



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

Information Paper

Kaskaskia River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Investigations (Environmental Restoration)



**Figure 1: Incised, over-widened and aggrading
Kaskaskia River channel upstream of Fayetteville, IL**

Contact

Shawn Sullivan, Strategic Planning Coordinator
(314) 331-8580
shawn.f.sullivan@usace.army.mil

Location

The Kaskaskia River Basin (Basin), Illinois (IL), from the headwaters at Champaign, IL, to the confluence of the Mississippi River, its backwaters, side channels, and all tributaries, including their watersheds, draining into the Kaskaskia River.

Description

The Basin has six functional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) business lines and contains three authorized USACE projects—Lake Shelbyville, Carlyle Lake, and the Kaskaskia Navigation Project. The Kaskaskia Navigation Project design (1961) failed to consider plan and profile degradation by reducing the rivers length by 31 percent. The profile change resulted in a destructive headcut that travels at a rate of 1-mile per year. Damages induced by headcutting have resulted in increased dredging, loss of private property, significant ecosystem degradation to the riverine environment.

Status

The authority requires a new start Feasibility Study for the Kaskaskia River Basin. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is interested in serving as

the non-federal sponsor, but their participation is dependent upon receiving an appropriation from the State legislature.

Importance

Landscape changes and modifications to the Kaskaskia River mainstem have affected the hydrology and hydraulics in the basin, resulting in headcutting, streambank erosion, widening of the stream, and loss of riparian floodplain and aquatic habitats. As a consequence, the species diversity and richness of both aquatic and terrestrial wildlife have and continue to decline. The study area contains the largest contiguous stand of bottomland hardwood forest in the State of Illinois.

Authority

Section 5073 of Water Resources Development Act 2007.

Schedule

TBD, pending appropriation.

Activities for FY25

Continued coordination with non-federal interests and prepare for federal budget submittal.

Activities after FY25

TBD.

Project Partner

IDNR (contingent upon cost share funding).

Congressional Interest

Senate: Durbin (IL) and Duckworth (IL)
House: Bost (IL-12) and Miller (IL-15)

Financial

Estimated Federal cost:	\$1,500,000
Estimated non-Federal cost:	\$1,500,000
Total estimated cost:	\$3,000,000

Total Federal funding to date:	\$0
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