



US Army Corps
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Kansas City District

Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Nishnabotna, MO and NE



Mouth of Nishnabotna River and the mitigation lands on the upper area, May 2004

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Location

6 miles northwest of Rock Port, in Atchison County, Missouri and Nemaha County Nebraska.

Description

The Nishnabotna mitigation site is approximately 1,284 acres in size. The area is adjacent to the left descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 545 to 537. Federal Levee Unit No. L-550 is located on the eastern, landward side of the site. The site consists of two separate areas with private lands inbetween the upper and lower areas. The Nishnabotna River flows through the upper area. Also, directly across the Missouri River is the Kansas Bend mitigation site.

The lands at the Nishnabotna mitigation site were purchased by the Corps of Engineers from willing sellers in 1998 to 2000. The site has been turned

over to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for short-term management while additional lands are acquired in the area. Through the annual management plan process, MDC has planted native grasses and trees.

In the future, the Corps plans to modify the existing structures along the bank of the river to improve aquatic diversity in the river. Additionally, the Corps will be breaching an existing levee to allow flows to spread out over the area during high river stages in either the Nishnabotna or Missouri Rivers. The Corps will be installing a “fish friendly” water control structure that will allow flood flows to enter into even more areas of site, create a backwater nursery area, and opportunistic wetland areas.

Current Status

In Fall 2004, the Corps will be completing the Environmental Assessment for the site. The work in the preferred alternative will be installed over the next few years, pending available funds. The Corps will continue to attempt to purchase lands between the upper and lower areas. Meanwhile, the area is open to the public for a variety of uses including fishing, bird watching, hiking, and hunting.



Aerial view of lower area, May 2004