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# Information Paper

## Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project California Bend, IA



*Aerial view of the restored side channel and backwater areas at the California Bend site*

### Contact

Mike Barnes, Project Manager  
Email: [micheal.j.barnes@usace.army.mil](mailto:micheal.j.barnes@usace.army.mil)  
Phone: 402-221-4605

### Location

5 miles southwest of Modale in Harrison County, Iowa.

### Description

The mitigation site at California Bend is located on 420 acres owned and managed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The area is adjacent to the left descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 649 to 652.

The side channel at California Bend was closed in conjunction with the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). The main project element for the mitigation at this site is reopening the mile-long channel and creation of additional shallow water habitat in backwater areas.

Restoration of this area was completed in 1999. A flow through side channel was constructed using a 10-foot bottom width pilot channel which has been allowed to erode and expand over time. The side channel is now approximately 50 feet across and provides excellent shallow water habitat for a variety of fish. This site also contains excellent terrestrial and wetland habitats.

### Current Status

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has assumed operation and management of the constructed features. No motor vehicles are allowed on the site, but public foot access is available. This site can be used for a variety of outdoor activities including fishing, bird watching, hiking and hunting when in season.



*Looking downstream across the side channel and wetland habitat on the left overbank*