



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
CIVIL WORKS
108 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

APR 25 2012

Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-212
Washington, D.C. 20510-0012

Dear Mr. President:

In response to a resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the U.S. House of Representatives adopted May 10, 1962, the Secretary of the Army recommends authorization of the Minnesota River, Marsh Lake Ecosystem Restoration project. The proposal is described in the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated December 30, 2011, which includes other pertinent reports and comments. The views of the State of Minnesota, the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency are set forth in the enclosed communications.

The recommended plan would restore aquatic ecosystem structure and function to Marsh Lake and surrounding resources in the upper portion of the Corps of Engineers Lac qui Parle reservoir project. The recommended plan consists of ecosystem restoration features including returning the Pomme de Terre River to its historic channel, modifying the Marsh Lake Dam for fish passage, construction of a water control structure at the Marsh Lake Dam, installation of gated culverts at Louisburg Grade Road, and the breaching of a dike at an abandoned fish pond adjacent to the Marsh Lake Dam. The plan also contains recreation features including shoreline fishing access structures, interpretive signage, a canoe landing, benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, toilets and parking lot improvements. The project requires mitigation to offset adverse impacts to cultural resources at the site through photographic documentation of the existing site conditions prior to construction. The recommended plan is the National Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

Based on an October 2011 price level, the estimated project first cost is \$9,967,000, including \$504,000 in recreation features. In accordance with the cost sharing provisions of Section 103(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended, ecosystem restoration features are cost shared at 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal and recreation features are cost shared at 50 percent Federal and 50 percent non-Federal. Thus, the Federal share of the project first cost is estimated to be \$6,403,000 and the non-Federal share is estimated at \$3,564,000. The lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations, and excavated material disposal areas would be made available to the project at no cost as they are Federally owned. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is the non-Federal cost sharing sponsor

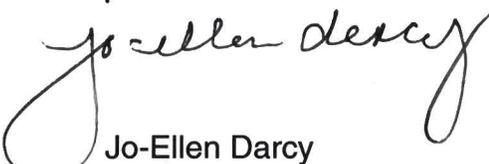


and would be responsible for the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of the project after construction, a cost currently estimated at \$35,000 per year.

Implementation of the project would improve habitat for migratory waterfowl and breeding grounds for the largest white pelican population in North America. The reduction of the suspended sediments and the improved water clarity in the waters of Marsh Lake would benefit a wide range of fish and wildlife species. Providing connectivity between Marsh Lake and Lac qui Parle through the construction of a rock ramp for fish passage would increase fish habitat.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) advises that there is no objection to the submission of the report to Congress and concludes that the report recommendation is consistent with the policy and programs of the President. A copy of its letter is enclosed. I am providing a copy of this transmittal and the OMB letter, dated April 23, 2012, to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I am providing an identical letter to the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Very truly yours,



Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosures



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APR 25 2012

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Speaker of the House
of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-232
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

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Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jo-Ellen Darcy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jo-Ellen Darcy
Assistant Secretary of the Army
(Civil Works)

Enclosures