

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT FOR THE MAUMELLE RIVER AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION FEASIBILITY STUDY  
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District (Corps) and the non-federal sponsor, Central Arkansas Water have conducted an environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended for the proposed Maumelle River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project (Project) in Pulaski County, Arkansas. The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) dated February 2022 identifies the potential environmental effects of the Project. The final recommendation will be contained and made publicly available in the final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) for the Maumelle River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Study later in 2022.

The proposed Project, identified as the National Ecosystem Restoration Plan, entails removal of two low water dams, notching of an existing earthen levee, and approximately 140 acres of bottomland hardwood forest plantings. The proposed Project will reconnect the Maumelle River and side channel habitat to restore more natural river flow regimes, increase backwater wetlands, increase connectivity for numerous aquatic species between the up and downstream reaches, and return current sod farms back to bottomland hardwood forests.

The draft IFR/EA for the Project, incorporated herein by reference, evaluated two alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, that would address degraded aquatic ecosystems by restoring aquatic habitats to more natural conditions. Section 2.0 of the IFR/EA discusses the alternative formulation and selection. The proposed Project includes coordination with the public, agencies, and Tribes to comply with the Corps regulations among other laws, policy, and guidance.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Project are listed in Table 1:

**Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action**

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Insignificant effects</b>	<b>Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*</b>	<b>Resource unaffected by action</b>
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Insignificant effects</b>	<b>Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*</b>	<b>Resource unaffected by action</b>
Invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been analyzed and incorporated into the Proposed Project. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the draft IFR/EA will be implemented to minimize impacts.

Public review of the proposed Project, draft IFR/EA, and FONSI will be completed on March 24, 2022. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the final IFR/EA.

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that the Proposed Project will have no effect on federally listed species or their designated critical habitat.

Pursuant to Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the proposed Project will be reviewed by Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality for compliance with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230).

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act has been obtained from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that historic properties may be adversely affected by the recommended plan. The Corps and the Muscogee Nation, the Osage Nation, the Quapaw Nation, Central Arkansas Water, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, entered into a Programmatic Agreement (PA), dated July 1, 2021. All terms and conditions resulting from the agreement shall be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to historic properties.

All applicable environmental laws were considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials has been completed.

All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on the draft IFR/EA conducted by the Corps and the non-federal sponsor, and the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the proposed Project would not cause significant adverse impacts on the quality of the human environment, therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Date

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Eric M. Noe, PMP  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander