



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District

TUTTLE CREEK DAM

FACT SHEET

April 2001

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, is a Federal Law administered by the U.S. Interior Department's, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Endangered Species Act was developed to protect endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat.
- The Corps, as a Federal agency, is required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536) to use our existing authorities to conserve Federally listed threatened and endangered species and, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to ensure that our actions do not jeopardize listed species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.
- Beginning in 1997 and annually since that time, populations of the Federally listed endangered interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum*) and the Federally listed threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) have nested on sandbars and islands in the Kansas River. The birds arrive on the Kansas River and nesting generally begins in late May to early June. The birds have usually moved off the Kansas River by late August. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has not identified any critical habitat on the Kansas River for these listed species.
- The Corps must consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine potential effects the alternatives being considered in the Environmental Impact Statement could have on Federally-listed threatened piping plover and the endangered interior least tern since these birds are found nesting downstream from Tuttle Creek Lake, on the Kansas River. Currently, the Corps (based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) operates water releases from Tuttle Creek Lake to avoid impacts to nesting birds/chicks on these downstream areas.
- The Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have and will continue to consult on the alternatives described in the EIS to ensure that the proposed action does not jeopardize the continued existence of these listed species and avoids adverse impacts to them and their habitat.

This fact sheet is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency for the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Program. Comments or questions about this fact sheet or the Dam Safety Assurance Program should be directed to Bill Empson of the Kansas City District, Corps of Engineers at (816) 983-3556 or by E-mail at tcdam.nwk@usace.army.mil. Questions or comments about lake operations or Tuttle Creek project office activities should be directed to the on-site Operations Manager, Brian McNulty at 785-539-8511. For additional information, visit our web site: <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tcdam>



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