**Location and Description:** The Big Five Levee System is situated in Alexander and Union Counties, Illinois, comprising 54.6 miles of levee as detailed below within each individual Drainage & Levee District (D&LD).

Preston D&LD system consists of 14.9 miles of levee in Union County on the left descending bank, adjacent to the Mississippi River from approximate Mississippi River Mile (MRM) 66 to 76, above the Ohio River. Clear Creek D&LD includes 20.6 miles of levee in Alexander County on the left descending bank, adjacent to the Mississippi River from approximate MRM 57 to 66 above the Ohio River. The East Cape Girardeau and Clear Creek Drainage District is located in Alexander County on the left descending bank, adjacent to the Mississippi River from approximate MRM 46 to 57 above the Ohio River and includes 10.9 levee miles. The North Alexander County D&LD is located near the north end of Alexander County between MRM 51 & 58 above the mouth of the Ohio River. The District includes bottomlands between the Clear Creek D&LD (north), bluffs on the East & South, East Cape Girardeau and Clear Creek D&LD’s on the West and covers 5.15 miles of levees. Miller Pond Drainage District is comprised of 3.1 levee miles at MRM 66 to 68.

This levee system, which is part of the Alton to Gale levee system, protects approximately 49,100 acres, the majority of which is agricultural or U.S. Forest Service lands. The protected area also includes residences, small businesses, and farm buildings.