
PREFACE

Master plans for the Upper Mississippi River Nine-foot Channel Project were developed or updated in 1948, 1961 and 1977. The St. Louis District, Corps of Engineers, last updated the Corps Master Plan over two decades ago and since then, there have been many changes in public recreational perceptions and demands, in natural and man-made resources along the river, and in Federal roles in the project area. These changes have necessitated the preparation of a new master plan to serve as a meaningful guide for future Federal management of the Upper Mississippi, Illinois and Kaskaskia Rivers.

Towards that end, the St. Louis District has prepared this master plan for the rivers with significant cooperation from the Region 3 office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Missouri Department of Conservation and the State of Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Together these agencies manage approximately 48,000 acres of land, mostly along the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. Because the Corps master plan has been cooperatively prepared, it has the combined support of the Federal and state agencies.

This master plan represents a revision and consolidation of three master plans and six project areas: Pool 24, Pool 25, Pool 26, Locks 27, Kaskaskia Lock and Dam, and the Cache River Diversion Channel. The plan includes a reclassification of some project lands, discussion of special concerns and special programs and planning considerations, identification of facility needs and cost, and management area descriptions and proposals. The revised land use classifications and related Corps, State and USFWS agreements will more effectively meet current and future public use demand for Federal lands while sustaining the inherent resource quality for fish and wildlife management and enhancement. The navigation mission will continue to be supported as a program of national importance. Interpretive programming will be used to leverage limited funding to enable project resources to be sustained. Public use of project lands and waters will be safely and efficiently accommodated, with minimal impact on river resources.

The cost of new facilities and rehabilitation or replacement costs are presented in Section X. Several additional studies are necessary to further define future direction, gather additional data and evaluate known cultural resources.
