

March 2001

**FACT SHEET  
ROCK RIVER, ILLINOIS AND WISCONSIN**

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:** None. Fact Sheet Only

**LOCATION:** The entire Rock River basin, including tributaries.

**CURRENT STATUS:** Feasibility Study is authorized and funded.

**BACKGROUND:** The Rock River originated in the lake region of southeastern Wisconsin and flows southward to join the Mississippi River just below Rock Island, Illinois. The watershed includes all or parts of 13 counties in Wisconsin and 15 in Illinois. Major tributaries of the Rock River are the Green, Kishwaukee, Pecatonica, Sugar, Yahara and Crawfish Rivers and the Rock, Turtle, and Elkhorn Creeks. Basin-wide hydrologic modifications such as dams, straightening of streams, levees, and ditching and drainage of wetlands have contributed to the reduction in quality and quantity of aquatic habitat in the Rock River Basin. Urban and non-point pollution has decreased water quality resulting in degraded aquatic habitat. Agricultural and urban areas throughout the Rock River Basin have experienced flooding, this study will investigate opportunities to acquire frequently flooded lands from willing sellers through easements or fee title.

The project study plan for the feasibility study was developed in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Wisconsin Department Natural Resources, the potential non-federal cost share sponsors. The study was intended to address ecosystem restoration needs in both the Illinois and Wisconsin portions of the basin. In March 2001, the Wisconsin DNR indicated that they would not be able participate in the feasibility study as a cost share sponsor as funding for the study was not included in the Governor of Wisconsin's biennial budget. The study plan is being revised to focus on restoration opportunities in the Illinois portion of the basin. The Corps will continue to evaluate opportunities to allow the State of Wisconsin to join the feasibility study or implementation phases of ecosystem restoration project if state funds become available.

**MAJOR WORK ITEM (CURRENT FY)** Complete the development of a Project Management Plan, sign the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with the States of Illinois and Wisconsin and initiate the Feasibility Study.

**MAJOR WORK ITEM (NEXT FY)** Continue the Feasibility Study. Continue system restoration needs assessment and site specific evaluations.

**AUTHORITY:** House Resolution No. 2353, dated 1 August 1990

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** IL-14, IL-16, IL-17, WI-1, WI-2, WI-6, WI-9.

**ACTION OFFICER:** Jodi Staebell. Project Manager, Project Management Branch, telephone number (309) 794-5448, e-mail, Jodi.K.Staebell@mvr02.usace.army.mil