



**US ARMY CORPS  
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St. Louis District  
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# Public Notice

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Reply To:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CEMVS-OD-F  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2833

Public Notice No:  
**P-2887**  
Public Notice Date:  
**August 25, 2014**

Expiration Date:  
**September 15, 2014**

**Postmaster Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

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ORM File Number: 2014-422

Comments on the activities described below should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: CEMVS-OD-F (Charles Frerker)  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

1. Environmental restoration dredging and excavation activities are proposed in segments of the lower Cache River between approximate river miles 26.744 to 35.631. For a central reference point, the activity area is located in the Southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 7, Township 14 South, Range 2 East, near Karnak, in Pulaski County, Illinois.

2. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), c/o Mr. Bill Reynolds, Cache River State Natural Area, 930 Sunflower Lane, Belknap, Illinois 62908, has applied:

a. To the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District Regulatory Branch for authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to utilize a floating hydraulic dredge equipped with a cutter head and a hydraulic bucket excavator operating from within or adjacent to the Cache River channel on mats to restore channel bed morphology and other aquatic habitat at select locations between Long Reach Road to the Karnak Levee (Cache River miles 26.744 to 35.631). Excessive deposits of silt and organic debris have raised the channel bed in many segments of the lower Cache River and created a barrier to open flow after floodwaters recede. Removal of the barriers is necessary to restore natural stream gradient and flow patterns. Dredging and excavation are intended to remove excessive silt which has eliminated deep water aquatic habitat throughout the riparian zone. This has eliminated aquatic habitat diversity, especially areas of permanent open deep water, and has greatly degraded lotic habitat within the river channel. Removal of the sediment would recover wetland and aquatic habitat diversity, restore open flow, enhance water quality, and provide and/or improve socially and economically valuable natural features and ecosystem services. The goal of the proposed restoration project is to return, as nearly as possible, conditions as they existed prior to human disturbance. Approximately 633,600 cubic yards of accumulated material would be removed from the river channel and other aquatic habitats over the approximate 15 year anticipated life of the project (dependent on funding, availability of IDNR dredge equipment and site accessibility). Most of the land that would experience temporary impacts by the proposed restoration activities is owned and managed by the IDNR as part of the Cache River State Natural Area. Other owners of affected lands include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge), and several private parcels. Temporary impacts from dredging are restricted to restoring depths in the river channel and other deep water areas. If necessary, restoration can be eliminated from any parcel by excluding dredging or excavation from segments of the project area owned by opposing private landowners. Dredge material would be contained and transported in connected pipe to two existing containment cells owned by the IDNR and FWS. The storage capacity at the 12 acre FWS Cypress Creek basin is 62,919 cubic yards while

storage capacity at the 10 acre IDNR basin is 75,243 cubic yards. The accumulated material removed by the excavator would be side-cast and formed to mimic natural riparian features (depositional banks, islands, dunes). Very low stream energy and flood flows in this segment of the Cache River provides reasonable confidence that excavated sediments would have a low likelihood of being eroded and transported back into surrounding wetland and aquatic habitats. Specific project details and a location map of the project area is available in the attachment entitled, "A Proposal to Restore Deep Water Habitat in a Segment of the Lower Cache River".

b. To the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that IEPA believes the activity will not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity. The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at [www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/](http://www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/). In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below. Written comments specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Water, Watershed Management Section, 1021 N. Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276, with copy provided to the Corps of Engineers. (See paragraph 11 of this public notice for Corps address).

c. To the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources for state approval of the proposed work in accordance with the Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act of the State of Illinois (615 ILCS 5). Written comments concerning possible impacts to waters of Illinois should be addressed to Mike Diedrichsen, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271, with a copy provided to the Corps of Engineers.

3. Additional information may be obtained by contacting IDNR Natural Heritage Biologist Mark Guetersloh at 618-634-2545, or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory PM Charles Frerker at 314-331-8583 or by electronic mail at: [charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil](mailto:charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil)

4. Based on our initial processing of the applicants' proposal, the action is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment. However, a final determination of the need for an environmental impact statement will not be made until the St. Louis District has completed its full review of this application. The review will include our evaluation of any written responses received as a result of this public notice.

5. This permit will be processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

6. 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.

7. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area

8. The proposed project is within the range of the federally endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*), and the proposed as endangered Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). A preliminary determination, in compliance with the Endangered Species Act as amended, has been made that the proposed activities are not likely to adversely affect species designated as

threatened or endangered, or adversely affect critical habitat. However, in order to complete our evaluation, this public notice solicits comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

9. Any interested parties, particularly navigation interests, Federal and state agencies for the protection of environmental and cultural resources, and the officials of any state, town, or local associations whose interest may be affected by this work, are invited to submit to this office written facts, arguments, or objections on or before the public notice expiration date. The decision whether to authorize the proposed work will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain 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. Project authorization will be granted only if it is found not contrary to the public interest.

10. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny authorization for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

11. Any person may request that a public hearing be held to consider the applicant's proposal, provided such request identifies significant issues that would warrant additional public review and comment. All replies to this public notice must be submitted in writing and sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, 1222 Spruce Street, Attn: OD-F (Frerker), St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833, or by electronic mail to [charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil](mailto:charles.f.frerker@usace.army.mil), on or before the public notice closing date.

12. In accordance with 33 CFR 325.3, it is presumed that all interested parties and agencies will wish to respond to public notices; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the proposed project.

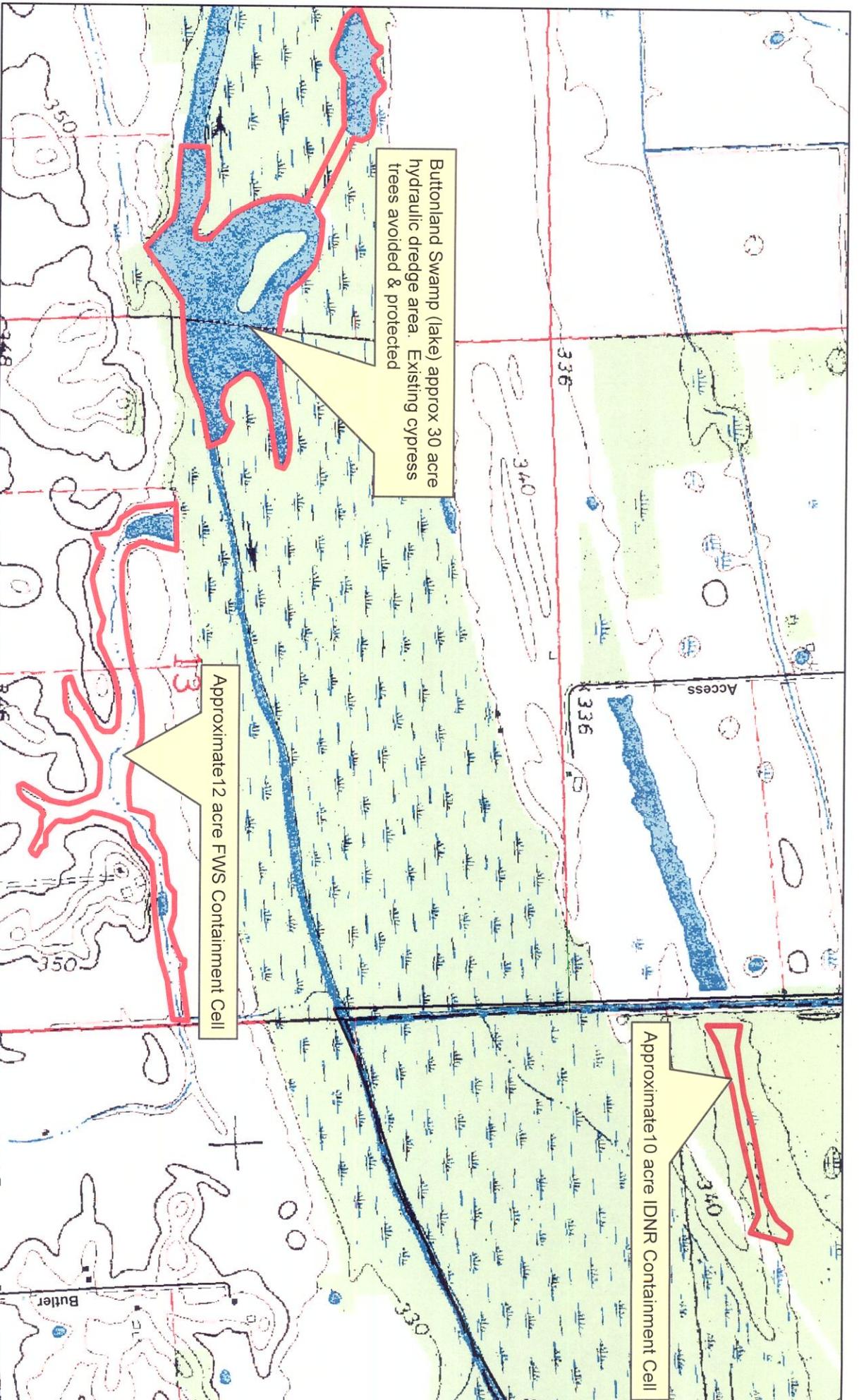


Danny D. McClendon  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually posted for 21 days.



**P-2887 Cache River Restoration**  
**Hydraulic Dredge Containment Cells and Buttonland Lake**  
**West of Karnak, Pulaski Co, IL**



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