# DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

## UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION
## FEASIBILITY REPORT
## WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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## GILEAD SLOUGH
## HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
## NEPA ID#: EAXX-202-00-B3P-1759826212

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### POOL 25, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER MILES 253-248
### CALHOUN COUNTY, IL

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), St Louis District (District) has conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA) dated **DATE OF FR/EA**, for the **UMRR Gilead Slough** addresses **habitat restoration** opportunities and feasibility in **Calhoun County, Illinois**.

The Final FR/EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated various alternatives that would **improve habitat quality of lacustrine backwaters, lotic side channels, and floodplain wetlands** in the study area. The recommended plan is the **National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) Plan** and includes:

- **The recommended plan is the Intermediate Habitat Benefit Alternative, including GSR and shoreline protection, dredging, moist soil unit creation, scour structures, hard points, island creation, and barbs.**

In addition to a “no action” plan, **three action** alternatives were evaluated. The alternatives included **the minimum, intermediate, and maximum alternatives as evaluated and discussed in Sections 4 and 5 in the main body of the report.**

***SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS:***

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan are listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

| | **Insignificant effects** | **Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*** | **Resource unaffected by action** | **Positive effects** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aesthetics | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Air quality | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Aquatic resources/wetlands | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Invasive species | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Fish and wildlife habitat | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Historic properties | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Other cultural resources | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Floodplains | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Hydrology | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Land use | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Navigation | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| Noise levels | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Public infrastructure | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Socioeconomics | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Soils | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Tribal trust resources | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Water quality | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the FR/EA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts. Best management practices shall be implemented to reduce erosion of disturbed soils and to arrest sedimentation before it enters nearby waterbodies. Any tree removal would be restricted to the winter, between 01 October to 31 March of any given year to avoid and minimize impacts to listed bat species. Targeted mussel surveys would be conducted prior to construction in order to inform placement and design of in-stream construction measures.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

Public review of the draft FR/EA and FONSI was completed on **DATE DRAFT EA AND FONSI REVIEW PERIOD ENDED**. All comments submitted during the public review period were responded to in the Final FR/EA and FONSI. A 30-day state and

agency review of the Final FR/EA was completed on **DATE SAR PERIOD ENDED**. **PICK OPTION BASED ON RESULTS OF STATE AND AGENCY REVIEW**.

***ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT***

***INFORMAL CONSULATION:***

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species or their designated critical habitat: Indiana bat, tricolored bat, Spectaclecase mussel, Monarch butterfly, western regal fritillary, and decurrent false aster. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) concurred with the Corps' determination on **DATE OF CONCURRENCE LETTER**

***NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT***

***HISTORIC PROPERTIES ADVERSELY AFFECTED:***

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that historic properties may be adversely affected by the recommended plan. The Corps and the **Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin State Preservation Officers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Quapaw Nation, Osage Nation, and the Advisory Council** entered into a Programmatic Agreement (PA), dated 1 March 2024**.** All terms and conditions resulting from the agreement shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to historic properties.

*CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 404(B)(1) COMPLIANCE*

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix D – Clean Water Act of the FR/EA.

***CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 COMPLIANCE:***

***401 WQC OBTAINED:***

A general water quality certification pursuant to the Nationwide 27 Permit under section 401 of the Clean Water Act was obtained from the Illinois EPA. All terms conditions of the water quality certification shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

***OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:***

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. A draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report was obtained from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service on **DATE OF FWCAR.**

***FINDING***

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

Andy J. Pannier
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander