



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

## PROJECT FACT SHEET

### Big Timber Forest Restoration

Upper Mississippi River, Pool 17, River Miles 439-437

Louisa County, Iowa

Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program, Rock Island District

#### Location.



The Big Timber Division is located 2 miles south of Muscatine, Iowa in Pool 17, along the right descending bank at approximate river miles 439-437. The 1,758-acre unit is not protected by a levee and is open to the fluctuations along the Mississippi River.

**Land Ownership.** The Big Timber Division is located within the floodplain of the Mississippi River on USACE fee title land that is outgranted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and managed as part of the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge.

**Resource Problem.** Most trees within the area were lost as a result of 2019 extended high water. Sedimentation has degraded backwater habitat areas and there is now little or no aquatic vegetation present. Although construction of the Big Timber Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project was completed in 1994, numerous flood events – especially the 2019 extended high water event – have resulted in changed habitat conditions in the project area that necessitate the need for additional restoration actions.

**NESP Project Type.** The project could consist of the following NESP project types: floodplain restoration and backwater restoration.

**Project Objective.** The primary project focus would be forestry restoration, including increasing

topographic diversity, with a secondary benefit of aquatic habitat restoration.

**Potential Measures.** The following are potential measures that could be combined into an implementable alternative that may be in the federal interest, address the identified problems, and achieve project objectives. As part of the feasibility study, a full range of measures and alternative formulation strategies would be developed and evaluated.

- Dredge backwater areas
- Construct pronounced ridges
- Plant trees or vegetation

**Implementation Considerations.** The project was endorsed by the River Resources Coordinating Team on August 3, 2021.

**Financial Information (Estimate).** The estimated Total Project Cost is approximately \$5M. Project features would require minimal operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. The project is located on Corps' fee title Federal lands (out-granted to the Illinois DNR); therefore, the construction of this project would be 100% Federal and does not require a cost-share sponsor.