

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Lower Osage River Basin Feasibly Study**

**by Agency: Missouri Department of Natural Resources**

**Locations: MO**

**Date Submitted: 08/17/2018**

**Confirmation Number: 62cc88f7-ad29-4e44-a509-f642c62a3e07**

*Supporting Documents*

<b>File Name</b>	<b>Date Uploaded</b>
MDNR Osage Letter of support.pdf	08/17/2018
Lower Osage area map.pdf	08/17/2018
Representative Luetkemeyer Letter of Support .pdf	08/17/2018
FWS Letter of Support.pdf	08/17/2018
Farm Bureau lowerosageproject.pdf	08/17/2018
Osage Floodway - Luebbering.pdf	08/17/2018

*2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.*

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Missouri Department of Natural Resources(Primary)	The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would be the non-federal sponsor for the propose Lower Osage Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.

*3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.*

[x] Feasibility Study

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

The proposed study will focus on the lower 81 miles of the Osage River's ecosystem. The Lower Osage River is threatened by a variety of issues affecting the river's aquatic and terrestrial community, farmland, landowners, and infrastructure. The Lower River is severely impacted and threatened due to fluctuating water levels and flow conditions, extreme bank erosion, loss of riparian and aquatic habitat threatening both the fisheries community and mussel community. Aquatic invertebrate habitat is being lost along with spawning habitat for native fisheries. Mussel communities are affected by shifting bed load and impediments to fish passage by various dams. These issues have accelerated in the past 10 years and eroding banks are threatening infrastructure and farmland and increasing the loss of farmland and riparian corridor. It is estimated that over 100 miles of riparian corridor have been impacted with significant losses in habitat and riparian zone, increasing in the past 10 years. The project will restore riparian and aquatic habitat that will benefit federally threatened and endangered species including the pink mucket mussel, the Indiana bat, Northern long-eared bats and nationally scarce bottomland hardwoods, wet prairie and wetlands. Fish passage is obstructed, American eel, paddlefish and sturgeon species that once ascended the Osage River, are blocked by the old Corps of Engineers navigation structure, Lock & Dam No. 1 located 11 miles upstream from the mouth with the Missouri River. The study will recommend a solution for fish passage. The lock and dam is also a serious boating hazard threatening safety of boaters. One loss of life has occurred in 2009 and there have been other near misses. This ecosystem restoration project can address multiple issues that would have multiple benefits to the aquatic and adjoin terrestrial ecosystem, local residents and the public. The expertise of the USACE is need in this partnership to solve these issues.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

This project would provide solutions to critical degrading ecosystem issues in this river that would benefit the aquatic system and the adjoining riparian system. In the past 10 years hundreds of acres of farmland have been impacted or completely lost due to erosion and incipient instability, with land valued at \$5,500 per acre. Infrastructure along the river is also being impacted now or threatened. Restoration of impacted stream banks and riparian zones would protect both property and farm land from erosion and loss. Stabilization would also halt the loss of land by erosion and protect infrastructure including bridges and structures that are threatened by this extreme bank movement. The river has a high recreational value to boaters, fishermen and hunters. Construction projects that improve both the aquatic system and adjoining riparian corridor would improve the recreation potential for the public by improving fisheries and wildlife in the system. Stabilization of stream banks that are eroding at an accelerated pace would improve water quality and habitat by stopping the introduction of sediment.

*7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.*

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

There is substantial local support for this study from the Lower Osage Floodway Association, local landowners, the Missouri Farm Bureau, and the Congressional Delegation including Congressmen Luetkemeyer, Senator Blunt and Senator McCaskill. The State of Missouri strongly supports this study as represented by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife service is also supporting this effort. The agencies are working as a coordinated team to develop solutions and this study will be essential to organizing and recommending a strong and cost effective plan for ecosystem restoration and numerous associated benefits.

*8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?*

Yes

# Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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MDNR Osage Letter of support.pdf



Missouri Department of [dnr.mo.gov](http://dnr.mo.gov)

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Michael L. Parson, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

AUG 15 2018

Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen  
Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District  
635 Federal Building  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2824

Dear Colonel Guttormsen:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is requesting an ecosystem restoration study on the Lower 81 miles of the Osage River in Miller, Osage and Cole Counties. The Lower Osage River is threatened by a variety of issues affecting the river's aquatic and terrestrial community, farmland, landowners, and infrastructure. The Lower River's aquatic community and hydrology are threatened due to fluctuating water levels and flow conditions, extreme bank erosion, loss of riparian and aquatic habitat threatening both the fisheries community and mussel community.

The Department supports the authorization of a Feasibility Study on the Lower Osage in the next available Water Resources Development Act. A study with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be critical to evaluate alternatives and provide options and potential solutions to address problems with degraded ecosystems, eroding stream banks, and loss of land in the lower basin.

We look forward to working with USACE on a feasibility study to determine alternatives and on the ground restoration projects in the Lower Osage River.

Sincerely,

Carol S. Comer  
Director

CSC:trs



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# Map Document

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## Lower Osage area map.pdf



# Additional Proposal Information

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**Representative Luetkemeyer Letter of Support .pdf**

**BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
3RD DISTRICT, MISSOURI

<http://luetkemeyer.house.gov/>  
[www.facebook.com/BlaineLuetkemeyer](http://www.facebook.com/BlaineLuetkemeyer)  
[www.twitter.com/RepBlainePress](http://www.twitter.com/RepBlainePress)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS  
AND CONSUMER CREDIT  
CHAIRMAN

HOUSING AND INSURANCE

COMMITTEE ON  
SMALL BUSINESS  
VICE CHAIRMAN

AGRICULTURE,  
ENERGY AND TRADE

HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY

August 15, 2018

Department of the Army  
Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District  
ATTN: Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen  
635 Federal Building  
601 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106-2824

Dear Colonel Guttormsen,

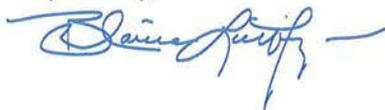
This is a letter of support for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' request for a feasibility study on the lower Osage River. This study is needed to address ecosystem restoration and would be a place marker for the proposed study in the next WRDA bill, 2020.

Focus would be on the lower 81 miles of the Osage River's ecosystem to address the river's aquatic and terrestrial community, adjoining riparian corridor, the fisheries community and mussel community, farmland, landowners, and infrastructure. The Lower River's aquatic community and hydrology are currently threatened due to fluctuating water levels and flow conditions, extreme bank erosion, loss of riparian and aquatic habitat threatening both the fisheries community and mussel community.

These issues have accelerated in the past 10 years and eroding banks are threatening infrastructure and farmland and increasing the loss of farmland and riparian corridor. The project would restore riparian and aquatic habitat that will have multiple benefits to the ecosystem, landowners, local residents and the public. The expertise of the USACE is needed to solve these issues.

Your full consideration for this study would be appreciated. Please direct any questions regarding my support to my Jefferson City district office.

Respectfully,



Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

# Additional Proposal Information

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**FWS Letter of Support.pdf**



## United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Missouri Ecological Services Field Office  
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A  
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0057  
Phone: (573) 234-2132 Fax: (573) 234-2181

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R3/ES/18007

August 06, 2018

Mr. Tim Rielly  
Water Quality Coordinator  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Mr. Rielly:

It is our understanding that the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) is planning to submit a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 7001 request for an ecosystem restoration feasibility study within the lower 81 miles of the Osage River focused on the aquatic and adjacent terrestrial environments.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) considers the Osage River Basin an extremely important area to protect and conserve fish and wildlife communities. This watershed is very large and complex. Its drainage area covers many different ecoregions within Kansas and Missouri. The Service has and continues to provide staff support focused on restoring freshwater mussels, fish, and related habitats in this basin through our agency responsibilities associated with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Endangered Species Act. In the lower Osage River, these tasks are included during the implementation of the Lower Osage River Protection and Enhancement Program (LORPEP). This program is administered by the Service, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), and Ameren Missouri to improve aquatic habitat, protect and enhance aquatic resources, and benefit federally endangered species as required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission operating license for the Osage Project (Bagnell Dam).

We believe the proposed feasibility study would be an extremely important element which can complement these ongoing efforts. If a study is authorized, the Service would like to work closely with the USACE, MDNR, and MDC to integrate these efforts where possible. We look forward to continued coordination, which will further LORPEP efforts and inform relevant ecological restoration actions to help fish, wildlife, and federally listed species within the study area.

Thank you for requesting our input and support. Please contact our office if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Karen Herrington  
Field Supervisor

# Additional Proposal Information

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**Farm Bureau lowersageproject.pdf**



**MISSOURI FARM BUREAU FEDERATION**

*P.O. Box 658, 701 South Country Club Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65102 / (573) 893-1400*

August 17, 2018

Colonel Douglas Guttormsen  
Commander, Kansas City District  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
601 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Colonel Guttormsen:

Year after year landowners along the Lower Osage River lose countless acres to erosion exacerbated by fluctuating flows associated with the operation of Bagnell Dam on the Lake of the Ozarks. We support authorization and funding proposed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the purpose of conducting a feasibility study to identify a cost effective approach to relieving adverse impacts imposed on landowners for the benefits of power generation, flood control and recreation afforded by the dam.

We believe the study will provide a sound basis for the Corps' development of project plans involving several partner agencies, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and Missouri Department of Conservation, as well as the Lower Osage River Flood Control Association and individual affected landowners.

We appreciate the Corps' persistence in seeking to respond to landowners' concerns relative to this situation and stand ready to assist in this effort.

Sincerely,

Blake Hurst  
President

# Additional Proposal Information

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## Osage Floodway - Luebbering.pdf

Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen  
Department of the Army Corps of Engineers  
August 13, 2018

Colonel,

I am writing to you with concern regarding the condition of the lower Osage River. The concern I harbor is shared with fellow members of the Osage River Flood Control Association, landowners along the Osage River, and most importantly the future generations of my family farming operation. This urgent concern has led us to asking for your support for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources request for a feasibility study under USACE 7001.

This study would help to begin a much-needed assessment of the lower Osage River between the Bagnell Dam and the Missouri River. This portion of the Osage River has been in neglect since the construction of the Bagnell Dam at the Lake of the Ozarks. This neglect can be seen in the catastrophic erosion along the banks of the Osage. This erosion has led to a loss of large amounts of land and timber along the river. While this is not good for the ecosystem that is the river it also adversely affects the landowners, who farm along the river. Loss of land means loss of income for farm families like my own. This substantial erosion can be avoided with proper maintenance and stable water flow. The constant variation in water flow has increased erosion which has led to more material being deposited in the middle of the river causing a wider and shallower river that cannot handle the large amounts of water being released from the dam during periods of rain.

As a farmer my greatest concern in regards to the excessive erosion is that the land is lost as a resource for future generations. I farm alongside my two sons and in the next several years some of my grandsons will be returning to the operation. I want nothing more than for them to be able to continue the family tradition for many years to come. The erosion and neglect of the Osage River serves as an obstacle for the future of our operation to succeed. This matter is urgent and must be handled to ensure a productive future for farmers and the environment surrounding the lower Osage River.

The banks of the Osage River continue to deteriorate at an accelerated rate causing the urgency of this issue to increase with each day. I sincerely hope for your support in the efforts to begin the much-needed restoration of the lower Osage River.

God Bless



Chris Luebbering  
Osage River Flood Control President