



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Kansas City District

Information Paper

Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Overton Bottoms North, MO



View of the Missouri River along the banks of Overton Bottoms North mitigation site.

Contact

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Location

14 miles West of Columbia in Cooper County, Missouri.

Description

The Overton Bottoms North (OBN) mitigation site is located on the right descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 188 to 185. The site is bounded on the east side by Interstate 70. The OBN site consists of 1,687 acres of land.

Until the land at OBN was purchased for the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation project, the area was heavily used for agricultural purposes. With implementation of the mitigation at this site, the agricultural lands have been taken out of production and native grasses and trees have been planted. Dike structures in the Missouri River have been modified to create shallow water habitat opportunities for native big river fishes.

In 2000, the Corps designed and constructed a river chute at the OBN site. The chute is approximately 3000 feet long and currently 40 feet wide. The chute will create opportunities for new aquatic habitat. The chute was constructed at higher elevations so that it is only inundated on a seasonal basis. The Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service are working together to enlarge the chute so that will receive water for longer periods of the year.

The OBN mitigation site has been turned over to the US Fish and Wildlife Service to manage as part of the Big Muddy National Wildlife Refuge. The USFWS has implemented low maintenance operation plans for the area and plans to let the land recover to pre-agricultural conditions on its own. The Corps and USFWS will continue monitoring the chute development and make necessary adjustments to assure it's future development.

Current Status

OBN is available to the public for a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, fishing, bird watching, and hunting when in season. Additional mitigation measures at the OBN site is possible.



Looking upstream at the inlet of the constructed river chute during low river stage.