



US Army Corps
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Kansas City District

Information Paper

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



Example of the some of the bankline changes for increased riverine habitat, May 2004

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Location

14 miles West of Columbia in Cooper and Moniteau Counties, Missouri.

Description

The Overton Bottoms South (OBS) mitigation site is located on the right descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 185 to 178. Located directly to the north of OBS is the Overton North mitigation site.

The OBS site consists of 3,662 acres of land purchased from private willing sellers by the Corps of Engineers from 1994 through 1997. The lands were primarily used for cultivation, but the site did contain approximately 500 acres of bottomland forest that is being preserved along the river corridor.

In 2002 to 2003, the Corps constructed a set back levee at OBS. The new levee is approximately 1000 feet landward (away from the river's edge) from the existing levee. The existing levee will be breached in 2005, allowing high water to cross out over the increased floodplain at this site. Borrow areas for the new levee were excavated so that opportunistic wetlands will form. Also, extensive river bank modifications have been completed by the Corps at OBS. The riverine diversity will improve shallow water habitats for native big river fishes and shore birds.

Current Status

The construction of the levee setback and opportunistic wetlands at OBS is complete. The shallow water habitat improvements will continue to erode and form over the next few more years. The area has been turned over to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for operation and management of the constructed features. The new levee will be turned over to the Overton-Woolridge Levee District in 2005. The area is open to the public for a variety of outdoor activities including bird watching, hiking, fishing, and hunting when in season.



Scour hole at the OBS site, May 2004.