plus, close as these areas are to Kansas City, the few thousand acres they offer could easily become totally overrun with hunters if they did begin to hold waterfowl in any significant numbers.

Therefore, in order to redress some of the previous imbalances in Federal and State mitigation efforts, I would encourage the Corps to focus heavily on an attempt to acquire land, and develop mitigation projects, in as much river bottom as is possible all the way from Waverly MO to the Iowa line. To leverage the wildlife benefits of work already done into the new mitigation areas I believe that the earliest focus should be from RM 280 through 330.

I understand that the Corps only acquires land from willing sellers, and that if nobody in that stretch of river wants to sell there is nothing that you can do about it, but somehow a

great deal of otherwise very valuable land came onto the market in the Rocheport -to Jefferson City area over not all that many years, no doubt partly in the immediate aftermath of the floods of '93 and '95. All that said, I firmly believe that if the Corps makes a serious effort to be a player in the market in the more upstream areas of the state, more can be done.

I have not addressed the needs of states upstream from Missouri, because I do not personally use the river up there, and therefore have no personal knowledge of those areas. However, it seems clear to me that the Missouri River valley could be a ribbon of prime waterfowl habitat stretching right down the center of the continent. All that is lacking is the habitat part. These days the river runs through a corn, soybean, and industrial desert. In many cases in the part of the river I frequent, the fields are plowed to within ten or fifteen feet of the water's edge. If, among those agricultural lands, were enough quality habitat to hold migratory birds, and provide breeding opportunity for native species, the Missouri River could become a regional, if not national, hunters' mecca, drawing participants in high-value outdoor sports to Missouri, and allowing river people like myself the economic opportunity to parlay our knowledge into a livelihood.

I have spoken in favor of flow changes as well, because everything done to increase the health of the Missouri River ecosystem increases the opportunities for river-related recreational industry, and because it's just the right thing to do. I understand that these two projects are not related, but just wish to make it clear that there are vast untapped economic resources buried in the current shortsighted management of this longest river. Every day in duck season, all over the state, would-be hunters are being turned away from the few public wetlands which remain. Every summer, in fishing season, nearly reservoirs such as Smithville are so covered up with people fishing and boating that it becomes a self-defeating proposition. Meanwhile, in Missouri alone, 553 miles of Missouri River and well over a thousand miles of shoreline are managed as though there were no money in recreation whatsoever.

I encourage the Corps of Engineers to address these issues, to whatever extent possible, with the mitigation project, and to remember throughout the project that all river valley residents need to be served through this project, rather than just a few tiny concentrations of recreation areas, hundreds of highway miles away from the millions of basin residents who must currently go begging.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey K. McFadden
37090 W. 130th Street
Richmond MO 64085



St. Louis Audubon Society

(314) 822-0410

Jim Holsen
419 E. Argonne Dr.
Kirkwood, MO 63122

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

Ref.: Comments on Scope of the EIS, The Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Dear Mr. Ryan:

The St. Louis Audubon Society strongly supports the Corps in its proposed to acquire and develop an additional 118,650 acres for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation project. We look forward to receiving a copy of the EIS.

Please address any correspondence to:

Ms. Susan Gustafson, Vice President - Conservation
St. Louis Audubon Society
429 Bellevue Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119

Sincerely,

Jim Holsen
Past President

MISSOURI COALITION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT



4387 Delmar Blvd., 1-E • St. Louis, MO 63108 • 314-777-0600 Fax: 314-777-1645 • mgenvision@missourienv.org • www.missourienv.org

December 18, 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

RE: Comments on the Scope of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Ryan:

The Missouri Coalition for the Environment strongly supports the expansion of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project by an additional 118,650 acres. We will also work to secure adequate funding for this important project that will restore some balance between commercial uses of the river and the native ecosystem.

It is important to ensure that the maximum benefit is gained for the funds expended for this project. We believe the goals of the project will be best served by focusing expenditures on land acquisition and "non-structural" restoration efforts. Appropriate removal of riprap, dikes, and levees will allow the river to restore itself without the need for significant engineering or construction. Where natural features of the river, such as side-channels and sandbars, have been regenerated by high-flow events, they should be left unaltered for maximum environmental benefit.

Finally, we recommend that you closely review the opportunity for restoration efforts near metropolitan areas where development pressure is extending into the floodplain. Focusing some of the mitigation dollars on these areas will reduce future flood losses in addition to providing habitat and recreational opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

Ben Covington
Executive Director

Edward J. Heisel
Senior Law & Policy Coordinator



Bob Holden, Governor • Stephen M. Mahfood, Director

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

DEC 20 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

Dear Mr. Kelly:

We are very pleased that Congress expanded the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project (Mitigation Project) and that the Corp of Engineers is engaged in the scoping process for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). This letter is intended to provide input into areas that should be addressed by the Mitigation Project and in the SEIS. The scope of the project should be broader than just acquiring additional floodplain areas. Enhancing existing resources whether in public or private ownership should be included. There is considerable public concern about the amount of lands going into public ownership. Any efforts made to provide incentives to improve habitat on private lands would help dispel some of these concerns.

As I am sure you are aware, there are several species "at risk" on and along the course of the Missouri River. Some of the species are federally listed as Endangered. The SEIS should address how the Mitigation Project will be used to benefit these species and the Project's relation to species recovery. We believe that the Mitigation Project is a major mechanism available to the Corps in addressing the needs of these species, and therefore should be utilized for this purpose.

A second area that should be addressed in the SEIS, is the process that will be used to select and/or prioritize projects. Especially in light of endangered species recovery and the formation of an endangered species recovery committee, the SEIS should address and outline probable approaches that could be used to identify, select, and implement Mitigation Projects. A strategic plan should be developed to guide project implementation. This plan should include coordination and collaboration with other programs and initiatives such as the Wetland Reserve Program and Big Muddy Wildlife Refuge in order to optimize the environmental benefits. On this issue, we believe that the Project process needs to be open and inclusive, not only of Department of Natural Resources, but also others (including members of the general public).

Mr. Kelly Ryan
Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the scope of the Supplemental EIS. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss this topic further, we would welcome the dialogue. Mr. Mike Wells is our Chief of Water Resources and he would be our contact on this issue. His phone number is 573-751-1134.

Sincerely,

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Stephen Mahfood
Director



December 20, 2001

Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

Re: Scoping Comments for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project

Dear Mr. Ryan,

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Endangered Species Coalition, a national organization representing over 440 groups dedicated to strong imperiled species and habitat protections.

Prior to the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP), the River channel occupied over 300,000 acres with an additional 660,000 acres of lands adjacent to the channel, known as the meander belt. The River's ecosystems evolved over millennia and were home to thousands of species of birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. Habitat losses between 1912 and today total over 522,000 acres and these losses can be seen as having a catastrophic effect on the native species populations. The November 2000 Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion (BiOp), stated the continued operation of the River's Mainstem Reservoir System, the BSNP, and Kansas River projects jeopardize the future existence of the endangered pallid sturgeon, the endangered interior least tern, and the threatened piping plover. According to the BiOp, the pallid sturgeon needs an additional 20,000 acres of shallow water habitat. From this opinion, the Corps needs to take aggressive action to prevent the extinction of the pallid sturgeon.

We are in favor of the concept of acquiring lands for the purpose of restoring fish and wildlife habitat to reverse the trend of species decline in the Lower Missouri River. According to the Corps' Report to Congress dated April 2000 (revised July 2001), to date the Corps has acquired a total of 25,400 acres of the 29,900 acres authorized under the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986. And of those 25,400 acres, only 9,600 acres have been developed for fish and wildlife habitat since appropriations were first provided in Fiscal Year 1992. The Corps must reverse this slow progress and show an active commitment to habitat restoration for this proposal to succeed.

Western Office
824 Gold SW
Albany, OR 97321
Ph: (503) 248-5118
Fax: (503) 248-5187

Northland Office
1121 University Ave
Waukegan, IL 60087
Ph: (808) 294-1338
Fax: (808) 294-6871

Headquarters
Northwest/Wildernesse Office
1101 14th St., NW, Suite 1001
Washington, DC 20005
Ph: (202) 682-2400
Ph: (202) 756-3804
Fax: (202) 756-3804
www.speciescoalition.org

Heartland Office
1027 East Walnut St.
Columbia, MO 65201
Ph: (573) 442-0726
Fax: (801) 327-4276

Southeastern Office
436 Chicago Ave.
Birmingham, AL 35203
Ph: (205) 733-9608
Fax: (205) 733-9673

When the Corps receives funds for habitat acquisition and restoration, we recommend the following:

- 1) The Corps move levees back from the main channel or should not rebuild levees in order to restore the connection between the river and the floodplain. This would restore shallow water habitat critical to the recovery of the Endangered pallid sturgeon.
- 2) The Corps needs to be selective in land acquisitions, looking first at confluences with major tributaries and lands in minimal need of restoration (areas with large blocks of bottomland forest). The Corps should also look at suitable habitat restoration areas on major tributaries of the Missouri and possibly acquire these lands.
- 3) The Corps should decommission wing dikes or replace them with chevron dikes, which would allow for sand and silt deposition, creating nesting habitat for the Endangered interior least tern and Threatened piping plover.

The issues raised in this letter and the proposed changes to the Missouri River Master Manual illustrate that the Corps must do a more comprehensive job of managing the River.

Thank you for allowing the public to comment on this project. Please consider these comments when making your final decision and keep us informed and updated on this project and other projects affecting the management of the Missouri River.

Sincerely,

Charles Phillips, Organizer
Central States Region
Endangered Species Coalition
1027 East Walnut Street
Columbia, MO 65201-4940
573-442-0726
email: cphillips@stopextinction.org

JOSEPH B. GIBBS, P.E.
Engineering Services
1115 Club Meadows Drive
Columbia, MO 65203-6064

December 17, 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PW-CJ
US Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 East 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

RE: Scoping for Mitigation Project

Dear Kelly,

I attended your open house format scoping meetings in Lexington and Jefferson City, Missouri for the mitigation project on the Missouri River. I wish to comment and bring to your attention several items that need to be addressed and provided for in the mitigation project. These items come from what I learned at your meetings and from what is happening along the river in Missouri since the original authorization for this project in 1986.

In this project, 118,650 acres of property is proposed to be purchased. The fact that land is being purchased indicates that private property interests will be a main concern for the owners of the remaining 750,000 acres or so left in private hands. It is to these concerns that I direct my comments.

PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES

1) Congress must provide full funding every year for personal property and improvement taxes at the time of purchase plus amounts for real property taxes on the purchased lands. From past years varying amounts are being appropriated annually by Congress which disrupts budgeting, bond payments and shortfalls in annual maintenance revenues.

2) If Congress does not make full payments for 3 years out of 5, then the land shall be sold for back taxes just like any other private property in the area.

3) All local lawfully authorized tax increases shall be paid on all government lands purchased for this project. Some of the entities authorizing these property taxes include rural fire, ambulance, library, levee, drainage, water and sewer districts, schools and county government. This includes varying tax payments for increases or decreases in local values for surrounding lands.

Office and Home 573-815-0347, Office and Home FAX 573-815-0546, Mobile 573-489-2627
E-mail: jbg62b7@aol.com WEB SITE: www.enginejoe.com

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Mr. Kelly Ryan
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4) The bonding capacity of an entity cannot be reduced due to the exclusion of agency owned land areas. The respective government agency shall underwrite all bonded indebtedness assigned to their lands and guarantee sufficient payments in lieu-of taxes to support increases in indebtedness approved by the voters.

5) When land is purchased, payments in lieu of taxes by the government for the remaining current tax year shall be made in addition to the prorated taxes paid by the seller so that local entities do not experience a revenue shortfall.

STATUTORY POWERS

1) Lands purchased for the mitigation work shall be subject to all local lawfully authorized laws regulating land. Some of these include zoning, condemnation and/or sale of lands for rights-of-way for drainage ditches, levees, roads, rural power, sewer, telephone and power lines and other easements associated with these uses.

2) Applicable portions of such lands shall also be considered as being held in trust to be made readily available for development by local entities into worthwhile public works projects. When authorized, local public projects may condemn lands of the mitigation project. Some public projects on mitigation lands shall include, potable and sewage water works including wells and river water out takes, treatment plants and outfalls, river ports and authorities, airports, railroads and recreation facilities.

MANAGEMENT OF MITIGATION PROJECT LANDS

1) Mitigation project lands shall be managed according to local laws. Some of these include noxious weed control, adherence to flood plain development ordinances, lawful access to government lands by local entities for official duties and maintenance and repairs and protection of public facilities, such as levees and ditches on government lands.

2) Mitigation lands shall not be subtracted from the base acreage of levee and drainage districts for the computation of benefit cost ratios for 84-99 levee repair program funds or other public projects. Mitigation lands shall be considered equal in value to surrounding lands for such purposes.

PROVISIONS IN THE MITIGATION PROJECT

1) The scope of the project shall include provisions for complete maintenance and operation of the navigation channel and

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its channelization and bank stabilization structures. This will maintain the flood protection characteristics of the channel with respect to its ability to provide storm/flood water conveyance at lower flood water levels. This will prevent the need for redesign of infrastructure designed for present water levels.

2) The scope of the project shall include provisions for operating wetland banks on USDA designated "Prior Converted" (PC) lands purchased for this project. Wetlands in residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural development areas shall be allowed to be conveyed into these wetlands/bank areas. This will allow developers and farmers to move bothersome wetland places off of their property and allow levee/drainage districts, when economically advantageous, to move bothersome wetland out of drainage ditches and facilities. This will allow widely dispersed small wetland areas, that what would otherwise deteriorate, to be moved to a few large wetland areas where they are easier to monitor and administer; and, provide some financing for converting the PC land to an upgraded wetlands. The operation of wetlands banks would create substantial popular support for this mitigation project.

3) The scope of the project shall include comprehensive economic studies and benefit cost ratios for the areas where land is to be purchased. Such studies shall include and list the overall impacts that such proposed works will have on local and statewide economies and employment. In addition, this provision shall be met before agency designated "choice" areas can continue to be maintained for such purposes.

BUYING FROM WILLING SELLERS

1) Government shall not engage in scare or unfair tactics to get people to sell their land. Presently some of these tactics include: a) stating or implying the threat of condemnation of lands; b) offering "sweet deals" that other potential private concerns cannot afford such as letting the seller operate or farm the property at no charge for years after the government has taken ownership of the land; c) closing county roads or other tactics that deny owners access to their land; d) excluding a landowner from flood protection or drainage facilities such as isolating them from organized districts; e) not repairing flood protection structures so that other lands in a levee district are flooded; f) destroying channelization structures so that the cutting action of streams and rivers destroy levees and private property; g) keeping from public review development of benefit cost ratios for flood damaged areas; and, h) giving a higher than normal weighted value for agency designated "choice" areas when developing benefit cost ratios.

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Mr. Kelly Ryan
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LAND USE REGULATIONS

1) The purchase of select and strategically located tracts of project lands in the various levee districts in the state will cause an irrefutable land use change in a respective levee district. Given the fact there are no set guidelines for management, policies and care of public facilities on agency lands; and, given the inconsistencies indicated by Corps of Engineers personnel at the scoping meetings with respect to how the program may be implemented from one administration to the next, some form of safeguard provisions for local control is needed to protect the remaining landowners and entities in the area from promises not kept by the government. Therefore, proposed purchases of project property shall have a contingency requiring approval of the land use change by the respective County Commission. Prior to a ruling by the County Commission, a public hearing dealing with the land use change shall be held so that the proposals of the various agencies and the concerns of affected entities can be heard. This will provide for a full hearing of the proposed activities of the government, control over what is to be expected and conditions for providing for concerns of affected entities such as schools, levee districts, etc. This process is identical to rezoning/change of land use issues that take place weekly with respect to property sales state wide.

2) The agencies shall not operate their lands in such a manner as to change the character of the existing land use on adjoining properties. Judgements and awards shall be granted liberally in favor of existing land use on all adjacent lands and liberally against agency policies that are detrimental to adjoining land uses.

These are some of the concerns that I have become aware of from landowners that I have worked with for over 30 years in Missouri. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph F. Gibbs, P.E.

JBC/ehg

cc: Tom Waters, Chairman
Missouri Levee and Drainage District Association
Randy Asbury, Executive Director
Coalition to Protect the Missouri River

December 17, 2001
Mr. Kelly Ryan
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Dave McMurray, President
Upper Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri River Association
Heather Hampton Knodle, Executive Secretary
Upper Mississippi, Illinois, Missouri River Association
Governor Rob Holden
Senator Kit Bond
Senator Jean Carnahan
Representative Kenny Hulshof

From: janemad@juno.com [<mailto:janemad@juno.com>]
Sent: Monday, December 17, 2001 8:03 AM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Missouri River

I am writing to show my support for the project that will improve the ecology and habitat for fish and wildlife on and around the Missouri River. Thank you.

Jane Madden
St. Louis, MO 63116

From: DJDelwinjohnson@aol.com [<mailto:DJDelwinjohnson@aol.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2001 5:51 PM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Comments, wildlife habitat improvement, Missouri River.

Mr. Kelly Ryan:

I have been reading in the papers that, according to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1986, as amended 1999, a total of about 48,000 acres of land along the Missouri River is supposed to be purchased for fish and wildlife habitat restoration by 2006, with later purchases to raise this total to about 166,000 acres. According to the reports, only about 27,800 acres have been purchased thus far.

I am writing to express very strong support for getting on with the purchase of the additional authorized acreage. We all know that past actions to improve navigation on the river have had bad effects on wetlands along the river, and that these actions have caused the loss of many more than 166,000 acres of wildlife habitat. For the health of our environment, and the welfare of our nation, we need, not only to hang on to natural areas we still have, but, whenever possible, restore as much as we can the natural areas that have been degraded in the past.

I hope the Corps will be able to get on with this worthy project with as much dispatch as possible. We owe it to future generations.

Delwin Johnson
837 Fairdale
St. Louis, MO 63119-1219
djdelwinjohnson@AOL.com

From: williamnichols1@netscape.net [<mailto:williamnichols1@netscape.net>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2001 1:29 PM
To: SGard@hdrinc.com; Rasmussen, Galen G; Ryan, Kelly
Cc: mblakley@telocity.com; senator_carnahan@carnahan.senate.gov;
timekc@aol.com; Covington, William G; Bob.Dennis@lees-summit.mo.us;
elizabeth@bridgingthegap.org; fgreenfire@hotmail.com;
gooseman@planetkc.com; wgresham@kctera.net; bgriff@LVNORTH.COM;
WHaman1057@aol.com; mharding@services.state.mo.us; smcmillen@kc.rr.com;
nrmahfs@mail.dnr.state.mo.us; mmansur@kestar.com; eileenm@planetkc.com;
ken.midkiff@home.com; GussieN@aol.com; rnichols@la.mppmail.com;
Bjsherrick@aol.com; cockcrow@planetkc.com; gmzemansky@juno.com;
scott.dye@prodigy.net
Subject: Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project SEIS

Dear Mr. Ryan, United States Army Corps of Engineers:

It was a pleasure meeting you at the November 26, 2001, Public Scoping Meeting for the Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project ("Project") Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement ("SEIS"). Following are my comments on the Project and the SEIS. I wanted to get my comments in to you before the December 20, 2001, deadline.

I believe the Project is a worthwhile and valuable effort.

Preservation and restoration of endangered or threatened species is a special concern of mine. As a young boy, I can remember contributing a child-sized handful of pocket change to help bring the American Bald Eagle back from extinction. You are fortunate to be working on such a worthwhile project and making a difference in the Missouri River.

After I reviewed the printed materials, videotape and displays, I concluded the Project benefits the restoration of Missouri River wildlife habitat not only for endangered or threatened species of fish and wildlife but also for non-threatened species.

Most important to me is that the Project is mitigating the straightjacket constraints of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization & Navigation Act. The Project has minimal impact on commercial navigation.

The Project appears to have no impact on water supplies to water departments, hydropower production or the flow to the Mississippi River. Only non-prime or unique land between the levees is eligible to be included in the Project, the very same land already most susceptible to flooding or standing water. Sharecropping on Project land is still an option. The Project improves air, water and land quality. The Project provides more acreage to store floodwaters. The Project provides opportunities to citizens to enjoy recreation near and on the Missouri River.

If executed to its full potential, the Project will purchase the land necessary to reclaim a meaningful portion of the original 900,000 acre channel and meander belt estimated to have been lost by the year 2003 due to implementation of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization & Navigation Project.

But the purchase of land for the Project is the "fly in the ointment." The Project is unduly restricted to purchasing tracts of land of more than 100 acres, limits are placed on the acquisition of agricultural land and purchases are only from a "willing seller." Additional minor constraints further fetter the potential success of the Project.

Because of these restrictions, only 25,000 acres have been purchased in the last 10 years. The 1986 authorization that allowed the purchase 48,100 acres will expire in 2006. No land has been purchased under the 1999 modification to the Project that authorized purchasing 118,650 acres additional acres.

Simply, the Project is acquiring land too slowly.

It is too slow to regain the more than 550,000 acres of fish and wildlife habitat lost due to the channelization of the Missouri River, too slow to recoup the 15 million pounds of fish lost due to reduction of habitat and too slow to offset the march of Missouri River valley land developers.

Most importantly, it is too slow to create enough habitat to have a significant impact upon the endangered and threatened species of fish and wildlife that are fending off extinction.

I've heard the Senators from Missouri and the Director of the Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources preach habitat restoration as the "brass ring" to lift the threat of extinction. They prefer habitat restoration to instituting flexible flows on the Missouri River.

Senator Bond told the United States Senate in July 2001, the Missouri Dept. of Conservation had acquired 72 properties totaling 45,000 acres. He raved about a 60,000 flood plain refuge (the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge) between Kansas City and St. Louis. He touted the authorization to purchase an additional 100,000 acres to restore habitat with "almost" 13,700 acres of land already acquired (the Project).

What the Senator from Missouri didn't tell the United States Senate is that as of November, 2000, only 8,149 acres of non-connected land have been purchased for the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge. That's a long way from 60,000 acres.

He also didn't tell the United States Senate that the Project, to date, had only acquired 25,000 acres. Of those 25,000 acres, "almost" 13,700 acres were purchased in Missouri, significantly below the authorized state allotment of 69,200 acres.

The United States Senate wasn't told that the State of Missouri budgeted \$0.00 in 2002 towards acquisition of land for mitigation along the Missouri River. Or that the Missouri Dept. of Conservation has no intention to purchase land along the Missouri River in the future except to fill gaps on existing conservation areas.

The Missouri Dept. of Conservation's scheme to reach the "brass ring" relies solely on the U.S. Government to purchase the land.

However, the State of Missouri knows the Project is hamstrung by the restrictions on the amount of land, size of the tract, type of use of the land and purchases only from a "willing seller." Furthermore, the State of Missouri knows the Project is reluctant to acquire land by condemnation.

Since the purchase of eligible Project land is slow, the State of Missouri can stand back and point at the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers as the culprit why a significant amount of habitat restoration hasn't occurred to stem the extinction of endangered species.

By playing this political game, the State of Missouri will have successfully confounded the popular "flexible flow" plan for the Missouri River. It will have defended the status quo benefiting only the navigation industry and farm lobby special interests. It will have found a scapegoat to point the blame for the demise of endangered or threatened species. The State of Missouri will have furthered its selfish goals at the expense of the upper Missouri River states advocating flexible flow.

Although I'm a Missourian, I don't support the intentions of my Senators or Missouri's Dept. of Natural Resources.

However, I am in favor of the current Project plan and SEIS with the following comments and criticisms.

To expediently purchase more Project land, the U.S. ACE needs to embark upon an aggressive marketing campaign for the Project. The Project shouldn't wait for landowners to approach the U.S. ACE. It shouldn't even be presumed the average landowner is aware the Project even exists.

The Project needs a quarterly public relations program of advertisements in local newspapers, farm publications, farm-related radio shows, etc. Real estate professionals in targeted land purchase areas need to be made aware of the Project. The Project should directly contact owners of the targeted properties, if only phone calls twice a year checking on the status of the property.

Landowners of targeted properties must first think of the Project when considering sale of their properties.

The U.S. ACE itself recognizes the "willing seller" criterion handcuffs the Project. A private sector method the U.S. ACE could use to expedite purchase of targeted properties is to enter into a "Right of First Refusal" agreement with the landowners.

In concept, a landowner would commit to offer his property for sale to the U.S. ACE prior to its sale to any other party. For his commitment, the landowner would be paid a nominal sum from the Project. The "Right of First Refusal" agreement would be recorded upon the Property's Deed at the county Recorder's Office.

With the agreement in place, the landowner would be required to contact the U.S. ACE. If he didn't, any title insurance company, real estate agent or lawyer would note the "Right of First Refusal" agreement attached to the Deed. This should halt the sale of the property until the U.S. ACE had been offered the opportunity to buy or refuse to buy the property.

In this manner, the U.S. ACE would have placed itself "in the loop" before the sale of the targeted property, estate sale or bank foreclosure.

The U.S. ACE and the landowner would then attempt to negotiate a fair sale price. The landowner would definitely benefit by having two or more competing purchasers. If unsuccessful in purchasing the property, the U.S. ACE should attempt to obtain a similar "Right of First Refusal" with the new buyer of the property.

I'd also recommend loosening the "100 acre" tract size criteria. The emphasis on large contiguous tracts is restrictive.

The Project should purchase tracts of 50 acres or more of targeted properties. Property purchases, even if smaller than 50 acres, should be considered if the land is adjacent to targeted properties. Small tract properties should especially be purchased if the smaller tract would allow future public access to the larger targeted tract.

Landowners may be reluctant to sell off tracts of 100 acres or more but may be more willing to sell off the smaller tracts to raise capital, divest themselves of tax-burdening acreage, etc. Undoubtedly, a landowner's interest in selling land would be keener in seasons where he'd experienced flooding, poor crops, etc.

If a landowner sells a small tract to the Project, the U.S. ACE should, at the time of purchase, attempt to get a "Right of First Refusal" for the landowner's larger tract.

In that purchase of property for the Project must be offered for public comment, the community and local government should show less opposition, if any, to a smaller tract being purchased by the Project. The community and local governments should then readily accept, with little opposition, any subsequent purchases that add to the size of the original tract purchase. This might ease the potential loss of tax revenues to the local government.

I would also recommend, when the U.S. ACE is successful in civil or criminal lawsuits, that the U.S. ACE accepts transfers of targeted land in lieu of full or partial financial compensation. If possible, the land should be transferred to the U.S. ACE free of easements, pollution or "rights" of access or continued use by the previous owner.

Because there are historical sites throughout the Project area, I would also recommend that the U.S. ACE be diligent in locating potential historical sites (i.e. steamboat wrecks, early settlements, etc.) prior to mitigation of land.

I would also recommend purchasing land where supplemental levees could be constructed landward of previously existing levees. The U.S. ACE would build the supplemental levees to the same specifications as the existing levees using the best available engineering techniques.

Then the old levees would be breached. Mitigation projects would ensue and the old levee carved into a chain of islands. The entire property riverward of the new supplemental levees would be planted with native trees and plants, channeled into sloughs, backwaters, etc. in accordance with the goals of the Project.

Finally, I'd like to see all pertinent Project documents (including public comments) loaded onto the Project Internet website for ease of review and access.

In conclusion, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate and to submit these comments by e-mail. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to write or call.

Best regards,

Bill Nichols
7217 N.W. Tomahawk Lane
Platte Woods, MO 64151
(816) 587-6044 (home)

--

Sincerely,
Bill Nichols

From: Lori Wohlschlaeger [<mailto:lwohlschlaeger@atwood.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2001 8:20 AM
To: 'kelly.ryan@usace.army.mil'
Subject: Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I'm writing to you today to submit my comments on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project"

I support efforts to enhance the ecology of the Missouri River. The project improves fish and wildlife habitat and the overall air, water and land quality. It also provides more acreage to store floodwaters.

The project provides opportunity for citizens to enjoy recreation on the Missouri river.

Since only 27,800 acres have been purchased for the mitigation project so far, I would like to see the Corps mount an aggressive marketing campaign to acquire the targeted goal of 48,100 acres by the year 2006.

Please do what you can to help preserve the Missouri River ecosystem.

Thank you,

Lori Wohlschlaeger
8604 Chestnut Circle #4
Kansas City, MO 64131

From: Ginger Harris [mailto:svharri@marisnet.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2001 11:29 PM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896

Dear Mr. Ryan:

Pursuant to the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, your agency has begun the much needed effort to restore habitat for fish and wildlife along the Missouri River.

I want to thank you for your efforts so far and urge you to redouble your efforts in the coming year so as to reach the goal of purchasing 48,100 acres by 2006 for this purpose.

I am also grateful that Congress has authorized an additional 118,650 acres for this purpose. Again, I urge you to take full advantage of this authorization to purchase the maximum number of acres in the Missouri River floodplain and to restore these for fish and wildlife habitat.

The benefits of this program -- in addition to restoring habitat -- include greater recreation opportunities in Missouri, and even more vitally, greater protection from flooding. The danger of flooding increases each year due to the increase in impervious surfaces throughout the Missouri River's watershed. Therefore, mitigating this danger through preservation and restoration of the natural character of this floodplain is critical.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Virginia Harris
556 Oakhaven Lane
Creve Coeur, MO 63141-7613

From: Carol Pufalt [<mailto:cpufalt@swbell.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2001 11:34 PM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Missouri River Mitigation Project

Dec 19 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
US Army Corp. of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 E 12th St.
Kansas City MO 64106 2896

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I am writing on behalf of the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club regarding the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project. The Ozark Chapter has 10,000 members in Missouri who are concerned about the health of the Missouri River. We support the efforts as outlined in the SEIS for habitat restoration and land acquisition. These efforts, if successful, will provide needed additional habitat for fish and wildlife, including some endangered species which depend on the Missouri river and riparian areas for essential habitat. A more natural Missouri river will also provide increased recreational opportunities. The historical importance of the Missouri river will be more easily appreciated if the river includes more stretches that approach the its natural condition. In addition increased flood storage capacity will be created.

We hope that the Corps is able to step up its acquisition program to increase the number of acres under the program. By offering to purchase from willing sellers the project provides another option for landowners stressed but repeated flooding or other setbacks related to riparian acres. This project provides a win win situation for landowners, wildlife, riparian communities and Missourians interested in recreation and in the natural and cultural history of the Missouri.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Caroline Pufalt
Conservation Chair Ozark Chapter
13415 Land O Woods #3
St. Louis MO 63141 6078

From: Roy Hengerson [<mailto:roy.hengerson@sierraclub.org>]
Sent: Wednesday, December 19, 2001 4:01 PM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: missouri river project comments

December 19, 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District

Dear Mr. Ryan:

I am writing to comment on the Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project of the Corps of Engineers. I support efforts to enhance fish and wildlife habitat along the Missouri River corridor and improve the health of the riverine eco-system. In addition to improving habitat, this project will contribute to improving water quality, air quality, and wetland and other land integrity. This project will also improve recreation opportunities along the Missouri River corridor.

I support increasing the acreage of floodplain lands acquired by the Corps of Engineers as well as the acreage that will receive remedial work and habitat restoration. Congress has authorized up to 118,650 acres of mitigation for the Missouri River corridor. The current amount of land purchased for mitigation is only 27,800 acres; therefore the Corps should substantially increase their land acquisitions.

I also would like to be included on the mailing list for this Project and be given further opportunities to comment as the mitigation planning and activities proceed. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roy C. Hengerson

--

Roy C. Hengerson
2201 Weathered Rock Rd.
Jefferson City, MO. 65101
573-635-8066

--

From: Eileen McManus [mailto:eileenm@planetkc.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2001 7:31 PM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project

Dear Mr. Kelly,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. I attended the public scoping meeting in Leavenworth, Kansas, with other Sierra Club members from the K.C. Thomas Hart Benton group. I appreciate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' preparation of educational materials for these meetings. I found the video, handouts and pamphlets both informative and professional. In fact, we liked it so well we asked for a speaker to come to our general meeting. Glenn Covington came and he did an excellent presentation and we have asked our members to send in comments. We also plan to visit the Benedictine Bottoms mitigation site in the spring.

My comments on the project are all positive. It improves fish and wildlife habitat, increases acreage for floodwaters, and provides recreational opportunities for citizens along the river. After meeting several Army Corps Engineers who are working on the project, I can say it's nice to see such earnest professionals working on this project and it looks like the project is in good hands. If there is any suggestion I could make, it would be to speed up the acquisition of targeted lands.

I realize in some cases your hands are tied because you have to buy from willing sellers. My experience as a leader in the Sierra Club is that by educating your audience, you are more likely to get a positive response. I would like to see the Army Corps invest time and money into a marketing strategy that would both publicize and educate landowners. You have a good project that is trying to improve the land and water for all living beings. I hope it would be an easy sell but then again I'm sure there are all sorts of legal and logistical factors that make it quite complex. Nevertheless, I hope you are able to meet your goal of 48,100 acres by 2006 and get a good start on the 118, 650 additional acres that Congress authorized in 1999.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours

Eileen McManus
8200 Walnut
K.C., MO 64114

816-523-7823

From: Rose T Huelsman [<mailto:roseihm@juno.com>]
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2001 7:53 AM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Missouri river

Count me among those who support the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project.

It will provide better fish and wildlife habitat, improve recreational activities, land and air quality. Go ahead and acquire the 48,100 acres that is the targetted goal. It's probably not going to get easier, so let's do it!

From information I have received, the negative tradeoffs are minimal compared with the long-term benefits.

Sincerely,

Rose Huelsman,
Kansas City, MO

From: Lynda [mailto:lalmail@myexcel.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 20, 2001 2:41 PM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Public comments

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896

Dear Mr. Kelly:

I would like to voice my comments to support of efforts to enhance the ecology of the Missouri River.

The project improves fish and wildlife habitat and the overall air, water and land quality. It also provides more acreage to store floodwaters.

The project provides opportunity for citizens to enjoy recreation on the Missouri river.

Since only 27,800 acres have been purchased for the mitigation project so far, I would like to see the Corps mount an aggressive marketing campaign to acquire the targeted goal of 48,100 acres by the year 2006.

I ask that the show of my support be included in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of developing the additional 118,650 acres to the Missouri River Fish & Wildlife Mitigation Project.

Thank you,
Lynda Loomis
1 NW O'Brien # 9
Lee's Summit MO 64063

From: Leslie Lihou [mailto:leslielihou@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2001 12:20 AM
To: Ryan, Kelly
Subject: Draft SEIS comments

7008 Amherst Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63130
December 20, 2001

Mr. Kelly Ryan
CENWK-PM-CJ
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Mr. Ryan,

I would like to make official comments concerning the Draft SEIS for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project. I support the Corps' acquisition of an additional 118,650 acres for habitat along the Missouri River. Providing terrestrial and aquatic habitat will contribute to species' survival and enhance natural processes, such as flood and erosion control, cleansing processes, recharging of streams, wetlands and reservoirs, and the healing of the river. These expanses of land, wetland and water reservoirs will also supply areas for research on the ecosystems and on restoration procedures. If the Corps continues to survey and monitor these areas after their acquisition, experts can gather valuable data concerning interactions in these ecosystems.

I urge you to provide for non-consumptive forms of outdoor recreation in addition to hunting and fishing. Often hunting, fishing and trapping can interfere with these non-consumptive forms of outdoor recreation in seasons which are attractive to all outdoor enthusiasts. Please create space where people can pursue birding, hiking, nature study, canoeing, camping and contemplation in serenity.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lihou