

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

STORY COUNTY, IOWA

May 2022



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Rock Island District

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

This document reviews the likely environmental impact from the Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal (Project); therefore, the public is entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this Project, we encourage your input in this decision-making process.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District), must consider whether to maintain Federal management or release the federally-managed lands to Story County, Iowa.

When the District commits Federal funds for a Federal action (disposal of lands to another governmental agency), the District must inform public officials and citizens before these decisions are made and actions are taken.

This Environmental Assessment documents the District's decision making and their consideration of the environment. This document is in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40 §§1500-1508).

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, contact the Regional Planning and Environmental Division – North, (309) 794-5791, or email: PublicInvolvement@usace.army.mil by June 2, 2022. Comments may also be sent to:

District Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District
ATTN: Jordan (PD-C)
Clock Tower Building
P. O. Box 2004
Rock Island IL 61204-2004

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Purpose and Need for Federal Action	EA-1
II. Alternatives Including the Proposed Action	EA-5
III. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.....	EA-6
IV. Agency Coordination and Public Comments	EA-21
V. Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact	EA-23

Finding of No Significant Impact

FIGURES

Figure EA-1 Project Location	EA-2
Figure EA-2 Proposed Project Dredged Material Placement Site Alternatives	EA-3
Figure EA-3 Sites 7 & Site 8 Location.....	EA-10
Figure EA-4 Site 24 Location	EA-13

TABLES

Table EA-1 Bird Species of Conservation Concern	EA-8
Table EA-2 Federally-listed Species.....	EA-9
Table EA-3 The District's Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Determinations	EA-17
Table EA-4 Compliance with Environmental Protection Statutes and Other.....	EA-19
Other Environmental Requirements	
Table EA-5 Summary of the Potential Effects of the Preferred Alternative	EA-21

APPENDICES

Appendix A Pertinent Coordination	
Appendix B Distribution List	

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION

A. Project Background. The Federal Highway Department and Story County, Iowa, began acquiring right-of-way for Interstate 35 through northern Story County, Iowa, in the mid-1960s. The originally acquired right-of-way alignment for the highway took it straight north from McFarland Park for 3.5 miles, crossing the river valley at Soper's Mill and again at Anderson Access. That course was abandoned in favor of a more easterly course that avoided building highway grade across the planned flood control reservoir. In 1970, the original right-of-way land was transferred to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, the next public agency with a need to own the property.

Based on aerial photos and interviews, the Study Area and immediate vicinity have been designated as agricultural row crop production or a forested floodplain of the South Skunk River.

Congress authorized a project for Ames dam and reservoir in 1965. However, opposition to a large reservoir caused the State of Iowa to withdraw project support. The project was classified as 'inactive' in 1974. The District continues to hold the old highway corridor to this day. The reservoir project was deauthorized by Congress in 2003, making the District's valley land holdings surplus Federal property.

Currently, parcels 50, 53, 55, 57, 58, 61, 62 and 63 are leased to five separate lessees for row crop production. The remaining parcels are leased to Story County for recreation and wildlife management purposes.

B. Purpose of and Need for Action. The District is proposing to dispose all federally-managed land parcels, approximately 197-acres, of the de-authorized Ames Lake Flood Control Project, Story County, Iowa, to Story County, in accordance with Section 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law (PL) 110-161.

C. Decision. The District must determine the most efficient and environmentally acceptable way to dispose the properties to Story County.

D. Risks. There is a low risk to the environment if the District disposes the properties. Story County has managed the lands for 58 years and would continue the same land management practices into the future. Story County Conservation (SCC) has no plans to sell the properties or develop the properties in a way detrimental to natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

E. Location. The Project is located in north central Story County, Iowa, between Story City and Ames, Iowa. The Project land tracts are adjacent to or near the Skunk River (Figures EA-1 and EA-2).



AMES LAKE PROJECT

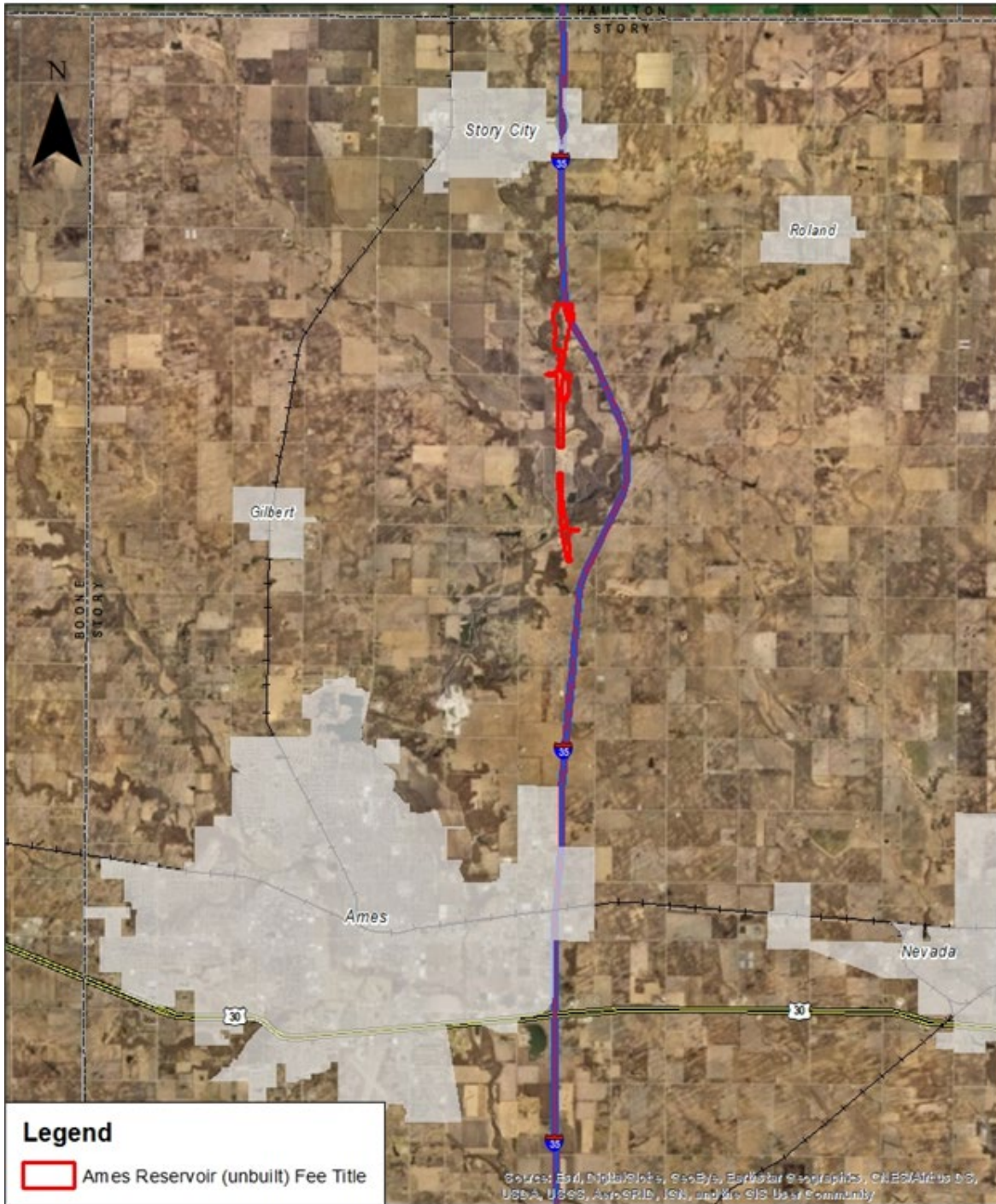


Figure EA 1: Project Vicinity

Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal
Environmental Assessment

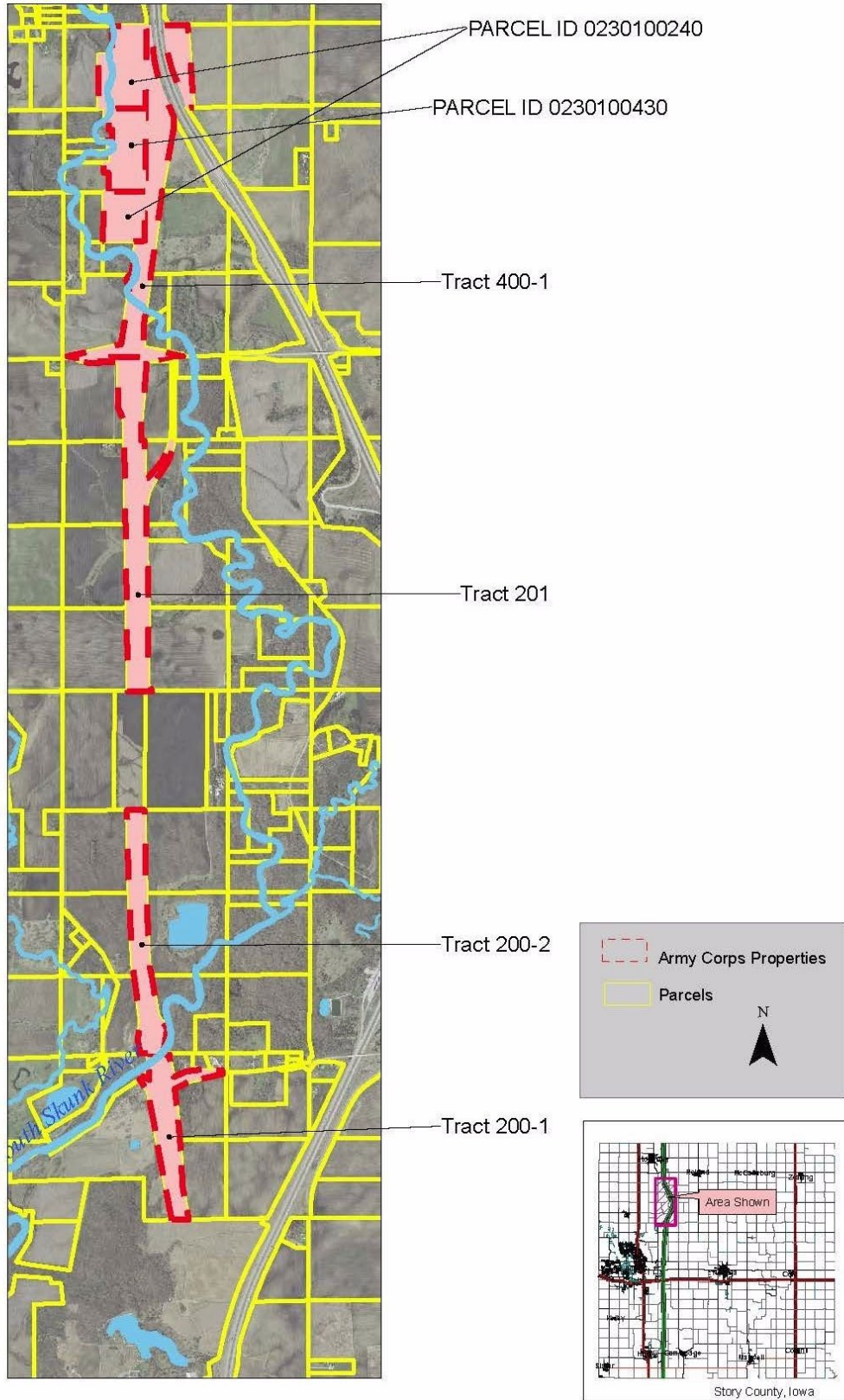


Figure EA-2: Project Location

F. Authority. The Skunk River Reservoir, Ames Lake Flood Control Project, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965. Limited pre-construction Project planning was performed between 1965 through 1973. In June 1974, the District placed the Project in an “inactive” status due to expressed opposition from the State of Iowa. In March 1984, the District reactivated the Project as a result of renewed Congressional and local interest after severe flooding in Ames. After reactivation, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources expressed additional opposition and the Project was once again reclassified to “inactive” in September 1987. The Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, Section 1001(b)(2), as amended, de-authorized the Project on April 16, 2002.

The Federal Government acquired approximately 197 acres of fee title land for the Project. Much of the Project acreage is currently leased to the SCC for conservation and agricultural purposes. On December 26, 2007, Section 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law (PL) 110-161, was signed into law and stated:

“Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers shall convey to Story County, Iowa, without consideration, all rights, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 197 acres originally proposed for the Skunk River Reservoir, located between Ames, Iowa, and Story City, Iowa.”

Despite de-authorization and Congressional direction to convey the land to Story County, funding has never been appropriated to allow for the District to affect the dispose until now.

G. Related National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documentation. There are no other NEPA documents from previous site-specific actions in the Project location.

H. Environmental Compliance. The District is responsible for conducting all the necessary environmental coordination, obtain the necessary permits, and document its decision-making process in this EA. Copies of all the relevant compliance coordination documents are found in Appendix A, *Pertinent Coordination*. This EA discusses the District’s compliance activities, including:

- adhering to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information, Planning, and Consultation System (IPaC) report (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) documenting any threatened or endangered species potentially occurring within the Project area (Appendix A). Any proposed alteration must have either a “no effect”, or “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” determination for potential impacts to any federally-listed threatened or endangered species, including their critical habitat, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (Section III);

*Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal
Environmental Assessment*

- ensuring any proposed alteration would not result in the Take of any migratory birds as defined in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act;
- confirming the proposed action does not encourage additional development within the floodplain;
- providing supporting documentation indicating the proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties, or does not affect any historic properties, or there are no adverse effects to historic properties, so the District maintains its compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); and,
- ensuring proposed actions meet other conditions as described in Section V, *Environmental Consequences*.

Through the NEPA process, the District has assured:

- the Project's environmental compliance conditions are met;
- the proposed Project is not injurious to the public interest;
- there are no extraordinary circumstances; and,
- the land dispose would not result in more than minor impacts to the environment.

II. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

This section describes Project constraints, alternatives considered, including the No Action Alternative, and briefly describes any environmental consequences associated with each alternative.

The District developed Project alternatives based on the congressionally mandated land dispose described above.

Alternative 1. No Action. Under the No Action Alternative, the District would not complete the land dispose to the SCC. While the No Action Alternative is not viable due to the authorized requirement to dispose the land, the District used this alternative as a baseline condition to compare all the other alternatives.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Under this alternative, the District would dispose all parcels, approximately 197 acres, of the de-authorized Ames Lake Flood Control Project, Story County, Iowa. This activity would be administrative in nature. No land disturbance or change inland use would take place as a result of the land dispose.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section focuses on resources potentially affected by any of the alternatives. Conditions existing at the time of the study are collectively called the “existing conditions.” The existing condition helps form the baseline for determining the Future Without Project conditions. Existing conditions are synonymous with the “No Action Alternative” as required under the NEPA. The No Action Alternative is the most likely condition expected to occur in the future in the absence of the proposed action or any action alternatives.

This section also discusses each alternative’s possible environmental impacts to the existing and future conditions described in the No Action Alternative. Future conditions are at times hard to predict. For general Corps planning, future conditions are estimated for either the typical economic life of a project or for 50 years unless a longer period of time is justified. For this Project, the District kept the future conditions analysis to 50 years.

A. Aesthetics. Aesthetics and visual resources are institutionally important because of the laws and policies affecting visual resources, most notably NEPA and USACE Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100, *Planning Guidance Notebook*. Visual resources are technically important because of the high value placed on the preservation of unique geological, botanical, and cultural features. Aesthetic resources are publicly important since environmental organizations and the public support the preservation of natural pleasing vistas.

The Project is located in and adjacent to the Skunk River Greenbelt. The SCC manages this area for recreation and natural resource management. The area offers a water trail with eight access points. Terrestrial hiking and off-road biking are popular activities. Other amenities include canoeing, cross country skiing, hunting (no target practice; only non-toxic ammunition is allowed), equestrian use, kayaking, and fishing area characterized by a rich heritage based on its tranquil and agrarian history. The mosaic of river, forests, and agriculture fields has islands, mature forests and abundant wildlife. These elements contribute to the Project area’s aesthetic character.

Alternative 1. No Action. Aesthetics and visual resources would continue to evolve from existing conditions because of both land use trends and natural processes over the course of time. The Skunk River will continue to change but the pleasing landscape would remain ephemeral, and visual resources would continue to be rich with biodiversity. The SCC will keep the 197 acres of federally-managed fee title lands in their present condition.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the SCC. The District would dispose the 197 acres of land to Story County. The land disposal would not have any impacts to aesthetic resources.

B. Air Quality. The District considered and eliminated air quality from further evaluation. The proposed Project's alternatives would have no effects to air quality, either short term or long term.

C. Aquatic Resources/Wetlands. The Skunk River is the primary aquatic resource in the Project area. The area also contains small ephemeral streams flowing into the Skunk River.

The river's bankline is adjacent to bottomland hardwood (forested) and scrub shrub wetlands on islands and shorelines. The forested wetlands are primarily comprised of large mature cottonwood, sycamore, and silver maple trees. The scrub shrub wetlands are located on the islands, bordering the forested wetlands. These areas are comprised of common vegetation such as grasses, pole size trees, and nettles.

Alternative 1. No Action. Future Without Project conditions should remain stable. The bottomland forest and shrub scrub wetlands are flood tolerant and remain a quality, mature forest.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to aquatic resources/wetlands resources.

D. Invasive Species. There are invasive plants, fish, and animals in the Project area. Actions such as flooding (reed canary grass) or other disturbance may introduce or promote the spread of invasive species. Currently there are certain understory invasive species in small populations such as reed canary grass, honeysuckle, and wild garlic. The stability of the mature bottomland forest has kept invasive species to a minimum.

Alternative 1. No Action. The character of riparian habitats may change, and invasive species may move into the area with changing climate. The range and distribution of fish and other aquatic species will likely change, and an increase in invasive species would also likely occur. Future without conditions should generally decline with the pressures of existing invasive species populations and "to be" introduced unknown invasive species.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not promote the spread of, or introduce invasive species in the Project area.

E. Fish and Wildlife Habitat. Typical riverine wildlife, riverine and backwater aquatic communities are common throughout the Project area. Despite human activity in the Project area, bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), heron rookeries, waterfowl, and neotropical migratory birds are some species of the avian community nest in this area. Nesting occurs along the wooded areas on in the Project area.

Despite the human disturbances such as recreation, noise, and lights, the river corridor has suitable habitat for those species accustomed to an active setting.

Alternative 1. No Action. The Future Without Project conditions for aquatic and wildlife animals should not change significantly. Bobcats, otters, and other animals may frequent the area more often than today as these species' populations are increasing in Iowa.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to fish and wildlife habitat resources.

F. Migratory Birds. Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The District accessed the USFWS', IPaC website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) on March 26, 2022, for a list of migratory birds of concern. The overall goal of the Birds of Conservation Concern is to accurately identify the migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as Federally threatened or endangered) that represent the USFWS's highest conservation priorities. The USFWS identified eleven birds of conservation concern (Table EA-1). The Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in the Project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in the Project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. In addition to bird species of concern, hundreds of bird species including ducks, shorebirds, passerines, and others utilize the Project area.

Table EA-1: Bird Species of Conservation Concern

Species	Scientific Name	Probable Project Area Use
American golden-plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Migration
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Nesting, foraging for fish
Black tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Migration
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Nesting
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Nesting
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>	Migration & nesting
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Nesting
Le Conte's sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	Nesting
Lesser yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Migration
Long-eared owl	<i>asio otus</i>	Nesting
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Nesting

Alternative 1. No Action. Without the Project, migratory birds would continue to occupy the Project area but perhaps decline. One study by a joint team of conservation biologists described a steady decline of nearly 3 billion North American birds since 1970, primarily because of human activities. In other words,

within one human lifetime, North America lost more than one quarter of its avifauna (Audubon, <https://www.audubon.org/news/audubon-declares-bird-emergency-demands-immediate-action-after-scientists-reveal>).

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County.

Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to migratory bird resources.

G. Threatened/Endangered Species/Critical Habitat. The District accessed the USFWS', IPaC website (<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>) on March 26, 2022 (Appendix A, *Pertinent Coordination*), to obtain a list of the federally-listed threatened and endangered species potentially found in the Project area (Table EA-2). The District also considered Tri-colored bat and Little brown bat since the USFWS is currently considering adding these species to the threatened/endangered species list.

Table EA-2: Federally-listed Species

Common Name	Classification	Habitat
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during late spring and summer.
Northern long-eared bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Threatened	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during late spring and summer.
Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Candidate	During the breeding season, monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed
Prairie bush clover <i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>	Threatened	Dry to mesic prairies with gravelly soil
Western prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i>	Threatened	Wet prairies and sedge meadows
Tri-colored bat	Under consideration for listing	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during late spring and summer.
Little brown bat	Under consideration for listing	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during late spring and summer.

Source: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> dated March 26, 2022

The Iowa Natural Areas Inventory lists 57 Iowa vicinity listed plant, bird, reptile, mussel, insect, mammal, and fish species for Story County, Iowa (Iowa Natural Areas Inventory

webpage accessed March 26, 2026,

<https://programs.iowadnr.gov/naturalareasinventory/pages/RepDistinctSpeciesByCounty.aspx?CountyID=56>).

Alternative 1. No Action. Threatened and endangered (state and federally-listed) species would continue to inhabit the Project area if no action is taken. Some of the species' status may change with future conservation measures, while other species may be added to the current list. Local to global causes may impact these and other species' habitat (quality and quantity), migration patterns, food base, etc.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County.

Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to threatened/endangered species/critical habitat resources.

Table EA-3 provides the District's Endangered Species Act, Section 7 determinations and reasons for Alternative 2.

Table EA-3: The District's Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Determinations

Species	Determination	Determination Reason
Indiana bat	No Effect	The Project does not include any habitat alterations.
Northern long-eared bat	No Effect	The Project does not include any habitat alterations.
Monarch butterfly	No Effect	The Project does not include any habitat alterations.
Tri-colored bat	No Effect	The Project does not include any habitat alterations.
Little brown bat	No Effect	The Project does not include any habitat alterations.

H. Tribal Trust Resources and Histrionic Properties. The District queried the most updated Iowa Geographic Information Systems site file database as of 2019 and identified 10 previously-recorded sites within the Project area of potential effect (APE). The Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory (Gradwohl 1972) previously surveyed the location in the early 1970s with a small portion of the Project area surveyed again 2012 (Thompson 2012).

The District determined additional field investigation and assessment were needed to determine the effect of the present undertaking on both known and unknown cultural resources. Story County Conservation commissioned Wapsi Valley Archaeology (WVA) to conduct Phase I archeological assessment of the APE. The results of the investigation are documented in the report entitled Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey and Geomorphological Assessment for the Ames Lake RE Disposal Property,

Story County, Iowa, Wapsi Valley Archaeology Report No. 1130 prepared by Nurit G Finn and Michael R. Finn of WVA.

Wapsi Valley Archaeology conducted intensive Phase I archeological survey with supporting geomorphological assessment over the entire 197-acre APE. They documented a total of 23 archeological sites within the Project APE, including a combination of 13 newly recorded archeological sites in addition to the 10 previously recorded sites. Three of the 10 previously recorded sites were not relocated by WVA investigation. Wapsi Valley Archaeology speculated the first two sites were not relocated due to the low density of the original recorded remains. No additional archeological investigation is recommended for the three mapped site locations.

Alternative 1 No Action. The District would continue management of any tribal trust or historic property resources located within the Project area through lease agreement with the SCC. These resources would remain protected from development on the federally-managed lands.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to tribal trust or historic property resources. The District determined the land disposition to the SCC would result in No Adverse Effect to historic properties in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 800.5(b). Potential adverse effects associated with the removal from Federal ownership are mitigated through execution of the conservation easement as defined in a District letter, dated April 8, 2002 (Appendix A). Prior to any final decision on the land disposal, the District must receive Iowa State Historic Preservation Office concurrence with the District's No Adverse Effects determination.

I. Floodplains. The Skunk River's floodplain was generally broad and heavily farmed. From the source to 5 miles above Ames, the river valley is narrow and shallow. At this point, the bluffs rise to a height of 75 to 100 feet above the riverbed and continue until immediately above Ames where the river enters a preglacial valley.

Alternative 1. No Action. The Skunk River's restricted floodplain should not change from its present condition.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, there would be no impacts to floodplain resources.

J. Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste. The Study Area of Interest (Study Area) is located in Story County, Iowa. The Study Area encompasses the Skunk River. Per USACE ER 1165-2-132, *Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Guidance for Civil Works Projects*, includes any material listed as a "hazardous substance" under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq (CERCLA). [See 42 U.S.C. 9601(14).]

Hazardous substances regulated under CERCLA include “hazardous wastes” under Sec. 3001 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, 42 U.S.C. 6921 et seq; “hazardous substances” identified under Section 311 of the Clean Air Act, 33 U.S.C. 1321; “toxic pollutants” designated under Section 307 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1317; “hazardous air pollutants” designated under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7412; and “imminently hazardous chemical substances or mixtures” on which the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has taken action under Section 7 of the Toxic Substance Control Act, 15 U.S.C. 2606; these do not include petroleum or natural gas unless already included in the above categories. Dredged material and sediments beneath waters proposed for dredging qualify as HTRW only if they are within the boundaries of a site designated by the USEPA or a state for a response action (either a removal action or a remedial action) under CERCLA, or if they are a part of a National Priority List site under CERCLA.

The District performed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment in conformance with the scope and limitations of ASTM Practice E 1527-13 for the Study Area (Tracts 200-1, 200-2, 201 and 400-1, Sections 6 and 7 in Township 84 North, Range 23 West; and in Sections 30 and 31 in Township 85 North, Range 23 West of the 5th Principal Meridian, Story County, Iowa)]. This assessment revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions in connection with the Study Area.

Alternative 1. No Action. The Project area should remain free of HTRW issues in the future. Based on currently enforced HTRW regulations, managed agriculture and industrial waste streams are economically prudent.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any HTRW impacts.

K. Land Use/Land Cover. Land within the Project area is within the Skunk river historic floodplain. Extensive human activity has manipulated vegetation and land use. The District utilized the National Land Cover Database 2011 to generate land use coverage for this area. The dominant cover class types were forested, pasture/hay, cultivated crops, within the vicinity of the Project area.

The following Master Plans include lands, projects, and interests in Story County:

- The Story County Cornerstone to Capstone Plan is a coordinated long-range plan that is intended to be physical and policy-based. It guides the county with a clear vision and goals, identifies quality of life aspects, and outlines strategies.
- The SCC Board’s Deppe Project Master Plan focuses on conservation, education, and recreation to enhance park experiences within the Story County park system.

- The Heart of Iowa Nature Trail crosses Story County south of the Project area. The trail's master plan identifies needed improvements, estimated timeline, and preliminary priorities for implementation.
- Story County Conservation lists several projects it would like to begin in the future (<http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1269/Current-Projects>). In addition to the Deppe Property, and Heart of Iowa Trail improvements, the SCC has 11 infrastructure or ecosystem restoration planning projects currently.

Alternative 1. No Action. Land use should remain stable for years to come. The Skunk River and adjacent rural land uses should not dramatically change over the next 50 years.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to land use planning.

L. Noise levels. The Project area is in a rural/river dominant location where noise levels are generally low. Lack of nearby large urban areas or human sensitive receptors contributes to minimal noise impacts.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to noise levels resources.

M. Public Infrastructure. The Project area has limited public infrastructure. The SCC's managed areas have minimal recreation features such as canoe launch areas and recreation trails. Interstate 35 runs North to South just east of the Project area. County paved and unpaved roads cross the Project area.

Alternative 1. No Action. The Future Without Project conditions would reflect the current level of public infrastructure.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to public infrastructure resources.

N. Socio-economics. The Story County 2000 census indicated there were 99,472 residents, 41,317 households, and 37,997 families residing in the county. The racial makeup of the city was 86.6% White, 3.1% Black or African American, 0.03% Native American, and 1.9% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 3.7% of the population.

Of the households with children, 16.5% were under the age of 18. The median income for a household in the county was \$58,302. Persons in poverty made up 12.4% of the

population. The primary income in the Project area is agriculture (farming, grain processing, shipping, etc.).

Alternative 1. No Action. Although it is difficult to determine the future demographics of the Project area community, if past trends continue, it would lose population, economic growth, cohesion, and other rural town characteristics.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to socio-economic indicators. None of the action alternatives would displace population nor would alter the character of existing residential areas. This Project should not impact population trends as the land disposal is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region.

O. Environmental Justice. At a national level, environmental justice concerns have primarily focused on populations considered to be minority and/or low-income. However, since environmental justice is defined as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, the final decision should be whether the affected area is likely to, or is already, impacted by greater adverse effects than a demographically similar reference community.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to environmental justice communities.

P. Soils. Prime farmland is of major importance in meeting the Nation's short- and long-range needs for food and fiber. Because the supply of high-quality farmland is limited, the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that responsible levels of government, as well as individuals, should encourage and facilitate the wise use of our Nation's prime farmland. About 275,000 acres in Story County, or roughly 75% of the total acreage in the survey area, meets the requirements for prime farmland. There are 28 recognized soils meeting the prime or unique soils criteria (USGS, 1984, https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/iowa/IA169/0/story.pdf)

Alternative 1. No Action. Over the past few decades, a trend in land use in some parts of Story County, Iowa, has been the loss of some prime farmland to industrial and urban uses. The loss of prime farmland to other uses puts pressure on marginal lands, which generally are more erodible, droughty, and less productive and cannot be easily cultivated. This trend should continue.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to prime or unique soil resources.

Q. Water Quality. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources manage water quality through the implementation of the states' Water Quality Standards. Lakes and stretches of streams and rivers have specific designations based on their designated use—recreation, such as swimming or fishing; drinking water; or maintaining a healthy population of fish and other aquatic life. If the water quality in the stream or lake does not allow it to meet its designated use, it does not meet Iowa's water quality standards considered "impaired."

Under Section 303(d) of the states are required from "time to time" to submit a list of waters for which effluent limits will not be sufficient to meet all state water quality standards. The USEPA has defined "time to time" to mean April 1 of even numbered years. The failure to meet water quality standards might be due to an individual pollutant, multiple pollutants, "pollution," or an unknown cause of impairment. The 303(d) listing process includes waters impaired by point sources and non-point sources of pollutants. States must also establish a priority ranking for the listed waters, taking into account the severity of pollution and uses. The USEPA regulations that govern 303(d) listing can be found in the CFR Title 40, §§130.7.

The Skunk River is listed as a Category 5 stream based on *E. coli* Bacteria levels IADNR, 2018,

<https://programs.iowadnr.gov/adbnet/Assessments/Summary/2016/Impaired/>).

Alternative 1. No Action. Future Without Project conditions should remain the same as the existing conditions. Additional urbanization may add additional water quality stressors, yet current and future water conservation, regulations, and urban planning may abate or offset those water quality impacts.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any additional impaired water levels.

R. State Parks, Conservation Areas, and Other Areas of Recreational, Ecological, Scenic, or Aesthetic Importance. The 197 acres proposed for disposal are publicly held as federally-managed lands with Story County oversight. See the above sections for the description of these resources.

Alternative 1. No Action. Future Without Project conditions should remain the same as the existing conditions. Story County and the SCC would maintain the lands in a similar fashion as today. The lands would be available to the public for recreation and to enjoy as natural resource areas.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not have any impacts to public trust resources.

S. Climate Change. Executive Order (EO) 13423, *Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management* (January 24, 2007), directs Federal agencies to conduct their environmental, transportation and energy-related activities in an environmentally, economically, and fiscally sound and sustainable manner. The District strives to protect, sustain, and improve the natural and man-made environment of the Nation, and is committed to compliance with applicable environmental and energy statutes, regulations, and EOs. Sustainability is an overarching concept encompasses energy, climate change, and the environment to ensure Federal activities do not negatively impact resources for future generations. Proposed alternative plans must provide for sustainable solutions addressing both short- and long-term environmental as well as social and economic considerations.

Many scientists believe greenhouse gases (GHGs) are components of the atmosphere trapping heat relatively near the surface of the earth and contribute to the greenhouse effect (or heat-trapping) and climate change. Most GHGs occur naturally in the atmosphere from natural processes and events but increases in their concentration result from human activities such as burning fossil fuels. Several studies conclude global temperatures are expected to continue to rise as human activities continue to add carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, nitrous oxides, and other GHGs to the atmosphere. Whether rainfall increases or decreases remains difficult to project for specific regions.

In 2010, the CEQ released draft guidance on when and how Federal agencies should consider GHG emissions and climate change in NEPA analyses. The guidance includes a presumptive effects threshold of 27,563 tons of CO₂ equivalent emissions from a Federal action annually (CEQ, 2010). In 2017, CEQ withdrew its August 5, 2016, *Final Guidance for Federal Departments & Agencies on GHG Emissions and Effects of Climate Change in NEPA Reviews*.

Climate change impacts within the Project area would likely involve increased temperatures (Figure EA- 3) and increased precipitation leading to further altered (flashier) hydrologic conditions (Figure EA-4). Any changes in hydrologic conditions occurring within the basin would likely result from less frequent but more intense warm-weather precipitation events, moderately to severely reduced summer flow conditions and degraded water quality, less winter ice cover and more cold-weather erosion events. The character of riparian habitats may also change, and invasive species may move into the area with changing climate (Pryor et al., 2014). Extreme rainfall events and flooding have increased during the last century, and these trends are expected to continue, causing erosion, declining water quality, and negative impacts on transportation, agriculture, human health, and infrastructure. The range and distribution of fish and other aquatic species will likely change, and an increase in invasive species would also likely occur (Pryor et al., 2014).

Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal
Environmental Assessment

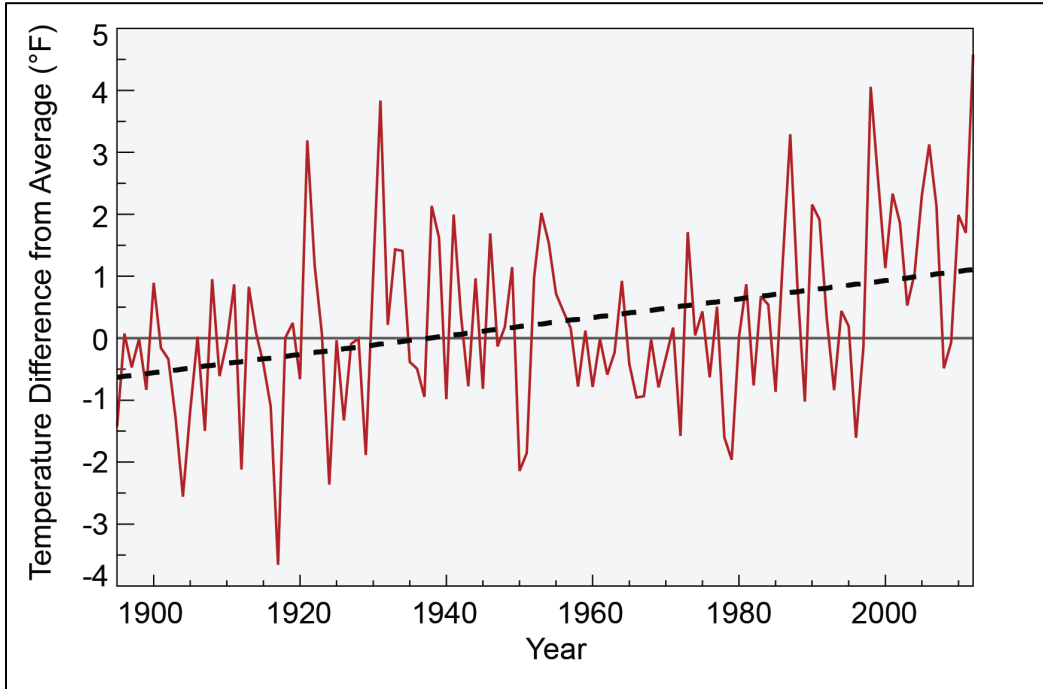


Figure EA-3: Temperatures Rising in the Midwest
Annual average temperatures (red line) across the Midwest show a trend towards increasing temperature. The trend (heavy black line) calculated over the period 1895-2012 is equal to an increase of 1.5°F. (Source: updated from Kunkel et al. 2013).

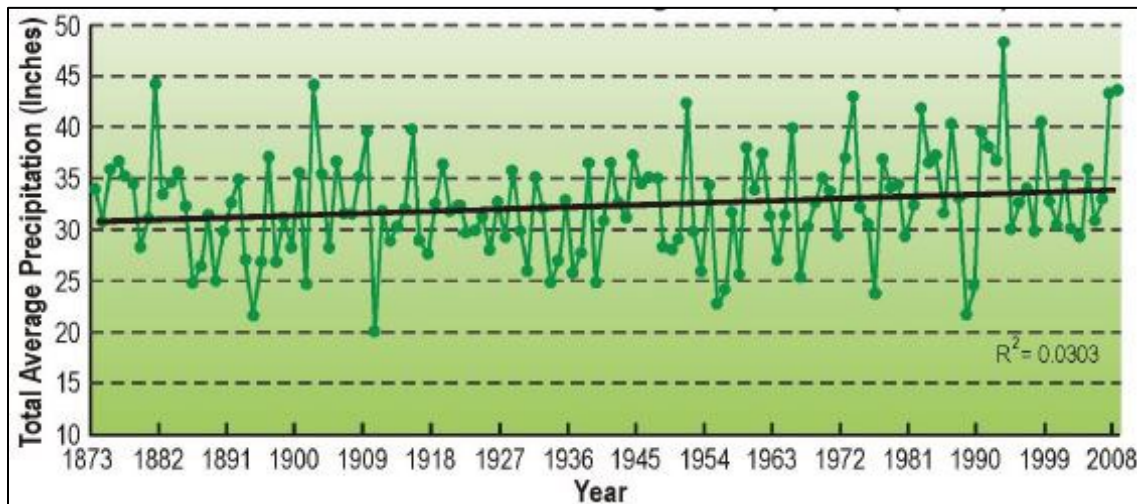


Figure EA-4: Iowa Annual State-wide Precipitation in Inches from 1873-2008
Note the State has had an 8% increase in annual precipitation over this 136-year period (Iowa Climatology Bureau, 2010. (<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Climate-Change>))

In the next few decades, it is expected longer growing seasons and rising CO₂ levels would increase yields of some crops, though such benefits will be progressively offset by extreme weather events. Though adaptation options can reduce some of the

detrimental effects, in the long-term, the combined stresses associated with climate change are expected to decrease agricultural productivity.

The climate change assessment tools utilized in the study are consistent with USACE Engineering and Construction Bulletin 2016-25, *Guidance for Incorporating Climate Change Impacts to Inland Hydrology in Civil Works Studies, Designs, and Projects*, to provide an indication of the potential for non-stationarity and impact to flood risk.

Alternative 1. No Action. District projects, programs, missions, and operations have generally proven to be robust enough to accommodate the range of natural climate variability over their operating life spans. However, recent scientific evidence shows in some places and for some impacts relevant to District operations, climate change is shifting the climatological baseline about which natural climate variability occurs and may be changing the range of variability as well. This is relevant to the District because the assumptions of stationary climatic baselines and fixed range of natural variability, as captured in the historic hydrologic record may no longer be appropriate for long-term projections of flood risk.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Since the land disposal is an administrative action, it would not contribute to or have any impacts to climate change.

T. Alternative 2 Resource Commitments

- **Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources.** Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy would be utilized during the dredging activities.
- **Probable Adverse Effects Which Cannot Be Avoided.** The loss of some benthic organisms currently inhabiting the Project area is an unavoidable adverse effect of the proposed action. Following dredging activities, benthic organisms should rapidly recolonize the navigation channel area.
- **Relationship Between Short-Term Use and Long-Term Productivity.** Dredging activities would temporarily disrupt wildlife and human use of the Project area. Negative long-term impacts are expected to be minimal on all ecosystems associated with this Project. Benefits from the Project would be derived by maintaining the navigation channel to reduce shipping delays on the entire river system.

U. Compliance With Environmental Quality Statutes. See Table EA-4.

Table EA-4: Compliance with Environmental Protection Statutes and Other Environmental Requirements

Federal Policies	Status Compliance
Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 469, et seq.	Full compliance
Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 1857h-7, et seq.	Full compliance
Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1857h-7, et seq.	Full compliance
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended	Not applicable
Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.	Full compliance
Environmental Effects Abroad of Major Federal Actions (EO 12114)	Not applicable
Environmental Justice, EO 12898	Full compliance
Estuary Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. 1221, et seq.	Not applicable
Federal Water Project Recreation Act, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(12), et seq.	Full compliance
Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 U.S.C. 601, et seq.	Full compliance
Noise Control Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-574)	Full compliance
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, 16 U.S.C. 460/-460/-11, et seq.	Not applicable
National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.	Full compliance
Marine Protection Research and Sanctuary Act, 33 U.S.C. 1401, et seq	Not applicable
National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108	Full compliance
River and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 403, et seq.	Full compliance
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1001, et seq.	Not applicable
Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 16 U.S.C. 1271, et seq.	Full compliance
Flood Plain Management (EO 11988)	Full compliance
Protection of Wetlands (EO 11990)	Full compliance
Farmland Protection Act	Full compliance
Analysis of Impacts on Prime and Unique Farmland CEQ Memorandum, 11 Aug 80)	Full compliance
Corps of Engineers Planning Guidance Handbook (ER 1105-2-100)	Full compliance
EO 13112, Invasive Species	Full compliance

¹ Full compliance - Having met all requirements of the statute for the current stage of planning.
Not applicable - No requirements for the statute required.

This Project does not authorize or carry out any actions that are likely to promote invasive species proliferation. Any subsequent occurrence of any invasive species in the Project area should not solely be the result of the implementation of this Project. This Project is in full compliance.

1. Community and Regional Growth. Due to the rural character of the area and a lack of a residential community, no impacts to community cohesion are anticipated because of the Project.

2. Community Cohesion. The nearby parks and surrounding neighborhoods have a rich community connection and identity. The land disposal would not impact this.

3. Property Values and Tax Revenues. The Project site is located on federally- and privately-managed lands. Tax revenues would not be impacted since land ownership would change not change from public to private ownership. The tax base would not change and therefore not affect tax revenues.

4. Public Facilities and Services. Overall, the proposed Project would positively enhance public facilities and services by perpetuating recreation and natural resources management opportunities. Project objectives are to provide quality facilities the public can depend on. The Project would provide reliability and capacity needed for future growth.

5. Life, Health, and Safety. The District's goal for this Project is to transfer the 197 acres of federally-managed land to county-management. There would be no impact to life, health, and safety circumstances.

6. Employment and Labor Force. There would be no long-term significant impacts to employment or labor force in the surrounding counties resulting from the land disposal.

7. Business and Industrial Growth. The proposed alternatives should not change in business and industrial activity. No business relocations are required.

8. Farm Displacement. No farm or farmsteads would be affected by the Project.

9. Recreation. The Project alternatives would not impact recreation.

V. Reasonably Foreseeable Effects (Previously "Indirect Effects" and "Cumulative Impacts" Sections). Since this is an administrative action, there are limited foreseeable consequences. The 197 acres will continue to be in public ownership and the possible of land use changes and commercial development would not occur. Urban sprawl and increase recreation use will eventually have possible impacts to the natural setting.

W. Summary of the Environmental Consequences of the Preferred Alternative. Table EA-5 summarizes the Preferred Alternative's environmental consequences.

*Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal
Environmental Assessment*

Table EA-5: Summary of the Potential Effects of the Preferred Alternative

	Insignificant Effects	Insignificant Effects as a Result of Mitigation	Resource Unaffected By Action	Positive Effects
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Resources/Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered Species/Critical Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal Trust Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Historic Properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, Toxic & Radioactive Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise Levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Parks, Conservation Areas, and Other Areas of Recreational, Ecological, Scenic, or Aesthetic Importance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IV. AGENCY COORDINATION AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Public Involvement. The District has not conducted public involvement to date.

The District will post this EA on its Civil Works website for a 30-day public comment period. The website address is: <http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/About/Offices/Programs-and-Project-Management/Civil-Works-Public-Notices/>.

B. Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups. In a letter dated May 29, 2019, the District coordinated with the following agencies and organizations to seek the agencies' alternative technical concerns, and knowledge of local natural resources:

*Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal
Environmental Assessment*

Story County, Iowa
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

The District did not receive any replies to this letter.

In a letter dated April 8, 2022 (Appendix A, *Pertinent Coordination*), the District sent the following tribes and state historic preservation offices a letter stating the proposed Project would not have impacts to tribal trust resources or historic properties:

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Forest County Potawatomi Community
Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
Ho-Chunk Nation
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Lower Sioux Indian Community
Meskwaki Nation
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Osage Nation
Otoe-Missouria Tribe
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Nation
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Prairie Island Indian Community
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Spirit Lake Tribe
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Yankton Sioux Tribe

Iowa State Historic Preservation Office
Office of the State Archaeologist

Appendix A, *Pertinent Coordination*, contains the agency and tribal coordination received to date.

The EA's distribution list is found in Appendix B.

V. SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The District is proposing to transfer all parcels, approximately 197-acres, of the de-authorized Ames Lake Flood Control Project, Story County, Iowa, to Story County, in accordance with Section 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law (PL) 110-161.

Since PL 110-61 requires the District to dispose of the land to Story County, no other alternatives were considered other than the No Action Alternative. Since Story County is currently managing the lands for recreation and natural resource management, and their mission dictates they would maintain their current land management practices, there would be no significant impacts with the land disposal.

The recommendations contained herein reflect the information available at this time and current Departmental policies governing formulation of individual projects. They do not reflect 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 they are transmitted to the Congress as proposals for authorization and implementation funding.

Other reasons the District made a no significant impact determination include:

- The District's land disposal to Story County would ensure public ownership and the positive environmental effects with their land management practices in perpetuity.
- The Project would not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, and residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The Project would not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The Project would not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any state- or federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or dredging phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.

*Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal
Environmental Assessment*

- The Project would not affect significant cultural resources. If any significant sites are found during the work phases, additional studies may be required.
- The Project would not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The Project would not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- The Project would not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed Project (567 IAC 23.3(2)(c)).
- The Project would not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- Any potential adverse environmental effects from dredging activities would be minimized by proper dredging practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the proposed work would be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the Project would be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District) conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The District's Environmental Assessment (EA) dated May 2022 for the *Ames Lake Flood Control Project Disposal* addresses the District's land disposal requirement to Story County, Iowa.

The Final EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated the following alternatives in the Project area.

Alternative 1. No Action. Under the No Action Alternative, the District would not complete the land disposal to the Story County Conservation. While the No Action Alternative is not viable due to the authorized requirement to dispose the land, the District used this alternative as a baseline condition to compare all the other alternatives.

Alternative 2. Dispose of Federally-managed Lands to the Story County. Under this alternative, the District would dispose all parcels, approximately 197-acres, of the de-authorized Ames Lake Flood Control Project, Story County, Iowa. This activity would be administrative in nature. No land disturbance or change inland use would take place as a result of the land dispose.

SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. Table 1 summarizes the potential effects of the preferred alternative.

The Recommended Plan does not require compensatory mitigation.

The District conducted a public review for the Draft EA and responded to all comments submitted during the public review period. The public comments and the District's responses are located in the Final EA, Section 5.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Preferred Alternative

	Insignificant Effects	Insignificant Effects as a Result of Mitigation	Resource Unaffected By Action	Positive Effects
Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic Resources/Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive Species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and Wildlife Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered Species/Critical Habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Historic Properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, Toxic & Radioactive Waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Noise Levels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-Economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Parks, Conservation Areas, and Other Areas of Recreational, Ecological, Scenic, or Aesthetic Importance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Climate Change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

A. Endangered Species Act. Pursuant to Endangered Species Act of 1973, Section 7, as amended, the District determined the Recommended Plan will have No Effect on federally-listed species or their designated critical habitat.

B. National Historic Preservation Act. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the District determined the Recommended Plan will have No Adverse Effect to historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b).

C. Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Compliance. Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the District found the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the Recommended Plan is compliant with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR § 230). Appendix B contains the District’s Section 404(b)1 evaluation.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed. Based on Site 24's upland location and preexisting containment berms, the Project does not require an Iowa Sovereign Lands Permit or a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit.

FINDING

The District used technical environmental criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 *Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies*. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation

The District determined the Recommended Plan meets the objectives of providing navigation channel operation and dredged material placement. The other alternatives do not meet the District's objectives or would have environmentally unacceptable impacts.

I have reviewed the information provided in the accompanying environmental assessment, along with data obtained from cooperating Federal, state, and local agencies, and from the interested public. Based on this review, I find the proposed Project would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, it is my determination an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The District would re-evaluate this determination if warranted by later developments.

Date

Jesse T. Curry,
Colonel, US Army
Commander & District Engineer

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**APPENDIX A
PERTINENT COORDINATION**



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS – ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - PO BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

June 3, 2019

Regional Planning and Environmental
Division North (RPEDN)

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District), is proposing to transfer all parcels, approximately 197-acres, of the de-authorized Ames Lake Flood Control Project, Story County, Iowa (Enclosure 1 and 2) to Story County, in accordance with Section 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law (PL) 110-161. The District is preparing an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential effects resulting from the transfer.

The Skunk River Reservoir, Ames Lake Flood Control Project, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965. Limited pre-construction Project planning was performed during the time period of 1965 through 1973. In June 1974, the Project was placed in an “inactive” status due to expressed opposition from the State of Iowa. In March 1984, the Project was reactivated as a result of renewed Congressional and local interest. After reactivation, there was additional opposition expressed by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Project was once again reclassified to “inactive” in September 1987. The Project was eventually de-authorized on April 16, 2002, in accordance with Section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended.

Prior to de-authorization, the Federal Government acquired approximately 197 acres of fee title land for the Project. Much of the Project acreage is currently leased to adjacent landowners for agricultural purposes. On December 26, 2007, Section 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law (PL) 110-161, was signed into law and stated:

“Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers shall convey to Story County, Iowa, without consideration, all rights, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of real property including any improvements thereon, consisting of approximately 197 acres originally proposed for the Skunk River Reservoir, located between Ames, Iowa, and Story City, Iowa.”

Despite de-authorization and Congressional direction to convey the land to Story County, funding has never been appropriated to allow for the Corps to effect the transfer.

The District determined this project does not meet the criteria to be categorically excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (33 CFR Part 230.9, therefore an environmental assessment will be completed to address potential impacts. The EA will also assess the applicability of other Federal law (i.e., the Endangered Species Act; the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; the National Historic Preservation Act; the Clean Water Act, etc.).

-2-

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website, species that may be present at the Ames Lake Project include: Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, prairie bush-clover, and western prairie fringed orchid. No critical habitats are at this location. IPaC consultation number: 03E18000-2019-SLI-1063.

While agency comments are not required, you may provide comments on this project with respect to concerns or anticipated effects on any resources within your agency's jurisdictional oversight. Please provide your comments within 30 days of the date of letter.

If you have any questions or would like to request additional information, please call Ms. Breann Popkin of our Environmental Compliance Branch, telephone 309/794-5817, email: Breann.K.Popkin@usace.army.mil, or write to our address, ATTN: Regional Planning and Environmental Division North (Breann Popkin).

Sincerely,

Jodi K. Creswell
Chief, Environmental Planning Branch (RPEDN)

DISTRIBUTION LIST

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Attn: Kraig McPeck
1511 47th Avenue
Moline IL 61265

Story County
Board of Supervisors
900 Sixth St.
Nevada, IA 50201

Story County
County Engineer, Darren Moon
837 N Avenue
Nevada, IA 50201

Story County Conservation Board
Director, Mike Cox
56461 180th St.
Ames, IA 50010

Iowa DNR
District Forester, Joe Herring
524 Lawler St.
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

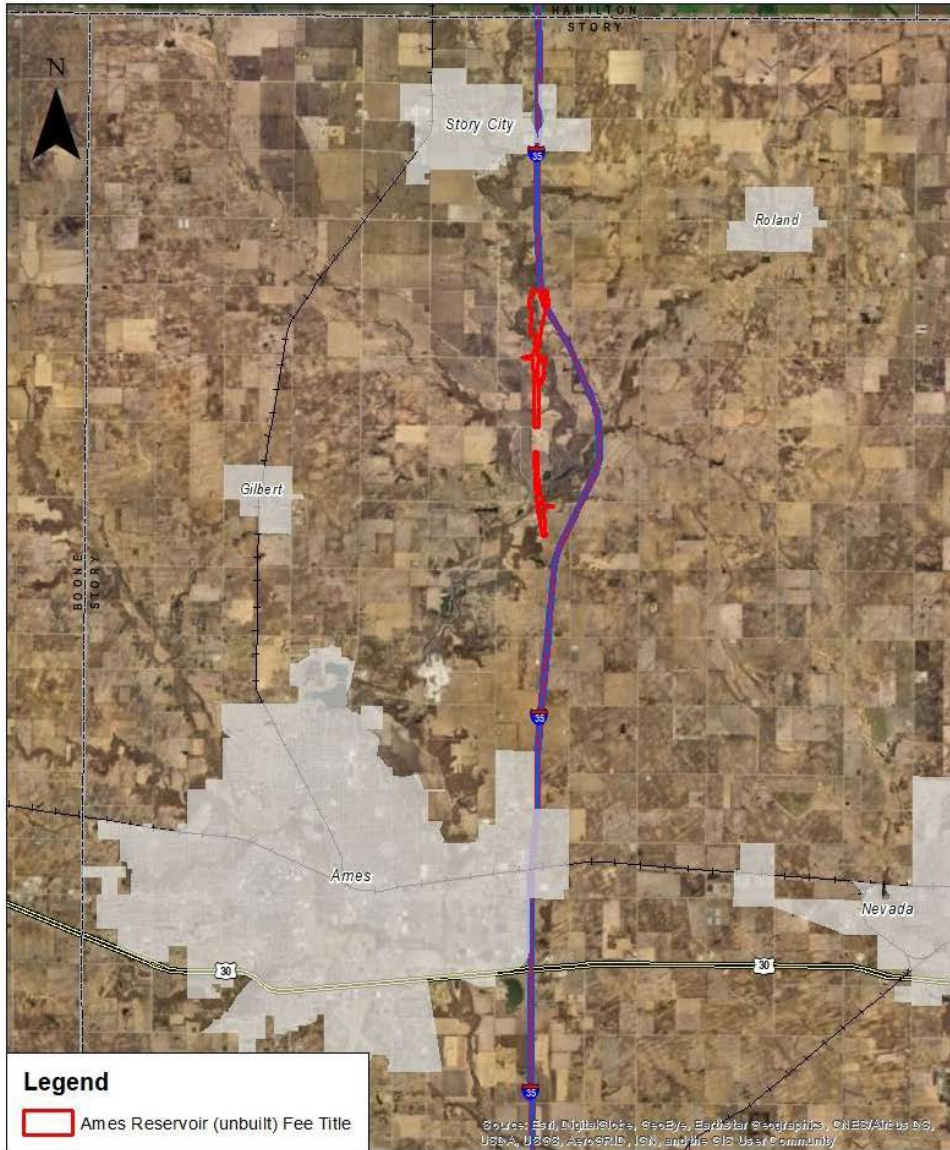
Iowa DNR
Environmental Specialist, Seth Moore
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319

US EPA Region 5
NEPA Implementation Section
Metcalf Building
77 West Jackson Blvd. Mailcode: E-19J
Chicago, IL 60604

Enclosure 1



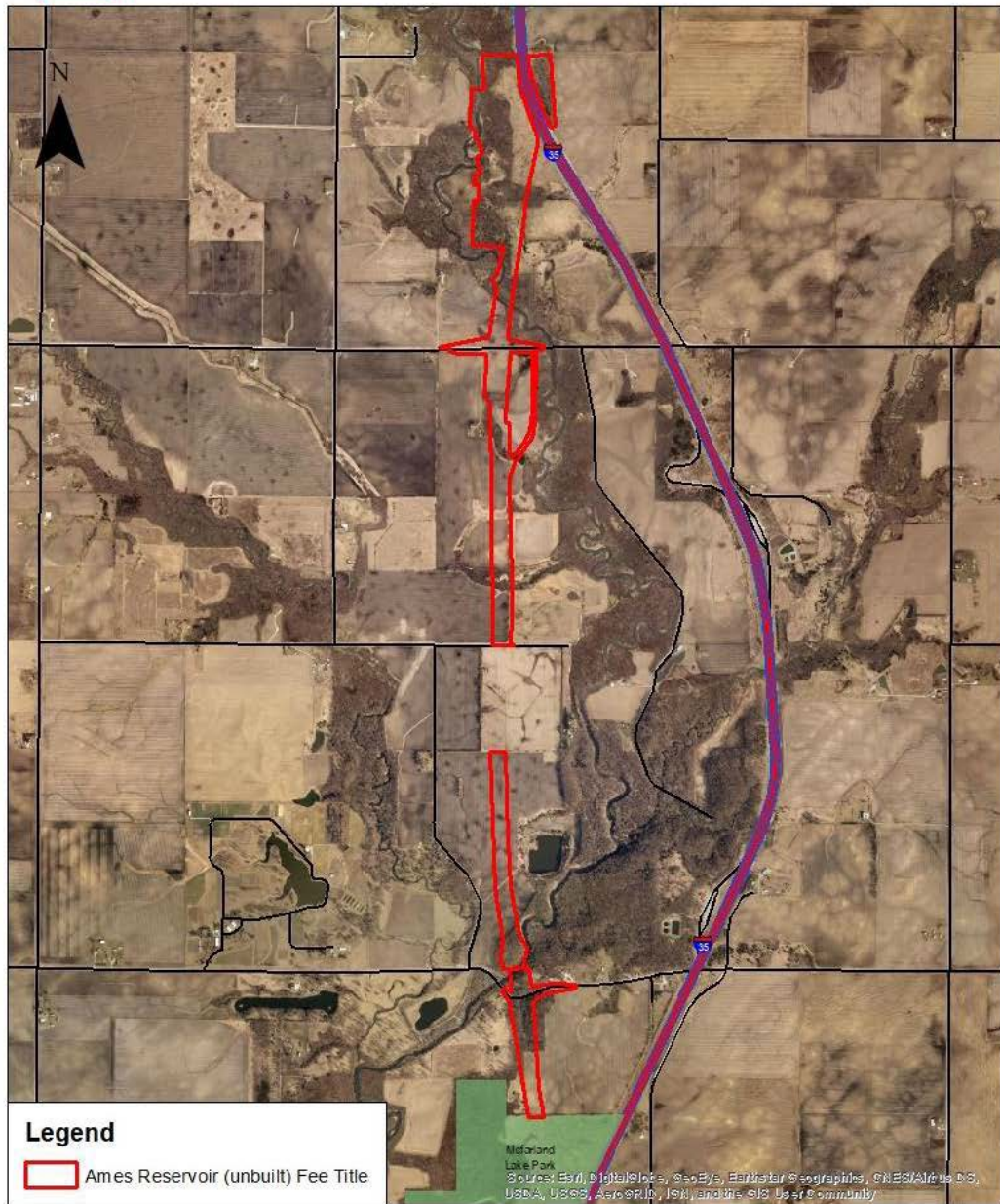
AMES LAKE PROJECT



Enclosure 2



AMES LAKE PROJECT





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office
1511 47th Ave
Moline, IL 61265-7022
Phone: (309) 757-5800 Fax: (309) 757-5807



In Reply Refer To:

March 28, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0024853

Project Name: AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))

(c). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php>.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see <https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php>.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Wetlands

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Illinois-Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

Illinois & Iowa Ecological Services Field Office

1511 47th Ave

Moline, IL 61265-7022

(309) 757-5800

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0024853

Event Code: None

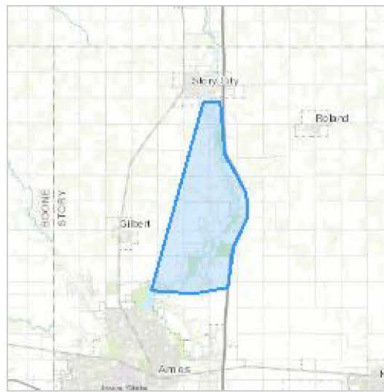
Project Name: AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

Project Type: Land Exchange

Project Description: The USACE, Rock Island District is proposing to dispose all Federally-managed land parcels, approximately 197-acres, of the de-authorized Ames Lake Flood Control Project, Story County, Iowa to Story County, in accordance with Section 133 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, Public Law (PL) 110-161.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@42.124717000000004,-93.57986479065697,14z>



Counties: Story County, Iowa

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 5 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Prairie Bush-clover <i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4458	Threatened
Western Prairie Fringed Orchid <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1669	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Lands And Fish Hatcheries

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS OR FISH HATCHERIES WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA.

Wetlands

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

WETLAND INFORMATION WAS NOT AVAILABLE WHEN THIS SPECIES LIST WAS GENERATED.
PLEASE VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.FWS.GOV/WETLANDS/DATA/MAPPER.HTML](https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html) OR CONTACT THE FIELD OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

IPaC User Contact Information

Agency: Army Corps of Engineers
Name: Joe Jordan
Address: Clock Tower Building
Address Line 2: PO Box 2004
City: Rock Island
State: IL
Zip: 61204-2004
Email: joseph.w.jordan@usace.army.mil
Phone: 3097945791



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS - ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT
CLOCK TOWER BUILDING - PO BOX 2004
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

April 8, 2022

Regional Planning and Environmental
Division North (RPEDN)

SEE DISTRIBUTION LIST

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District), is currently proposing disposal of the Ames Lake Flood Control Project (Project) located five miles northeast of the city of Ames in Story County, Iowa (Enclosure 1). The Project area is approximately 197 acres in size and extends north-south through the center of Sections 30 and 31 of Township 85N, Range 23W, Franklin Township, and the center of Section 6 and the NE 1/4 of Section 7 of Township 84N, R23W, Milford Township, all in northwestern Story County, Iowa (Enclosure 2). The Project area is confined to District fee title lands and will impact approximately 197 acres as identified in Enclosures 1 and 2.

The Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965. The State of Iowa expressed opposition to the Project and it was placed on inactive status in June 1974. In February 1984, the City of Ames, Iowa, requested reactivation of the Project. A scaled-down version of the Project was developed; which version was not supported by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources or the City of Ames, Iowa. The Project was again reclassified as inactive in 1987 and officially deauthorized in April 2002 in accordance with Section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662, as amended). The fee land was legislatively mandated by Congress for disposal to Story County, Iowa, per House Report 110-497 (PL 110-161) in December 2007; however, no funding to complete the disposal was authorized by Congress. In October 2017, Story County entered into an MOU with the Department of the Army and provided funding for the conveyance of all Government-owned fee land associated with the Project, allowing the disposal process to proceed.

Federal Undertaking

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, the District has determined that disposal of federal property has potential to cause effects to historic properties [36 CFR 800.3(a)(1)] and as a consequence will require a determination of effect within the Area of Potential Effect.

Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the footprint of proposed disposal of the Project and totals approximately 197 acres (Enclosures 1 and 2). The main impacts will be the removal of the property from federal ownership and protection pursuant to the NHPA and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

Consulting Parties

The District finds the organizations identified on the Distribution List are entitled to be consulting parties, as set out in 36 CFR 800.2, and invites them by copy of this letter to participate in the Section 106 process.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) Invitation

The District invites the SHPO to:

- identify any other consulting parties as per 36 CFR 800.3(f);
- comment as per 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3) on the District's plan to involve the public by utilizing the District' normal procedures for public involvement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and,
- comment on or contribute to identification efforts including definition of the APE, all as per 36 CFR 800.4(a-b).

Identification of Historic Properties

Review of Existing Information and Level of Future Identification Efforts: The District queried the most updated Iowa Geographic Information Systems site file database as of 2019 and identified ten previously recorded sites within the project area APE. The location had been surveyed previously in the early 1970s by the Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory (Gradwohl 1972) with a small portion of the project area surveyed again 2012 (Thompson 2012).

The District determined that additional field investigation and assessment were needed in order to determine the effect of the present undertaking on both known and unknown cultural resources. Story County Conservation Board (SCC) commissioned Wapsi Valley Archaeology (WVA) to conduct Phase I archeological assessment of the APE. The results of the investigation are documented in the report entitled *Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey and Geomorphological Assessment for the Ames Lake RE Disposal Property, Story County, Iowa, Wapsi Valley Archaeology Report No. 1130* prepared by Nurit G Finn and Michael R. Finn of WVA (Enclosure 3).

The results of the investigation with WVA management recommendations are summarized in Enclosure 4. WVA conducted intensive Phase I archeological survey with supporting geomorphological assessment over the entire 197-acre APE. They documented a total of 23 archeological sites within the Project APE, including a combination of 13 newly recorded archeological sites in addition to the 10 previously recorded sites. Three of the ten previously recorded sites, Sites 13SR52, 13SR54, and 13SR71, were not relocated by the WVA investigation. WVA speculated that the first two sites were not relocated due to the low density of the original recorded remains. The third site, Site 13SR71, was originally documented on a

South Skunk River bank exposure that no longer exists and it is WVA's assessment that the site had been destroyed by river erosion. No additional archeological investigation is recommended for the three mapped site locations. The District concurs with these findings.

The investigation reported on ten archeological sites that are recommended ineligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The recommendation is based on disturbed context and low research potential. The sites include 13SR55, 13SR246, 13SR372, 13SR373, 13SR374, 13SR375, 13SR380, 13SR381, 13SR382, and 13SR383. The District concurs with the WVA assessment of these sites.

The WVA investigation recommended avoidance of adverse effects or additional NRHP archaeological evaluation of the remaining sites including 13SR88, 13SR118, 13SR119, 13SR131, 13SR245, 13SR371, 13SR376, 13SR377, 13SR378, and 13SR379. These site types include prehistoric sites, multicomponent sites, historic farmsteads, and a potential historic district consisting of historic bridge remains, quarries, and residences that may all be linked to 13SR118, the Soper's Mill and Dam (SMD). It should be noted that SMD is located outside of the proposed disposal boundaries but within SCC management. WVA has recommended avoidance of adverse effects to all potential NRHP eligible properties through implementation of a 50-foot buffer around these properties that would prevent future ground disturbance activities and allow for annual monitoring of impacts. The District concurs with these measures.

The SCC and the Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) executed a deed of conservation easement that provides for protection of these resources in perpetuity (Enclosure 5). The deed identifies the ten properties that are potentially eligible for inclusion on the NHRP and incorporates a 50-foot buffer in their zone of protection. The deed also provides for annual monitoring of the sites by the OSA. The District has reviewed the conservation easement and has determined that the stipulations will ensure preservation of the subject resources and mitigate potential adverse effects associated with the removal from federal ownership.

Determination of Effect

The District has determined that the disposition of the Project to the SCC will result in No Adverse Effect to historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(b). Potential adverse effects associated with the removal from federal ownership are mitigated through execution of the conservation easement as defined in Enclosure 5.

Request for Information from Consulting Parties

The District is seeking information from all consulting parties regarding their concerns with issues relating to the potential effects of this undertaking on historic properties and, particularly, the tribes' concerns with identifying properties that may be of religious and cultural significance

to them and may be eligible for the NRHP [36 CFR 800.4(a)(3-4)]. Concerns about confidentiality [36 CFR 800.11(c)] regarding locations of properties can be addressed under Section 304 of the NHPA which provides withholding from public disclosure the location of properties under several circumstances, including in cases where it would cause a significant invasion of privacy, impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners, endanger the site, etc.

The District requests your written comments on this project within 30 days, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.3(c)(4). Results of all consultation and determination shall be included in the Environmental Assessment for additional public review this year.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call Mr. Joe Jordan of our Environmental Compliance Branch, (309) 794-5791, or write to our address above, ATTN: Environmental Compliance Branch (Joe Jordan).

Sincerely,

**Steven J.
Clark**

Digitally signed by Steven
J. Clark
Date: 2022.04.08 14:22:36
-05'00'

Steven J. Clark
Acting Chief, Environmental
Planning Branch RPEDN

Enclosures

References Cited.

Finn, Nurit G. and Michael R. Finn

2020 *Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey and Geomorphological Assessment for the Ames Lake RE Disposal Property, Story County, Iowa. Wapsi Valley Archaeology Report No. 1130.* Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc., 126 E. Main Street, Anamosa, Iowa.

Gradwohl, David M. and Nancy M. Osborn

1972 *Stalking the Skunk: A Preliminary Survey and Appraisal of Archaeological Resources in the Ames Reservoir, Iowa.* Papers in Anthropology No. 1 Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa.

Thompson, Joe B.

2012 *Phase IA, Phase I Reconnaissance, and Phase I Intensive Archeological Investigations for 57 Segments of Overhead Electrical Lines within Boone, Calhoun, Dallas, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Polk, Story, and Webster Counties, Iowa. BCA 1926.* Bear Creek Archeology, P.O. Box 347, 24091 Electric Avenue, Cresco, IA.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

Mr. Steve Vance, THPO
PO Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

Dr. Kelli Mosteller, THPO
1601 S Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee OK 74801

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

Mr. Darrell Zephier, THPO
PO Box 50
Ft. Thompson, SD 57339

Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe

Mr. Garrie KILLSAHUNDRED, THPO
PO Box 283
Flandreau, SD 57028

Forest County Potawatomi Community

Mr. Michael LaRonge, THPO
5320 Wensaut Ln.
P.O. Box 340
Crandon, WI 54520

Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

Mr. Darrell Youpee, THPO
501 Medicine Bear Road
PO Box 1027
Poplar, MT 58255

Ho-Chunk Nation

Mr. Bill Quackenbush, THPO
PO Box 667
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska

Mr. Lance Foster, THPO
3345 B Thrasher Rd.
White Cloud, KS 66094

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

Mr. Eagle McClellan, Cultural Preservation
Director
335588 E. 750 Rd.
Perkins, OK 74059

Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas

Mr. Curtis Simon, NAGPRA Director
1107 Goldfinch Rd
Horton, KS 66439

Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Mr. Kent Collier, NAGPRA Coordinator
PO Box 70
McLoud, OK 74851

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

Mr. Brian Molineaux, Archeologist
PO Box 187
Lower Brule, SD 57548

Lower Sioux Indian Community

Ms. Cheyanne St. John, THPO
339527 Res. Highway 1
Morton, MN 56270

Meskwaki Nation

Mr. Johnathan Buffalo
Director, Historic Preservation Department
303 Meskwaki Road
Tama, IA 52339

Oglala Sioux Tribe

Ms. Trina Lone Hill, THPO
PO Box 129
Kyle, SD 57752

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska

Mr. Thomas Parker, THPO
PO Box 368
Macy, NE 68039

Osage Nation

Dr. Andrea A. Hunter, THPO
627 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Otoe-Missouria Tribe

Ms. Elsie Whitehorn, THPO
8151 Hwy 177
Red Rock OK 74651

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Mr. Shannon Wright, Jr., THPO
PO Box 288
Niabrara, NE 68760

Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
Ms. Halona Cabe, THPO
20 White Eagle Dr.
Ponca City, OK 74601

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Ms. Hattie Mitchell, NAGPRA Representative
16281 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

Prairie Island Indian Community
Mr. Noah White, THPO
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

Rosebud Sioux Tribe
Mr. Russell Eagle Bear, THPO
PO Box 809
Rosebud, SD 75770

**Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas
and Nebraska**
The Honorable Tiauna Carnes
305 North Main Street
Reserve, KS 66434

Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Historic Preservation Department
P.O. Box 230
Drumright, OK 74030

Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
Mr. Duane Whipple THPO
108 Spirit Lake Avenue West
Niobara, NE 68760

Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Ms. Dianne Desrosiers, THPO
P.O. Box 907
Sisseton, SD 57262

**Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of
Minnesota**
Mr. Leonard Wabasha, Director, Cultural
Resources Dept.
2330 Sioux Trail NW
Prior Lake, MN 55372

Spirit Lake Tribe
Dr. Erich Longie, THPO
PO Box 359
Fort Totten, ND 58335

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Mr. Jon Eagle, THPO
Administrative Service Center
North Standing Rock Ave.
Ft. Yates, ND 58538

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Mr. Randy Teboe, THPO
PO Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071

Yankton Sioux Tribe
Mr. Kip Spotted Eagle, THPO
P.O. Box 1153
Wagner, SD 57380

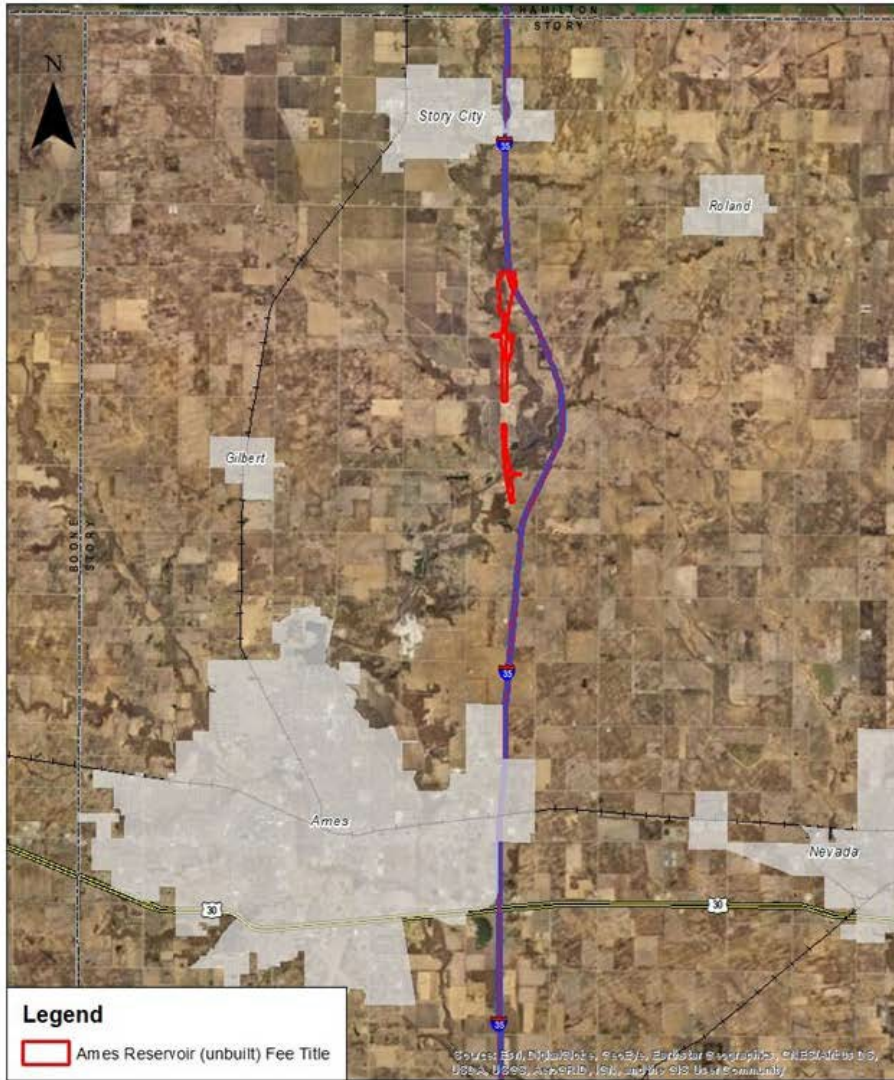
Iowa State Historic Preservation Office
Ms. Heather Gibb
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer
600 E. Locust
Des Moines, IA 50319-0290

Office of the State Archaeologist
Dr. John Doershuk
700 CLSB
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242

Story County Conservation Board
Director, Mike Cox
56461 180th St.
Ames, IA 50010



AMES LAKE PROJECT



Enclosure 11. General Project Location (1 of 2).

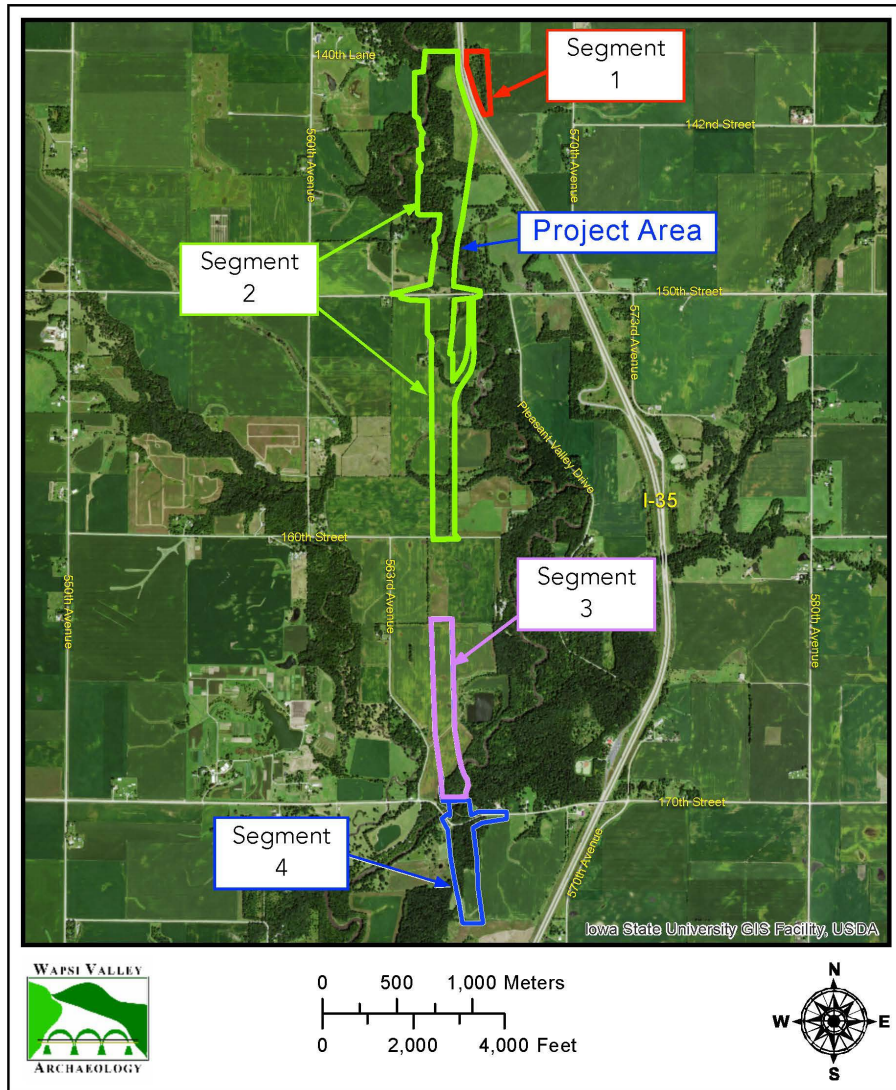


Figure 3. 2015 orthophotograph showing locations of work segments. Source: ISU GIS Facility (2020).



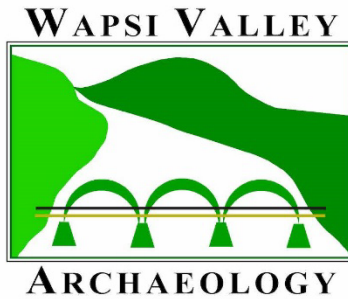
Figure 1. Map showing Story County, Iowa, and the general location of the project area. Source: National Geographic (2009).

Table 1. Legal Location of the Project Area.

Section	Aliquot	Township	Range	Township Name	Quad
30	E 1/2 of W 1/2 W 1/2 of E 1/2	85N	23W	Howard Township	Story City
31	W 1/4 of SE 1/4 W 1/4 of NE 1/4 NE 1/4 of NW 1/4	85N	23W	Howard Township	Story City
6	SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 W 1/2 of SE 1/4	84N	23W	Milford Township	Ames East
7	W 1/2 of NE 1/4	84N	23W	Milford Township	Ames East

Enclosure 2. Topographic Location and Legal Description of Project Area (2 of 2).

Confidential



**Phase I Intensive Archaeological Survey and
Geomorphological Assessment for the
Ames Lake RE Disposal Property, Story County, Iowa**

*Wapsi Valley Archaeology
Report No. 1130*

**Prepared for:
Story County Conservation Board
Story County, Iowa**

By Nurit G. Finn and Michael R. Finn, Principal Investigators

Wapsi Valley Archaeology, Inc.
126 E. Main Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
(319) 462-4760

August 2020

Enclosure 3. WVA Report Provided Under Separate Cover to SHPO (341 pages).

AMES LAKE FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT DISPOSAL

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**APPENDIX B
DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Note: The District sent a Press Release to media outlets throughout the Project Area.

LEGISLATIVE

Federal

Charles Grassley	US Senator for Iowa
Joni Ernst	US Senator for Iowa
Randy Feenstra	US Representative, Iowa 4th District

Iowa

Kim Reynolds	Governor of the State of Iowa
Herman C. Quirnbach	Senator Iowa Senate District 23
Jesse Green	Senator Iowa Senate District 24
Annette Sweeney	Senator Iowa Senate District 25
Beth Wessel-Kroeschell	Representative District 45
Robert P. Bacon	Representative District 48
Dave Deyoe	Representative District 49

SHPO/TRIBES

Mr. Steve Vance, THPO	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Dr. Kelli Mosteller, THPO	Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Merle Marks, THPO	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe
Mr. Garrie KILLSAHUNDRED	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe
Mr. Michael LaRonge, THPO	Forest County Potawatomi Community
Mr. Darrell Youpee, Director	Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes
Mr. Bill Quackenbush, THPO	Ho-Chunk Nation
Mr. Lance Foster, THPO	Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
Mr. Eagle McClellan	Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
Chairman Lester Randall	Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
Mr. Darwin Kaskaske, Chairman	Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Mr. Brian Molineaux, Archeologist	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Ms. Cheyanne St. John, THPO	Lower Sioux Indian Community
Mr. Johnathan Buffalo	Meskwaki Nation
Kelly Schott	Meskwaki Nation
Ms. Trina Lone Hill, THPO	Oglala Sioux Tribe
Mr. Thomas Parker, THPO	Omaha Tribe of Nebraska
Dr. Andrea A. Hunter, THPO	Osage Nation
Ms. Elsie Whitehorn, THPO	Otoe-Missouria Tribe
Mr. Nicholas Mauro, THPO	Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Ms. Liana Hesler, THPO	Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma
Ms. Hattie Mitchell, NAGPRA Representative	Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

Mr. Noah White, THPO	Prairie Island Indian Community
Mr. Ben Rhodd, THPO	Rosebud Sioux Tribe
The Honorable Tiauna Carnes	Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska
Mr. Chris Boyd, NAGPRA Coordinator	Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Ms. Misty Frasier, THPO	Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska
Ms. Dianne Desrosiers, THPO	Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Mr. Leonard Wabasha, Dir, Cult Res Dept	Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of Minnesota
Susie Fox, Interim THPO	Spirit Lake Tribe
Mr. Jon Eagle, THPO	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Ms. Sunshine Thomas-Bear, THPO	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Mr. Kip Spotted Eagle, THPO	Yankton Sioux Tribe
Ms. Heather Gibb	Iowa State Historic Preservation Office
Dr. John Doershuk	Office of the State Archaeologist

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Joe Summerlin	NEPA Implementation Section USEPA Region 7
Joshua Tapp	NEPA Implementation Section USEPA Region 7
Jon Hubbert	State Conservationist, USDA NRCS Iowa
Doug Ruopp	District Conservationist, USDA Nevada, IA
Kraig McPeek	Project Director, Illinois Iowa Field Office, USFWS

STATE AGENCIES

Iowa	
Ms. Kayla Lyon	Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Chris Larson	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Dale Garner	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Joe Larscheid	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Poole	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Seth Moore	Iowa Department of Natural Resources

COUNTY

Mike Cox	Director, Story County Conservation
Latifah Faisal	Chair, Story County Board of Supervisors
Darla Ingham	Administrative Assistant, Story County Board of Supervisors
Darren Moon	Story County Engineer
Craig Meyers	Chair, Story County Conservation Board