



US Army Corps
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Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Louisville Bend, IA



Backwater area at the Louisville Bend site

Contact

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Location

3 miles west of Blencoe in Monona County, Iowa.

Description

The Louisville Bend site is located on 1,096 acres of land owned and operated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The area is adjacent to the left descending bank of the Missouri River, at river miles 685 to 683.

The chute at Louisville Bend was closed in conjunction with the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). Construction of the BSNP used dikes and revetments to cut off the side channel across bend in the Missouri River. The main project elements for the mitigation at this site are re-establishing the open water and floodplain habitats at this site.

In order to reconnect the land with the river, controlled openings were constructed at the inlet and outlet of the closed chute. Because the constructed side channel is at a higher elevation than the adjacent river, a pump was also installed at the inlet to pump in water during periods of low river flows. Water in the constructed chute is maintained by the regulating the outlet. An intermediate berm was also installed in 2003 to control water.

Current Status

This project was completed in 1995. This site now contains 270 acres of open water with scrub-shrub and forested wetland areas. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is continuing 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.



Aerial view of the backwater areas and vegetation re-establishing at the Louisville Bend site.