

HABITAT RESTORATION AT EMIQUON: A PARTNER'S PERSPECTIVE

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Agenda

- Background
- Goals and Objectives
- Potential Project Features
- Partnership at Emiquon
- Current Project Status



Background

- Feasibility Study in the Section 206 Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program
- Project is cost shared 65% federal, 35% non-federal
- Property acquired in 2000, feasibility study started in 2005



Goals and Objectives

- Restore functional floodplain habitat
- Restore more natural hydrology
- Increase connectivity between the river and spawning/nursery/wintering habitats for aquatic organisms
- Increase habitat for fish, waterfowl, shorebirds, mussels, and other wildlife that utilize floodplain habitat
- Restore native vegetative communities
- Improve water quality through processing of nutrients and sediments
- Export biological productivity to Illinois River



Potential Project Features



Water Control Structure



Pump Station



Islands



Levee Repairs



Emergency Spillway



Partnership at Emiquon

- Sponsor: The Nature Conservancy
- Ecology: Science Advisory Council composed of Federal and State agencies, Universities, NGOs
- USACE/NRCS Partnership Agreement & WRP
- Hydraulics/Hydrology: ISWS
- Habitat Benefits: USFWS, ILDNR
- Archaeology: Dickson Mounds Museum
- Spunky Bottoms: USACE- St. Louis District
- Other coordination: ILDOT, Ameren



Benefits of Partnership at Emiquon

- Utilize experts and experience from multiple perspectives to develop consensus for science-based restoration
- Multiple programs bring funding and expertise to benefit the ecosystem
- Data collection, modeling, and monitoring inform decisions for each other
- Great opportunity for landscape scale restoration of the Illinois River floodplain



Partnership Challenges

- Multiple perspectives bring varied opinions and sometimes competing objectives
- Coordination and communication can be challenging
- Different programs have varying timelines, constraints, and ability to implement projects which can change the site conditions



Partnership Opportunities

- Emiquon is a case study in how partnership and multiple agencies and organizations can come together to benefit the ecosystem
- Apply lessons learned and ability to work through policy issues to benefit other projects in the Nation
- Fully achieve the goals and objectives for ecosystem restoration at Emiquon!

