

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquire the land for the project?

It is the policy of the Corps to purchase lands only from willing sellers. We obtain land from both private and public owners. Private owners are offered fair market value for their land based upon an independent appraisal that will be paid for by the Corps.

How do I inquire about selling my land for the Mitigation Project?

Contact the Corps Project Manager (identified elsewhere in this newsletter) that is responsible for your state.

I have a tenant farmer leasing my land, how will this be affected?

If you agree to convey your land, you must extinguish any existing agreements with your tenant. The Corps will accommodate this process by allowing reasonable time to harvest planted crops, remove existing equipment, etc. The Corps will assign a relocation specialist that can walk you through the rights of the current owner and the tenant at no cost to you.

Agency Coordination Team

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Missouri Department of Conservation
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



US Army Corps
of Engineers ®



Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation



Project Newsletter



Issue 2, March 2004

— An update for stakeholders —

In This Issue

- 2004 Annual Implementation Report Issued
- Construction underway at Lower Hamburg Bend Site
- Frequently Asked Questions

Contacts for the Missouri River Mitigation Project

Missouri and Kansas

Kelly Ryan, P.E.
Project Manager

816.983.3324

kelly.ryan@usace.army.mil



Iowa and Nebraska

Micheal Barnes
Project Manager

402.221.4605

micheal.j.barnes@usace.army.mil



To obtain the most current information regarding this project, please visit the project website on the internet at

www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mitigation

Site Development

The Lower Hamburg Bend mitigation site is located 6 miles southwest of Hamburg, Iowa in Atchison County, Missouri and Fremont County, Iowa. The site is along the left descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 554 to 546. The site contains 2,265 acres and is bounded on the east side by Federal Levee Unit L-575. On the opposite bank of the river lies another mitigation project, the Upper Hamburg Bend site. Together these two areas provide significant fish and wildlife benefits to the region.

The Corps has undertaken several projects at the Lower Hamburg site this fiscal year. In December 2003, the Corps completed changes to the existing dike structures along the banks of the site. The changes create shallow slow moving water and diversity in the river for the benefit of native fish and shorebirds. Additionally, a contract was awarded to install a river chute at this site. The chute extends 12,000 linear feet. The chute construction is well underway and will be completed in the fall of 2004. The chute will create a large timbered island at the site because it is designed to have flowing water during 95% of the year. More information on Lower Hamburg can be found on the project website.

River chute under construction



2004 Annual Implementation Report

In January 2004, the Corps issued its Annual Implementation Report for the Mitigation Project. The Annual Report is a programmatic update of the Corps' mitigation efforts along the Missouri River. The Mitigation project has been underway since the early 1980's. The Annual Reports are created as an administrative record of the mitigation efforts that have already occurred. The Annual report also gives status of the efforts currently underway and estimates the mitigation efforts needed in the future.

The goal of the Mitigation Project is to restore native habitats that were that were impacted from construction of the Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). As of September 2003, the Corps has acquired 40,080 acres of land for the project. This acreage is spread out over 32 different locations, or mitigation sites, in the four States of Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. This includes 26,935 acres obtained in fee title from willing private sellers, and 13,145 acres of easements obtained on existing public properties. The 40,080 acres represents 24% of the authorized acquisitions to be made along the Missouri River.

Through the Mitigation Project, the Corps has restored and/or preserved wetlands, riverine aquatic habitats, native grasslands, and bottomland hardwood forests. With continued support from annual Congressional appropriations, the Corps will be restoring many more areas to pre-project conditions and making important efforts to keep areas along the river open for native fish, wildlife, and plant species. The mitigation efforts are estimated to continue until the year 2042.

One of the most significant changes in recent years to the mitigation program has been placing a priority



Shallow water habitat under construction at Overton Bottoms South mitigation site.

on creation of "shallow water habitat". To create these areas, the Corps makes changes to the existing bankline of the river so that there will be more shallow, slower moving water areas to compliment the deeper, swifter moving water in the existing navigation channel. The diversity in the river will provide many more opportunities for native fish to spawn and feed.

In the eyes of many, creation of shallow water habitat has become critical. In a recent update to the Missouri River biological opinion, it was determined that up to 20,000 acres of additional shallow water habitat is needed to help prevent the endangered pallid sturgeon from going extinct. Creation of 7,000 to 20,000 acres of this type of riverine habitat is part of the preferred alternative for the mitigation project. Therefore, the Corps will continue to work with the Agency Coordination Team to include creation of shallow water habitat at all new mitigation areas.

You may download your own copy of the 2004 Annual Implementation Report by visiting the project website.



Visit the Mitigation Project on the internet at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/projects/mitigation