



FACT SHEET as of 06 February 2012

AUTHORIZATION: River & Harbor Act of July 24, 1946; An Act authorizing the construction of certain public works on rivers and harbors for flood control, and for other purposes, approved June 28, 1938 (52 Stat.1218) ; Sec 216 Flood Control Act of 1970; and Arkansas River Basin: March 11, 1982, Resolution of House Committee on Public Works and Transportation

TYPE OF PROJECT: Navigation

PROJECT PHASE: Reconnaissance

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Pryor (AR) and Boozman (AR); Representatives Crawford (AR-01) and Ross (AR-04)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: N/A

BACKGROUND: The confluence of the Arkansas, White, and Mississippi Rivers is located in Desha and Arkansas Counties in Southeast Arkansas. The McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System starts in Catoosa Oklahoma and runs 445 navigable miles down the Arkansas River, crosses a nine mile man-made canal to the White River and follows a 10 mile reach to the Mississippi River where the study area is centered. The watershed of these three rivers is also home to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service White River Wildlife Refuge and over 100,000 acres of endangered bottomland hardwoods. This is the largest stand of bottomland hardwoods on any tributary to the Mississippi River. The refuge and the surrounding area is habitat for numerous threatened and endangered species. Geomorphologic changes and hydrologic headcutting in the watershed is a serious threat to navigation, vital ecosystems, recreation, and flood control for the Three Rivers, i.e. White, Mississippi and Arkansas rivers. The study would address the water resource problems and opportunities, to include necessary authorities to resolve aquatic ecosystem degradation.

STATUS: The project was not funded in FY 2012. A 905(b) reconnaissance study is needed to determine potential solutions, scope, further federal participation, and identify non-federal sponsors to provide a comprehensive watershed analysis of basin conditions and alternatives. The study would investigate serious hydrologic and hydraulic problems that are threatening ecosystems, navigation, recreation, flood damage reduction and watershed protection. It will provide a comprehensive analysis of water resource problems in the study area. Numerous problems have been identified in the area and some are being addressed with limited authorities in other efforts, but these will only provide localized solutions. There is a tremendous need for a comprehensive study to address the entire watershed basin as the problems and solutions are interconnected and interdependent throughout the entire region.

ISSUES:

The project is not included in the President's FY 2013 budget. Long-term solutions were evaluated in the Ark/White Cutoff Study to address the navigation reliability problem. However, due to the inability to reconcile land capability use, issues with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the fact that the Arkansas River Navigation does not have ecosystem restoration as a project purpose; our only viable recommendation is to continue maintenance on an as needed basis. The risk to loss of navigation is estimated at 7 percent annually and increases without repairs. If a full breach were to occur, navigation could be impacted for more than 100 days, at a cost of nearly \$300,000,000 and thousands of acres of wetlands and pristine hardwoods would be lost.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):

RECONNAISSANCE

Federal Cost Estimate	\$100,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	0
Total Project Cost	\$100,000
Allocation thru FY 2010	0
ARRA Funding	0
Allocation for FY 2011	0
Allocation for FY 2012	0
President Budget FY 2013	0
Amount that could be used for FY 2013	\$100,000
Balance to Complete	\$100,000

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 \$100,000 could be used to initiate and complete the reconnaissance phase.

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the study completion date is September 2013.

For more information regarding the Three Rivers Study contact: Ms. Patricia Anslow, Chief, Planning and Environmental Division at (501) 324-5023 or Patricia.M.Anslow@usace.army.mil.

