



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61201

P. 4
27 FEB 1981

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

NCREd-PB

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Inclosed for your information are the following:

Final Statement of Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

Final Environmental Assessment for the Coralville Lake, Iowa,
Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Management Plan

These documents have completed a 30-day period for public and agency review. It is the Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District's determination that no significant impact will result due to proposed actions and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. Any comments received have been answered and are attached to the Environmental Assessment. If you require any further information, please write to the following address:

District Engineer
US Army Engineer District, Rock Island
Clock Tower Building
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. W. Mueller, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

F. W. MUELLER, Jr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

3 Incl
As stated

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR FORESTRY AND FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR CORALVILLE LAKE, JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

Distribution List

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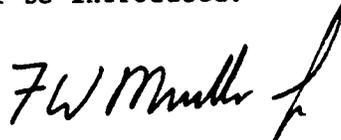
FINDINGS OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Having reviewed the information provided by an environmental assessment, I find that implementation of the Coralville Lake Wildlife Management Plan will not significantly impact in a negative manner the quality of the environment. Therefore, it is my determination that an environmental impact statement is not required. This determination will be reevaluated if warranted by later developments.

The only alternative considered was the implementation of a no action plan.

Factors that were considered in making a determination that an environmental impact statement was not required were:

1. The intent of the management plan is to improve wildlife habitat.
2. Management techniques proposed include standard wildlife management practices which have resulted in no significant negative environmental effects.
3. The management practices involve principally the manipulation of vegetative cover through cutting and planting.
4. No new plant species will be introduced.



F. W. MUELLER, Jr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CORALVILLE LAKE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FORESTRY AND FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

US ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, ROCK ISLAND
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

December 1980

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CORALVILLE LAKE, IOWA
IMPLEMENTATION OF FORESTRY AND FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
CORALVILLE, LAKE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FORESTRY AND FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

The action under consideration is required by US Army Corps of Engineers Regulation ER 1130-2-400. The intent of the action is to maximize the value of the wildlife resources on Corps of Engineers managed land at Coralville Lake, Iowa. The purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to address the environmental impacts that may be associated with implementation of the Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Management Plan, US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, dated November 1979.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.01 The Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, has designed the Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Management Plan to enhance the environmental quality of the federally administered land at Coralville Lake through the use of accepted forestry and conservation practices. These management techniques are being reviewed by Federal and state agencies to insure general acceptability to both man and the environment so that both may benefit (see Part VII Coordination). This plan will be implemented over the next five years.

2.02 Following is a brief description of measures to be implemented in the management plan:

Wildlife Practices.

1. Hedgerows. Low, woody vegetation of desired species will be planted to provide greater diversity for cover, travel lanes for migrating wildlife, food, and songbird nests.

2. Roadsides. Vegetative diversity will be maintained by providing mature trees, shrubs, and uncut grass to improve wildlife habitat.

3. Artificial Nesting. Artificial structures will be installed to promote use of the area by songbirds and woodducks.

4. Clump Plantings. Clump plantings of desired species will occur in field corners and gullies to attract birds to the area.

5. Tractor Strips. Strips with a width of 20-50 feet will be plowed to modify plant succession to create a diverse source of food and cover for wildlife.

6. Dead Tree Diversity. Several trees, preferably of an unwanted species, will be killed and left standing to provide habitat for wildlife.

7. Edge Habitat. Clear cutting of patches of timber in dense stands to establish edge habitat which is important to game and non-game species.

8. Marsh Habitat Development. Small marsh areas will be created by constructing a dam or levee system across a small drainage area. Marsh habitat is diverse and will attract a number of birds and other animals.

9. Tree Plantings. Trees of desired species will be planted to diversify the habitat in large, open fields and to create groves for winter cover.

10. Timber Stand Improvement (TSI). TSI will be implemented to: promote understory growth, remove trees that are undesirable for wildlife, promote desired tree species, and to promote seed crop for mast tree production.

11. Controlled Burns. Controlled burns will be used to regulate herbaceous plant species composition and density and promote seed production. Controlled burns are especially useful to establish native grasses.

12. Food Plot Plantings. Plots will be plowed and disced, fertilized, and seeded with a mixture of plants to provide food for overwintering bird species and other animals.

13. Maintenance of Open Areas. Mow, spray, or cultivate some open fields to prevent take over by woody vegetation. This will provide wildlife with an open-field habitat.

14. Prairie Flora Management. Reestablish prairie flora in suitable areas for wildlife cover and the project's visitors interest.

15. Farming Operations. No farming practices will take place in wetlands or next to water. Natural vegetation will be left for 15 feet on each side of fence rows and roads. Public hunting will be allowed away from high density public use areas.

16. Haying Operations. No hay will be cut prior to 15 June and will not be cut within 30 feet of the edge of the field.

17. Cash Crop Harvesting Operations. The outer four rows of the crop will not be harvested in designated areas.

Forestry Practices.

1. Regenerate Lost Trees. Trees that die will be replaced with balled trees in certain areas.

2. Tree Maintenance. This will involve the removal of hazardous trees, pruning, and general maintenance to improve growth of trees.

3. Vista Maintenance. Trees that obstruct a scenic vista adjacent to developed recreation areas will be thinned.

4. Tree Thinning. Trees adjacent to recreational areas will be thinned.

5. Coniferous Species Below 700 Feet. All coniferous species below 700 feet m.s.l. will be removed.

6. Shade Selection. Selection of species to be thinned will be governed by shade producing qualities.

7. Canopy Selection. Trees will be thinned out to produce a good canopy.

8. Reforestation Above 712 Feet. Open areas above 712 feet m.s.l. may be reforested in coniferous species.

9. Reforestation Below 712 Feet. Open areas below 712 feet m.s.l. will be reforested in desirable deciduous species.

10. Screening. Desired species of trees and shrubs will be planted to screen recreation areas from adjacent roads.

11. Cleaning. The removal of undesirable saplings from a young stand.

12. Clear Cutting. Removal of the mature timber in one cut with subsequent reseedling.

13. Improvement. Stands of trees past the sapling stage will have undesirable species removed.

14. Liberation. Older trees will be removed to free younger trees of desired species.

15. Regeneration. Any cutting intended to invite regeneration.

16. Sanitation. A cutting made for the purpose of preventing the spread of insects and disease.

17. Selection. The removal of trees to maintain uneven ages in a stand.

18. Thinning. A cutting made to increase the total production in a stand.

19. Lopping and Scattering. Lopping the slash soon after logging and spreading it over the ground without burning it.

20. Piling Slash. Piling the slash at the time of logging to create wildlife cover.

2.03 The practices described above will be done under the supervision of a forester and/or biologist and are meant to improve the quality of the land for both wildlife and man over the long term.

2.04 The details of this plan can be found in the Coralville Lake Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Management Plan published by Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers, November, 1979.

III. ALTERNATIVES

The only alternative considered was not to prepare a Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Management Plan. This alternative would not meet the goals of the US Army Corps of Engineers regulation ER 1180-2-400, which requires the preparation of this plan.

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

4.01 Description of the Coralville Lake Area.

4.011 Location. The Coralville Dam and Lake are located in eastern Iowa, 83.3 miles above the confluence of the Iowa and Mississippi Rivers. Coralville Lake is located in Johnson, Linn, and Iowa Counties.

4.012 Lake Area. The conservation pool (Coralville Lake), created by the dam and maintained at an elevation of 680 feet m.s.l., extends 21.7 miles upstream with a surface area of 4,900 acres. At the flood pool elevation of 712 feet m.s.l., the reservoir extends 35 miles upstream and creates a lake with a surface of 24,800.

4.013 Climate.

4.0131 The climate of the Coralville Lake area is of the humid continental type. The spring season may fluctuate from wet to fairly dry. Prevailing winds are primarily northwesterly November through April and south westerly May through October. Hot winds and periods of prolonged high temperatures are characteristic of the summer season.

4.0132 The mean annual temperature is 48° Fahrenheit (F), with a range of extremes from -37° to 122°F. The average summer temperature is approximately 72°F while the average winter temperature is about 22°F. Almost half of the 33 inches of average annual rainfall occurs during the 160-day growing season which extends from May through August.

4.014 Shoreline.

4.0141 The general shoreline is fairly irregular and broken by several large and small inlets and coves. Downstream from US Highway 218 there are fairly steep ridges and valley slopes which are partially stabilized with mixed stands of upland hardwoods interspersed with small clearings. There are also frequent areas of gently rolling, open land with isolated clumps of upland hardwoods. Upstream from US Highway 218, the terrain is much broader and flatter on the first and second levels of the Iowa River flood plain. Most of the lower woodlands in the flood pool have died off as a result of frequent extended periods of inundation. The result has been a transition from bottomland hardwoods to marsh-type areas and much of the land is nearly devoid of woody vegetation.

4.0142 The topographic features of the area fall into two main classes, depositional land forms and erosional land forms. These features are essentially the result of stream dissection of the glacial materials deposited during the Pleistocene Epoch.

4.0143 Generally, the Iowa River Basin is gently rolling prairie land with elevations in most places less than 150 feet above the streams. Elevations in the Coralville Lake vicinity range from 645 feet m.s.l. in the river valley to 900 feet m.s.l. in the uplands.

4.015 Soils. The main soil types occurring at Coralville Lake above the water level are: Fayette Silt Loam, Chelsea-Lamont-Fayette Silt Loam, Sparta Loamy Fine Sand, Rowley Silt Loam, and Coland Silt Loam.

The following soil types occur along the north and east shores:

Fayette Silt Loam, which is a well drained, porous soil, with a slope of 2 to 40 percent and occurs on side slopes and uplands. This soil is moderately erodible depending on slope and a small amount of this soil is considered prime farmland.

Chelsea-Lamont-Fayette Silt Loam, which is a porous, excessively well drained soil. It is poor for agricultural purposes and forest vegetation naturally occurs on this soil type. Chelsea-Lamont-Fayette soil is typically found on upland benches and stream terraces and is low to moderately erodible depending on slope.

Along the south and west shores of Coralville Lake the typical soils are:

Sparta Loamy Fine Sand, which is a sandy, sedimentary soil occurring on upland terraces and outwashed plains and is poor to moderate for agricultural purposes. This soil is excessively drained and not easily eroded.

Rowley Silt Loam, which is a poorly drained, silty, sedimentary soil which occurs on slopes of 0 to 2 percent. Rowley silt loam is considered prime farmland.

Coland Silt Loam, which is a poorly drained soil occurring in bottom lands. This fine-textured, alluvial soil is moderately erodible and is found on 0 to 5 percent slopes. This soil is considered prime for agricultural uses.

4.016 Vegetation Characteristics.

4.0161 Downstream of US Highway 218, the steep ridges and valley slopes adjacent to the main channel of the Iowa River are covered with mixed stands of upland hardwoods interspersed with small clearings. The Federal lands upstream of US Highway 218 are gently rolling terrain which is predominately open space with isolated clumps of upland hardwoods.

4.0162 Downstream of US Highway 218, cultivation, high-grade timber harvesting, recreational development, and especially urban expansion and rural developments have removed or greatly modified the original upland hardwood

forest communities located on the ridges and valley slopes. The areas that were in field crops or pasture before Federal acquisition are now reverting back to native species. Some of these areas were planted in conifer and hardwood species during 1964 and 1965. The oldest trees that have invaded the non-planted areas after termination of agricultural activities are about 15 years old. Most of the reverting areas, which exclude the coniferous plantings, are upland sites. The climax association after the completion of succession, will probably be of the oak-hickory species.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

5.01 Social Impacts

5.011 Displacement of People. The proposed action will displace no people.

5.012 Aesthetic Values. The proposed action will improve the aesthetics of the areas involved, potentially increasing wildlife density and diversity. Management practices proposed for some areas will involve tree and shrub plantings which will improve area aesthetics as well as improve wildlife habitat.

5.013 Desirable Community Growth. The proposed action will not affect community growth.

5.014 Community Cohesion. The proposed action will not affect community cohesion.

5.015 Noise. The proposed action allows hunting in areas where it will not reduce the long-term viability of wildlife populations or where it is not a realistic danger to the public safety. The report of firearms will, therefore, result from the proposed action. Use of machinery to implement the management procedures in the wildlife plan will increase noise levels in the immediate vicinity of the work for the time the work is actually going on. The planting of trees and shrubs will tend to act as a buffer area between recreational noise and the wildlife, which will probably have a minor positive impact on wildlife.

5.02 Economic Impacts

5.021 Tax Revenues. The proposed action will remove some land from agricultural production and could result in a reduction in taxable income to the current lessees. The amount of tax money involved is minimal.

5.022 Property Values. The proposed action will not affect property values.

5.023 Public Facilities. The proposed action is planned to increase the quantity of wildlife in the area affected and increase the public's opportunity to enjoy wildlife at Coralville Lake. Certain provisions of the proposed action call specifically for increasing wildlife densities in recreation areas at Coralville Lake.

5.024 Public Services. The proposed action will not affect public services.

5.025 Desirable Regional Growth. The proposed action will not affect regional growth.

5.026 Employment/Labor Force. The proposed action will provide a small quantity of work for those involved in landscape activities. The removal of some land from agricultural use will reduce the opportunity for work for those involved in farming. Both effects on employment are anticipated to be minimal.

5.027 Business and Industrial Activity. The proposed action will have no effect on business or industrial activity.

5.028 Displacement of Farms. No farms will actually be displaced by the proposed actions. However, less than 400 acres of Corps-managed land currently leased for agricultural purposes will be removed from the agricultural lease program. Presently this land is mostly used for pasture.

5.029 NED Plan. The National Economic Development objective is to increase the value of the nation's output of goods and services and improving the national economic efficiency. The designated NED plan is to implement the goals of the management plan and thus increase the quality of the services provided by Coralville Lake.

5.03 Environmental Impacts

5.031 Man-made Resources. The proposed action will convert less than 400 acres of agricultural land to its natural condition or to wildlife plantings.

5.032 Natural Resources. The proposed action is planned to enhance the wildlife population at Coralville Lake. An increase ground cover as called for in the plan will reduce soil erosion.

5.033 Endangered Species. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, has been initiated. No actions will take place that could have a significant effect on any federally-endangered species.

5.034 Archaeological-Historical. Coordination between COE and the State Historical Preservation Office has been initiated. No actions will take place that could have a significant effect on cultural, historical or archaeological resources.

5.035 E.O. 11988 Flood Plain Management. Some proposed actions will take place in a flood plain but will not encourage flood plain development.

5.036 E.O. 11990 Protection of Wetlands. The proposed action will not have any detrimental effects on wetlands.

5.037 Water Conservation. The proposed action will not increase or decrease water use or losses.

5.038 Air Quality. The proposed action may result in use of machinery to implement mowing, cutting, planting, or other management practices. This will result in minor contributions to air pollution in the immediate vicinity of the action.

5.039 Water Quality. The increased vegetative cover resulting from the proposed action may slightly reduce soil erosion and so slightly reduce the sediment and particulate content of runoff.

5.04 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. No wild or scenic rivers will be affected by the proposed project.

5.041 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. A copy of the management plan was forwarded to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A letter was received by COE stating support for the plan (see letters of coordination).

5.042 Federal Water Project Recreation Act. The Coralville management plan satisfies conditions of the Federal Water Project Recreation Act.

5.043 E.Q. Plan. The environmental quality objective is achieved by proper management, conservation, preservation, creation, restoration, or improvement of the quality of certain natural or cultural resources and ecological systems. The E.Q. Plan will be fulfilled by carrying out the proposed actions of the Coralville Forestry and Fish and Wildlife Management Plan.

5.05 Environmental Impacts of Alternatives. Under the "no action" alternative, existing conditions would persist and habitat improvement goals would not be achieved.

5.06 Probable Adverse Environmental Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided. Temporarily elevated noise levels and minor contributions to air pollution will be unavoidable.

5.07 Relationship Between Short-term Use of Man's Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-term Productivity. The proposed action will tend to preserve the productivity of the soil in the area involved by providing a protective vegetative cover. By its nature, the proposed management plan will enhance the natural environment.

5.08 Any Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitments of Resources Which Would Be Involved if the Proposed Action Should Be Implemented. Fuel consumed and man-power expended are considered irretrievable.

5.09 Relationship of the Proposed Project to Land Use Plans. Less than 400 acres of land currently used for agriculture will be used for wildlife habitat.

VI. CONCLUSION

No significant negative environmental effects will result. Net results will be beneficial.

VII. COORDINATION

7.01 Office of Endangered Species, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

7.02 US Fish and Wildlife Service.

7.03 State Historic Preservation Office

7.04 Iowa Conservation Commission



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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816/374-6166

ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
816/374-5951

December 12, 1980

Mr. Doyle McCully
Chief, Engineering Division
Rock Island District, Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Attn: NCRED-PB

Dear Mr. McCully:

We have completed our review of the Forestry, Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for Coralville Lake. We, of course, support any type of wildlife habitat improvement, including public use thereof, which your agency is planning. We have no specific comments to make.

We thank you for the opportunity to review this report and to offer our comments.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stebbings
Acting Field Supervisor
Ecological Services

cc: ICC, Des Moines, IA

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IMPLEMENTATION OF FORESTRY AND FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA

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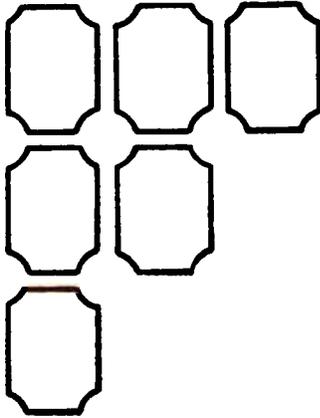
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east central iowa
council of governments

105 2nd avenue coralville, iowa 52241 (319) 354-2328

January 30, 1981

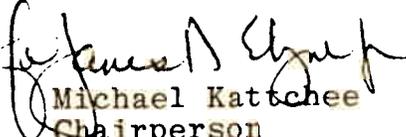
SUBJECT: East Central Clearinghouse PNRS Signoff
PROJECT TITLE: Coralville Lake Forestry and Fish#7-81
APPLICANT AGENCY: Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
DATE RECEIVED: 1/14/81 DATE COMPLETED: 1/29/81

This is to advise you that the East Central Iowa Council of Governments has completed its review of the subject application in accordance with the provisions of OMB Circular A-95.

At their meeting on January 29, 1981, the East Central Board recommended the above proposal for federal funding consideration based on the following findings:

1. The proposal is consistent with existing park and open space plans.
2. The proposal does not duplicate any other projects.
3. The proposal will not have an adverse impact on the environment.

Sincerely,


Michael Kattchee
Chairperson

MK:JDE:mw

cc: State Clearinghouse
Johnson County, Johnson County SCB



Johnson County Council of Governments

410 E. Washington St. Iowa City, Iowa 52240

January 30, 1981

Mr. James Elza, Director
East Central Iowa Council
of Governments
105 2nd Avenue
Coralville, Ia

RE: A-95 Review Environmental Review
Coralville Lake Forestry, Fish and
Wildlife Habitat Program #7-81

Dear Mr. Elza,

The Rural Policy Board of the Johnson County Council of Governments reviewed the environmental review record prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Board voted at its January 29 meeting to forward its concurrence with the findings of the report and its endorsement of the project.

Sincerely,

Judson Te Paske
Senior Planner

cc: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa 52242



Office of Facilities Planning
and Utilization

January 22, 1981

F. W. Mueller, Jr., Col.
District Engineer
US Army Engineer District,
Rock Island
Clock Tower Building
Rock Island, Illinois 61201

ATTN: NCRED-PB-EA

RE: Review of--Environmental Assessment, Recreation Facilities--
Improvements for Coralville Lake, Dec. 1980

Environmental Assessment, Coralville Lake
Implementation of Forestry and Fish and Wildlife
Management Plan, Dec. 1980

The University of Iowa will have no comments to make
regarding the referenced plans.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Gibson
Director

REG/es