

Chapter 5

Resource Plan

The Mississippi River Project Master Plan provides guidance for the orderly development, use and management of Project resources. Resource planning takes into consideration authorized Project purposes, public interests, regional needs, and opportunities and constraints that influence development and management. All proposed development is designed to be compatible with the project’s natural and cultural resources. Project planning and land classification deals with several factors: seasonal flooding, soils, ecological conditions, existing and projected recreation demand, existing plans and management objectives of managing agencies, state and local participation and interest, operational characteristics, and applicable laws, regulations and policies.

Other Plans and Authorizations

The resource plan does not supplant planning for the Upper Mississippi River Restoration - Environmental Management Program (UMRR-EMP) as well as existing USFWS Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCP) and Habitat Management Plans (HMP). These planning processes are separately authorized, funded, and planned. They take into account existing Corps land classifications. The resource areas described in Chapter 5 therefore do not specifically include proposed plans for UMRR-EMP Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREP) or specific USFWS plans. Chapter 6 includes some additional information on UMRR-EMP HREPs and FWS CCPs and HMPs.

The Master Plan is not a plan for Navigation or Emergency Management. As such, it doesn’t include proposed plans for locks and dams, service base, channel training structures, Dredged Material Management (DMMP), Flood Risk Management, and other plans. Please reference those plans for specific details.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Project areas classified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area were determined by identifying those areas as having significant resource importance. Table * shows the compiled mapping and data referenced for the Corps initial review of proposed Environmentally Sensitive Areas. Corps staff compiled available GIS data into a Sensitive Area Layer and jointly reviewed areas within Project for ESA consideration. The team selected ESA areas that typically had a preponderance of evidence from the Sensitive Area Layer and staff knowledge from factors include in the table. The Corps selected thirty-eight locations for proposal as ESAs during agency coordination meetings in 2016. The agencies provided feedback to help shape the final size and selection of ESAs to be presented to the public during the draft master plan public comment period and open house.

Data Layer Name	Source	Data type	Data contents
Natural Resource Inventory	USFWS and Cooperating agencies	Point based GIS file	Point locations for mussel beds and sanctuaries, fish spawning and over-wintering areas, commercial and sport fisheries, rookeries, bald eagle nesting and roosting areas, migratory bird habitats (waterfowl and songbirds), threatened and endangered species (precise locations are not currently included in the database), unique habitats, HREPs,

			navigation related, and enhancement opportunities as provided by resource agencies.
Higgins Eye Essential Habitat Area	Corps	Polygon GIS file	Designated essential habitat areas for Higgins Eye Pearly Mussel
Corps Forest Inventory	Corps	Polygon GIS file	Level II Forest Inventory Layer of Project including overstory, understory, ground, and notable species data symbolized for tree species diversity.
Cultural Sites	State SHPOs	Polygon GIS file	Known cultural sites.
Mitigation sites	Corps	Files, staff	Locations of statutory mitigation sites
HREP Sites	Corps	Polygon	UMRR EMP –HREP environmental restoration sites
Refuge	FWS states	CCP, staff	State and FWS seasonal prohibited access refuge areas
Natural Area	Corps, state	LUAP, CCPs, State websites	Natural Areas or similar designations in Corps LUAP, state designated areas, FWS Research Natural Areas
Forest Monitoring Sites	Corps, USGS	Point, staff	Corps and Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center permanently marked bottomland forestry plots.
Sand prairie	Staff	Staff	Sand prairie areas
Listed bat habitat	Staff	Staff	Staff knowledge of Indiana Bat and Northern Long Eared Bat ranges and roosting habitat preferences
NGO designations	NGO	Files, staff	Project lands with designations for Wetland of International Importance, Globally Important Bird Area, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas
Important non-game wildlife sites	Corps, State, FWS	Files, staff	Knowledge and files regarding documented locations of sites supporting diverse bird species included state listed such as red shouldered hawk or brown creeper.
Geo-morphology	Corps	LiDAR GIS, staff	Knowledge of diverse physiographic features such as ridge and swale topography via onsite knowledge or LiDAR data use.

Forest Stewardship

Project areas classified as Environmentally Sensitive Area, Wildlife Management, and Vegetative Management are all subject to follow Future Management Recommendations actions with the intent to reach system wide goals and objectives outlined under the Upper Mississippi River Systemic Forest Stewardship Plan (UMRSFSP). This public plan is not being revised as part of the MP. The UMRSFSP is separately planned, funded, and authorized. This plan outlines specific target distributions of forest age class, structure class, forest community, and species diversity to direct management decisions described herein by resource area. Each area will detail forest management actions to be implemented for that area as purposed future development. Continuing monitoring and timber inventory will be conducted to target specific treatment prescriptions that will proceed through appropriate coordination with managing agency partners to ensure actions mesh with their wildlife and habitat planning and vetted through Operational and Management Plan (OMP I) task packages. Future Management Recommendations will be with the intent to establish the outlined distribution of forest conditions of each forest dynamic addressed in the UMRSFSP on a mosaic across the entirety of managed areas within the project. Future Management Recommendations under active management coverage by area classification are targets to be reached within a forest system that primarily is based on a 100 year rotation of natural development expectancy; active management implementation of proposed coverage expected to be reached within 30 years of this plan.

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