Location and Description:

The project area, approximately 740 square miles, is located in portions of the southernmost Illinois counties of Alexander, Pulaski, Union, Johnson, Massac, and Pope. A 1992 reconnaissance study identified problems with sedimentation within the Lower Cache River Swamp State Natural Area, drainage of wetland habitats, and entrenchment effects of the Upper Cache River on Heron Pond/Little Black Slough State Natural Area. The feasibility study was placed in an inactive status in 2004; in 2010, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) requested completion of the feasibility study to implement habitat restoration measures. Prior to 2004, extensive hydrologic and hydraulic modeling was performed, survey and topographic data was obtained, and review and evaluation of potential alternative measures, and prospective measures were chosen. The recommended measures include features for flow diversion, partial floodplain restoration, water control structures, upland sediment traps, and forest management.

Authorization:
House Committee Resolutions passed 21 June 1944 and 25 April 1978