

**ILLINOIS RIVER BASIN RESTORATION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
WITH INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FINAL**

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

This Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan was prepared in response to Congressional directive contained in Section 519(b) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000. The plan was developed for the purposes of restoring, preserving, and protecting the Illinois River Basin for submission to Congress as required by Section 519(b)(5). While this report presents a Comprehensive Plan in response to Congressional direction, additional authority to implement the Comprehensive Plan is not being recommended nor requested at this time. To comply with Congressional direction contained in Section 519(b)(5) of WRDA 2000, the Secretary is requested to submit the Comprehensive Plan to Congress. It is further recommended that critical restoration projects continue to be pursued under existing Section 519(c) authority through the normal budget process. This decision may be revisited at a time when implementation of Section 519(c) Tier I and Tier II work has progressed sufficiently that their effectiveness and need for further action and authority can be evaluated.

The 16 Tier I critical restoration projects identified in the Comprehensive Plan would produce independent, immediate and substantial restoration, preservation and protection benefits. As such, upon approval by the Secretary, these projects could be implemented under existing authority of section 519(c), subject to the availability of funds and execution of a PCA. Implementation of the Tier I projects would follow established implementation guidance and project cost sharing would be in accordance with Section 519(g), 65% Federal/35% non-Federal. Separate feasibility level decision documents would be prepared for each project proposed under Tier I. To date, the Secretary has approved implementation of the Pekin Lake Northern Unit and Peoria Riverfront Upper Island critical restoration projects at a combined estimated total cost of \$12,641,100 to be cost shared \$8,216,715 Federal and \$4,424,385 non-Federal. Implementation of the Tier I projects would begin significant restoration consistent with the preferred Comprehensive Plan alternative.

In addition, as Tier I planning efforts are completed, it is recommended that Tier II efforts be initiated following Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) approval to proceed with any additional critical restoration projects. This would allow for a seamless transition from Tier I to Tier II projects. Currently 45 potential projects have been identified. Specific projects for Tier II would be selected utilizing the process and criteria described in section 6 of this document, and feasibility level decision documents would be prepared for each proposed project.

Finally, it is recommended that additional studies and analyses be pursued in accordance with Section 519(b)(6). Pursuant to Section 519(b)(6), the Secretary shall continue to conduct such studies and analyses related to the comprehensive plan as are necessary. Potential areas for additional studies include further refinement to the Technologies and Innovative Approaches component and potentially additional monitoring to address the critical needs to determine the best methodology and approach for monitoring large tributary and small watersheds.

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If fully implemented, Tier I efforts would result in the completion of 16 critical restoration projects and critical additional studies and analyses at an estimated total cost of \$131.2 million, cost shared \$85.3 million Federal and \$45.9 million non-Federal. The total estimated annual operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement cost, of the Tier I projects completed by 2011, is estimated at \$125,000. These operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement costs would be the responsibility of the non-Federal project sponsors.

The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current Departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. They reflect neither the program and budgeting priorities inherent in the formulation of the national Civil Works construction program nor the perspective of higher review levels within the Executive Branch. Consequently, the recommendations may be modified before transmittal to Congress as proposals for authorization and implementation funding.

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(Date)



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