



Southwest Arkansas

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FACT SHEET as of 06 February 2012

AUTHORIZATION: Red River Basin, AR, TX, LA, and OK Comprehensive Study Authority (PL 98-63)

TYPE OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Restoration

PROJECT PHASE: Feasibility



CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Pryor (AR) and Boozman (AR); Representative Ross (AR-04)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Southwest Arkansas Water District and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

BACKGROUND: This project is authorized by the River Basin, AR, TX, LA, and OK Comprehensive Study (PL 98-63). The 1,152 square mile study area includes the Lower Little River Watershed, located in portions of Southwest Arkansas and Southeast Oklahoma. Over time, land use, including the addition of 4 reservoirs, numerous levees, and intensive agricultural practices, has dramatically altered the watershed destroying aquatic habitat throughout the basin, increasing invasive species, decreasing recreation, increasing flooding, and jeopardizing the main source of drinking water for the region. A watershed management plan for this basin will provide a science-based, holistic approach to managing the dramatically changed landscape. The study will employ a GIS-based watershed model of the basin, supporting simulation of hydrologic, geomorphic, and biological processes to include a historic perspective and conditions most recently influenced through human influence. Based on this analysis, the study team will be able to develop a comprehensive watershed plan in concert with state and federal agencies as well as local interest groups. The stakeholders will prioritize projects using a variety of authorities from several state and Federal agencies to assure the Lower Little River is a sustainable water resource in the future. In addition to continual coordination within the group, public meetings are scheduled two times during the project. One set of meetings is to determine the needs of the area and the other is to present the results of our meetings and scientific studies.

STATUS: Discussions are underway to develop and negotiate Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreements (FCSA). Sponsors are Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, Southwest Arkansas Water District and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. With sponsor and

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stakeholder involvement, a detailed scope was developed to address the myriad of issues facing the basin. We are currently working with HQUSACE on policy determinations. The project was not funded in FY 2012.

ISSUES: The project is not included in the President's FY 2013 budget.

<u>FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):</u>	<u>FEASIBILITY</u>
Federal Cost Estimate	\$1,137,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	1,137,000
Total Project Cost	\$2,274,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	\$ 293,000
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	\$ - 38,000 ^{1/}
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Capability for FY 2013	\$ 189,000
Balance to Complete	\$ 882,000

^{1/} Funds in the amount \$38,303 were transferred to the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Account to repair damages at projects impacted by the 2011 Floods.

SCHEDULE:

FY 2012 Scheduled Work: Project is not included in the President's FY 2012 budget.

FY 2013 Budget: Project is not included in the President's FY 2013 budget. Funds in the amount of \$189,000 could be used to complete surveys & initiate water quality analysis.

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the study completion date is 2016.

For more information regarding the Southwest Arkansas study contact: Ms. Laura L. Cameron, P.E., Project Manager, Planning and Environmental Division at (501) 324-5037 or Laura.L.Cameron@usace.army.mil.

