



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET**

**Tarr Tract**

Upper Mississippi River, Pool 13, River Mile 549

Jackson County, Iowa

Navigation Ecosystem Sustainability Program, Rock Island District

**Location.**



This 460 acre floodplain wetland lies at the confluence of the Maquoketa River with the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) near UMR River Mile 549.0, 8 miles south of the city of Bellevue, IA.

**Land Ownership.** The proposed work would occur on federal lands owned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Resource Problem.** Within the identified project area of interest, there is a mix of bottomland habitats that are currently present, including a historic oxbow channel of the Maquoketa River. Currently the project area is enclosed within a levee except for a large break near the northeast portion of the unit that allows the passage of water in and out. The major factor influencing habitat conditions is hydrology. In its current state the unit is subject to periodic flooding and drying and affected by the current hydrograph of the Mississippi River.

**NESP Project Type.** The project could consist of the following NESP project types: floodplain restoration, water level management, spillway, dam and levee modification to benefit the environment.

**Project Objective.** The project seeks to improve and restore wetland habitat within the unit and restore a natural hydrograph through water level

manipulation to restore a natural fluctuation of flooding and water level drawdown. With the opportunity to better manipulate water levels within the unit, it will provide the refuge better management capabilities to improve habitat conditions for a variety of wetland species.

**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.

- Install spillways
- Construct water control structures
- Excavate shallow areas including moist soil units and connect old oxbow
- Excavate channels in backwater lake and sloughs
- Construct land and aquatic deflection berms
- Plant hard mast trees on land berms

**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 \$10M. Project features would require minimal operation and maintenance costs. The project is located on Federal lands; therefore, the construction of this project would be 100% Federal. The US Fish and Wildlife Service would be responsible for all O&M costs.