

Recommendations to the United States Congress 8

The EMP is providing important outputs:

- **Restoration, protection and enhancement of aquatic and wetland and floodplain habitat throughout the UMRS.**
- **Monitoring, data analysis, and applied research resulting in an increased understanding of both the regulated and open reaches of the UMRS.**
- **Improved and extended partnership among the many UMRS management agencies, interest groups, and the general public.**
- **A model program applicable to other river systems and water resources.**

This report both qualitatively and quantitatively concludes that an expanded, more robust EMP for the UMRS is needed. The UMRS-EMP must be of the magnitude, standing, and duration necessary to: meet the long term data and information needs of river managers and users; offset the continuing loss of UMRS aquatic, wetland, and floodplain habitats; support future efforts to more comprehensively manage the UMRS and its basin; and, ultimately, fulfill public expectations of a healthy, sustainable UMR ecosystem that can simultaneously accommodate equally important recreational and economic uses.

The following recommendations to Congress¹ for future program duration, funding level, reporting requirements, and cost-sharing were developed in consultation with the program partners (i.e., the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and the U.S. Department of the Interior), other Federal agencies, and various non-governmental interest groups.²

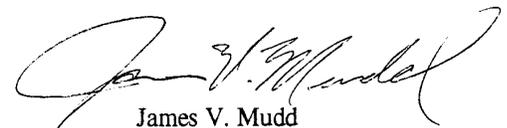
- **That Congress further amend Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as previously amended, to provide for the continuing authorization of a program for the implementation and evaluation of measures for fish and wildlife habitat restoration, protection, enhancement, and for resource monitoring and research.**
- **That the annual amount authorized to be appropriated for the program for the implementation and evaluation of Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Projects (HREPs) be increased to \$22,750,000.³**
- **That current program authorization language specifying separate LTRM and CIA program elements be rewritten to identify a single long term resource monitoring, data analysis, and applied research element, herein referred to as the LTRMP.**
- **That the annual amount authorized to be appropriated for the LTRMP, which is 100% federally funded, be increased to \$10,420,000.³**
- **That the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior and the States of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin, be required to submit a report to Congress**

every 6 years describing the accomplishments of the programs; providing updates of a systemic habitat needs assessment; and identifying any needed adjustments (e.g., funding level, program scope, etc.) in the authorization. Submittal of this report is to be timed so as to allow consideration as part of a comprehensive Water Resources Development Act.

- **That cost sharing for EMP HREPs be continued as prescribed by Section 906(e) of the WRDA of 1986, under which implementation costs of projects “on lands managed as national wildlife refuge” are 100% Federal, and implementation costs of all other projects are shared 75% Federal/25% non-Federal, providing:**

(a) **That up to 80% of the 25% non-Federal cost share of an HREP may be in the form of in-kind services, including a facility, supply, or service or lands (LERRDs credits) that is necessary to carry out the project. This would be similar to other habitat restoration programs such as Section 1135 of the WRDA of 1986, Project Modifications for the Improvement of the Environment, as amended by Section 204(d) of the WRDA of 1996.**

(b) **That, subject to the availability of funds, non-Federal interests may be reimbursed for the Federal share, without interest, of studies, design documents, and implementation costs of approved HREPs.**



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¹ These recommendations will be subject to further review and possible revision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prior to submittal of this report to the U.S. Congress.

² A multi-participant Issues Resolution Conference (IRC) was convened April 24-25, 1997.

³ Proposed funding authorization level is equal to that identified in the 1981 UMRS Master Plan Report indexed for inflation.