



US Army Corps
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Kansas City District

Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Lower Hamburg Bend, MO and IA



Outlet of the new side channel, September 2004

Contact

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Location

6 miles southwest of Hamburg Iowa, in Atchison County, Missouri and Fremont County, Iowa

Description

The Lower Hamburg Bend mitigation site is approximately 2,586 acres in size. The area is adjacent to the left descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 554 to 546. Federal Levee Unit No. L-575 is located on the eastern, landward side of the site. Another mitigation site is located just upstream and across the river at Hamburg Bend in Nebraska.

The lands at the Lower Hamburg Bend mitigation site were purchased by the Corps of Engineers from willing sellers from 1995 through 1998. The lands were in cultivation, but contained several meander

scars that indicated the former location of side channels across the area. These side channels were closed off entirely by rock dike structures installed by the Corps to restrict the Missouri River flows to the main channel.

In 2003 through 2004, the Corps modified the existing closure structure at the upper end of this site. A 75-foot wide pilot channel and new control structures were installed. Over time, the Corps will monitor and maintain the flows through the restored side channel to assure that it will erode to a full 200-foot width. In addition to the side channel, native hardwood trees and grasses were planted on the formerly farmed areas.

Current Status

The side channel work was completed in September 2004. The area has been turned over to the Missouri Department of Conservation so that they may manage the lands. The mitigation site is now open to the public for a variety of uses including fishing, bird watching, hiking, and hunting.



New side channel at the Lower Hamburg Bend site, September 2004.