



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District

# Project Fact Sheet

## Spunky Bottoms Ecosystem Restoration, IL

Section 1135 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 (Public Law (PL) 99-662)  
as amended by Section 3064 of WRDA 2007

### Design & Implementation (CAP Section 1135)

**Location:** The project area is located in the Little Creek Drainage District, situated along the right descending bank of the Illinois River north of Meredosia, Illinois, and below the LaGrange Lock & Dam.

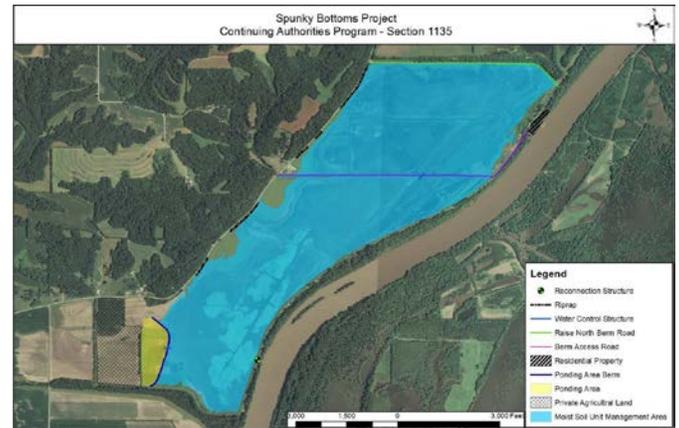
**Description:** The Nature Conservancy has teamed with the St. Louis District to restore backwater and wetland function for migratory waterfowl and Illinois River fish and wildlife. Project features include a fish friendly water control structure through the Federal levee, removal of the aging pump infrastructure, raising a township road to maintain access for residents, a low-profile berm, and restorative plantings.

**Issues:** The project will provide habitat restoration along the Illinois River by reconnecting the river with the backwater lakes and wetlands that once existed along the river. The final ecosystem restoration report (ERR) was approved in Dec 13. Project is currently on hold pending sponsor decision on use of other authorities.

**Importance:** Implementation of the proposed project would result in positive benefits to the environment by restoring ecosystem structure and function through increasing floodplain connectivity between the Illinois River and the backwater lakes that once existed prior to the levee construction as well as restoring a more natural hydrologic regime through improved water level management capabilities.

**Risk:** Without the project, sedimentation would continue to be an issue on the site, especially without a water control structure to consolidate sediments in addition to the lack of trees to limit deposition in wetland areas. Aquatic habitats would remain disconnected from the river, providing limited value to native fish species. Overall, the Spunky Bottoms habitat would degrade in quality and quantity as a result of limited wetland management opportunities present at the project area.

**Consequence:** Without the project, the potential for having a long-term, self-sustaining, functioning ecosystem at Spunky Bottoms would be lost and rare wetland and bottomland hardwood habitat along the Illinois River would be reduced.



*Recommended Plan Features*

**Activities for FY 15:** Funds will be used to negotiate Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) pending sponsor’s decision.

**Acquisition Strategy:** No contracts scheduled to be awarded in FY 15.

**Amount That Could Be Used in FY 16:** An amount of \$3,250,000 could be used to complete plans and specs and award first construction contract, pending sponsor’s decision.

**Project Sponsor/Customer:** The Nature Conservancy

**Congressional Interest:** Senate: Durbin and Kirk (IL).  
House: Schock (IL-18)

Phase	FY 15 Allocation	FY 16 Budget	FY 16 Total Capability
Design & Implementation	\$-75,000	\$0	\$3,250,000