



Public Notice

US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
St. Louis District
Gateway to Excellence

Reply To:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Attn: Environmental Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Public Notice Date
February 6, 2009

Expiration Date
March 6, 2009

Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:

File Number: MVS-2009-51

This notice is to advise the public that the Project Implementation Report for the Confluence Point Mitigation Site is available for public review and to announce that a public meeting for receiving comment on the Project is scheduled for February 18, 2009 from 6-8 P.M. at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Illinois.

The National Great Rivers Museum is located at:
#1 Lock and Dam Way
Alton, Illinois 62002

It is adjacent to the Melvin Price Locks and Dam on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River in Alton, IL. It is along IL Highway 143 (formerly the Berm Highway) 2 miles Southeast of the Clark Bridge or 2 miles Northwest of the intersection of IL Highways 143 & 3. Its location is also shown on the attached map.

COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: All comments must reach this office no later than the expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the Environmental Assessment. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Branch
1222 Spruce Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833
ATTN: Charlie Hanneken

LOCATION: (As shown on the attached drawing) The proposed project site (Confluence Point Mitigation Site) is located along the left descending bank of the Missouri River at the confluence with the Mississippi River. It is near river miles 0 through 2 on the Missouri River and near river miles 195 through 199 on the Mississippi River. More specifically, the site is located in and surrounding Sections 4, 8, and 9, Township 47 North, Range 8 East, St. Charles County, Missouri.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (As shown on the attached drawings) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) - Kansas City District (NWK) proposes to develop fish and wildlife habitat on approximately 1,118 acres of land at the confluence of the Missouri & Mississippi River in St. Charles County, Missouri. The project name is the Confluence Point Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project (Confluence Point). The project involves the restoration and long term management of fish and wildlife habitat on two contiguous tracts of land. Approximately 532 acres of land in the north section is owned by the Corps of Engineers and the remaining, approximately 586 acres, is owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The project would be completed under the authority of the Corps' Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program (Mitigation Program). The Mitigation Program was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and 1999 (WRDA86 and WRDA99) to develop and restore fish and wildlife habitat along the lower Missouri River from Sioux City, Iowa, to the mouth near St. Louis, Missouri. This was to mitigate for the loss of habitat due to construction, operation, and maintenance of the Missouri River Bank Stabilization and Navigation Project (BSNP). Collectively, the 1,118 acres are managed by MDNR as their Edward (Ted) and Pat Jones – Confluence Point State Park.

The proposed project includes the use of various activities to develop fish and wildlife habitat on the Confluence Point Site. These methods would include planting trees, prairie vegetation, and wetland vegetation in appropriate locations based on topography, hydrology, soils, and location of utility corridors. More specifically, prairie plantings would be planted in the northern portions of the park while the southern areas of the park would become a mix of areas allowed to self populate with cottonwoods, willows, and other soft mast pioneering species as well as some areas planted with hard mast species at the highest elevations. Small basins would be constructed to capture and hold water as ephemeral wetlands. Larger areas would be constructed to induce more permanent wetland habitat. The basins would be constructed throughout the park and would mimic the natural contours of the site.

The applicant, MDNR, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have been working on alternatives, avoidance, and minimization since 2004 and have chosen an alternative that includes minimal impacts and achieves numerous enhancement goals. In regards to mitigation to off-set the impact to aquatic resources, there is over 900-acres of floodplain habitat improvements, including wetland restoration associated with the project as stated above. No additional compensatory mitigation will be required for the impacts to farmed wetlands (FW). All of the project impacts are within the Kuhs Levee and Drainage District. The Confluence Point Mitigation Project does not involve the construction within or on banks of the Mississippi or the Missouri Rivers and does not involve discharge of material into the rivers.

The Project Implementation Report (PIR) includes an Environmental Assessment (EA) consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The PIR is available for viewing on the Kansas City Districts web page at http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public_notices.htm. It provides an analysis of alternatives and a detailed description of the recommended plan for habitat development at Confluence Point. This PIR also contains an evaluation of environmental impacts related to the development of aquatic and terrestrial habitat consistent with the requirements of pertinent federal regulations including NEPA, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Table 1-1 below summarizes the acres of general habitat types that currently exist at the Confluence Point Site, the proposed future acres of habitat that would result from implementation of the project, and project outputs (net habitat changes). The outputs are estimates and dependant upon vegetation establishment and hydrology.

General Habitat Type	Existing Acres	Proposed Acres	Output ¹
Wet Prairie/Grassland	41.3	276.5	235.2
Boltonia Restoration	18.2	28.5	10.3
Sandbar/Mudflat	0	38.4	38.4
Scrub/Shrub	0	167.5	167.5
Wet Bottomland Forest (Low)	306.6 ²	126.2	-180.4 ¹
Wet Bottomland Forest (High)	58.0 ³	100.7	42.7
Wet-Mesic Forest	0	60.0	60.0
Deep Meander	0	1.3	1.3
Deep Pool	0	53.0	53.0
Shallow Meander	0	8.2	8.2
Shallow Pool	0	50.7	50.7
Shallow Scour	0	3.6	3.6
Spoil Banks	0	12.5	12.5
Mounds	0	8.9	8.9
Crops/Agriculture	511.9	0	-511.9 ¹
Existing 404 Wetland	11.2	11.2	0
Existing Bottomland Forest	88.5	88.5	0
Existing Scrub/Shrub	36.5	36.5	0
Levee	38.9	38.9	0
Existing Blew Hole	7.5	7.5	0
TOTAL	1118.6	1118.6	0

¹Negative outputs are the result of existing habitat types transitioning into other habitat types or being converted to wetlands through proposed activities.

²Acres consists of naturally established early successional forest. Approximately 3 years ago this area was farmed.

³Acres consists of early successional forest planted by MODNR since farming ceased.

LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS: See attached maps. This large-scale project is difficult to fit on 8x10 sheets. If it is necessary for you to view or review more detailed plans the PIR includes maps and may be viewed at http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/regulatory/public_notices.htm

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information may be obtained by contacting Charlie Hanneken, Ecologist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (314) 331-8496. Your inquiries may also be sent by electronic facsimile to (314) 331-8806 or by e-mail to charles.d.hanneken@usace.army.mil.

AUTHORITY: The St. Louis District has made a provisional determination that the proposal will require authorization under Nationwide Permit 27 (Aquatic habitat restoration, establishment, and enhancement activities) of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: The project plans have been submitted to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Water Protection Program for state certification of the proposed work in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification is requested as of the date of this Public Notice, and if issued, will express the Agency's opinion that the proposed activities will not violate applicable water quality standards. Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Missouri should be addressed to: Water Protection Program, Post Office Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0176, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION: The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

PUBLIC MEETING: In addition to this public notice there is a public meeting scheduled for the review of the Project Implementation Report on February 18, 2009 from 6-8 P.M. at the National Great Rivers Museum in Alton, Illinois

ENDANGERED SPECIES: A determination, in compliance with Section 7c of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, has been made that the work that is proposed would not likely adversely affect species designated as threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. Therefore, no formal consultation request has been made to the United States Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional information in regards to the determination is listed in the PIR under section 4.4.4.

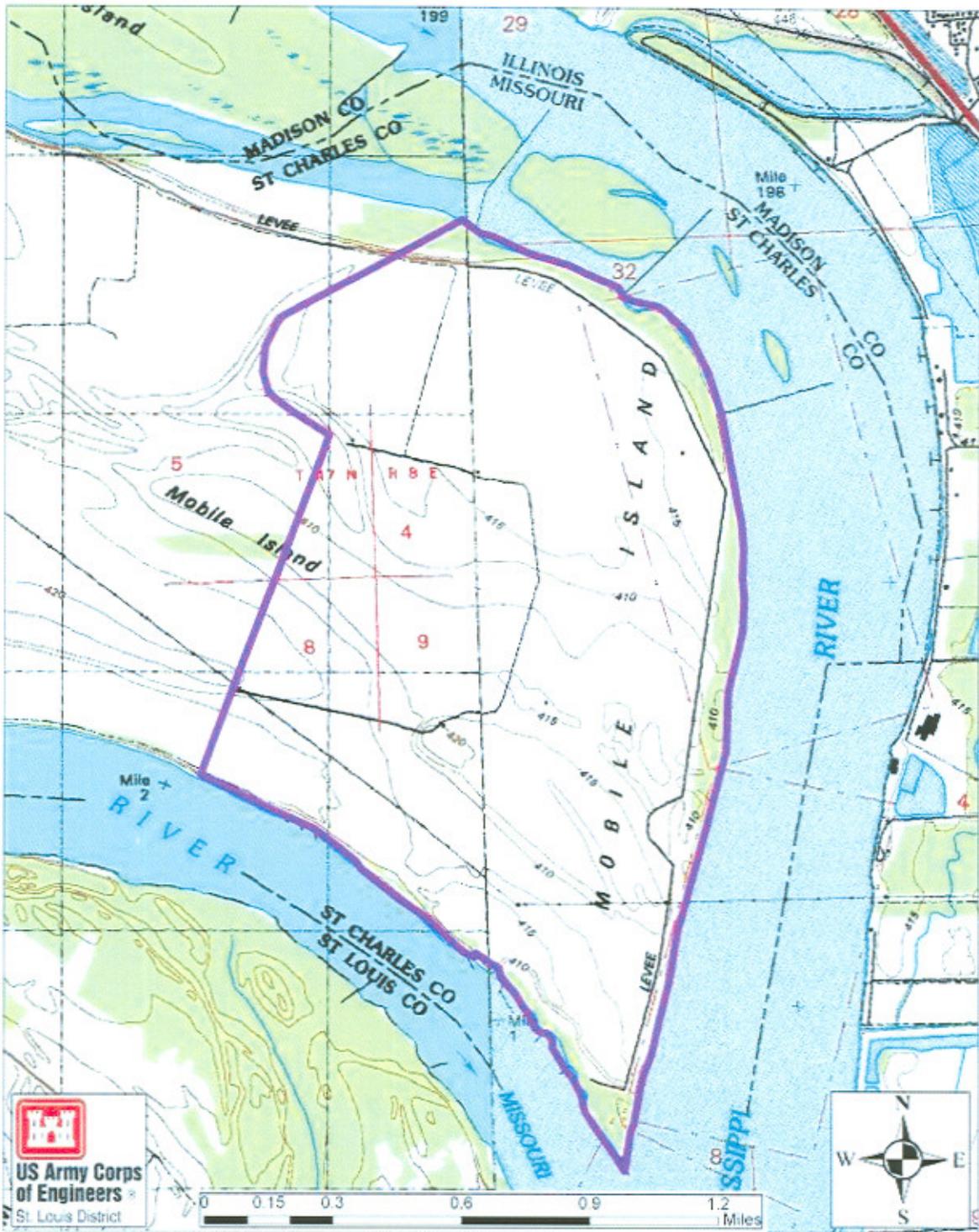
CULTURAL RESOURCES: There are no historic properties listed on the NRHP or other recorded archaeological sites are recorded in the project APE. Approximately 83.1 percent (929.7 acres) of the project area has accreted since 1803 either by natural or man-induced sediment deposition. The St. Louis District Archeologist made a preliminary determination that there will be "no historic properties affected" by the current project. However, the St. Louis District will further evaluate the site and will evaluate any additional information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice. Additional information in regards to Cultural Resources may be reviewed in Section 4.6 of the PIR.

EVALUATION OF PROBABLE IMPACTS: All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

Solicitation of Comments From The Public: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to modify the proposed project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.



Timothy George
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch



Attachment 1 - Vicinity Map and Project Boundary



Attachment 2 - Aerial View



Attachment 3 – Existing Habitats



Attachment 4 - Site Plan and Habitat Types

