



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Q3. Floodplain Rest. – Pierce County, WI

Upper Mississippi River System - Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program

Contact

Jon Petersen, Team Leader

Ph. (651) 290-5218 fax.(651) 290-5258

Jonathan.W.Petersen@usace.army.mil

Jeff DeZellar, District Project Manager

Ph. (651) 290-5433 fax.(651) 290-5258

Jeffrey.T.DeZellar@usace.army.mil

Location/Description

The program area comprises the Upper Mississippi River System, as defined by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (WRDA 1986), which includes the Upper Mississippi River from Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Cairo, Illinois; the Illinois Waterway from Chicago to Grafton, Illinois; and navigable portions of the Minnesota, St. Croix, Black and Kaskaskia Rivers. This multi-use resource supports an extensive navigation system (made up of 1200 miles of 9 foot channel and 37 lock and dam sites), a diverse ecosystem (2.7 million acres of habitat supporting hundreds of fish and wildlife species), floodplain agriculture, recreation and tourism. Based on the recommendation of the recently completed UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study that examined system needs over the next 50 years, the Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) was implemented to achieve the dual purposes of UMRS ecosystem restoration and navigation improvements. Floodplain restoration in Pool 4 is one of 23 initial NESP ecological component projects being implemented under this new UMRS program.

Project area is located in Pierce County, WI extending from river miles 785 – 790.2 of the Upper Mississippi River (Pool 4).

Problem Statement:

Heavy sediment deposition and bank erosion throughout the entire Pierce County Islands floodplain has severely impacted the ecosystem. Over the decades, this has had an adverse impact on the abundance of aquatic diversity, bank stability, and wind fetch in Pool 4 of the UMRS.

Current Status

- Draft agreement complete
- Have conducted stakeholder meetings for restoration efforts, and received support and suggestions.

Future activities:

- Complete PMP and enter design and construction agreement with WI DNR for a floodplain restoration.
- Initiate Feasibility & Pre-project Monitoring and Data Accumulation
- Coordinate stakeholder meetings outlining and evaluating alternatives.

Information Needs:

- Water quality data within reach
- Existing site conditions, including levee and aquifer status.

Authority

Pending new authority, our current activities supporting UMRS navigation and ecosystem improvements are performed under authority provided by Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611).

Fiscal (FY05-07)

Estimated Federal Cost	TBD
Allocation through FY 2005	\$3,819
Allocation for FY 2006	\$25,000
Expected Capability for FY 2007	TBD