

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Joint Environmental Impact Statement/ Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Hamilton Army Airfield Wetland Restoration Project, Marin County, CA**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District and the California State Coastal Conservancy propose to restore wetland habitat at the former Hamilton Army Airfield and adjacent properties. The airfield lies on former tidal wetland that has been diked to protect it from tidal flooding. The area has subsided significantly since its removal from tidal action. The project may modify existing levees and construct new ones around the project area. Dredged material suitable for wetland creation would be used to bring the area to an elevation where marsh would establish itself, after which the bayfront levee would be breached, returning tidal action to the area. Restoration without the use of dredged material is also being considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Questions regarding the scoping process or preparation of the EIS/EIR may be directed to Eric Jolliffe, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 333 Market Street, Seventh Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105-2102, (415) 977-8543, or Terri Nevins, California State Coastal Conservancy, 1330 Broadway, Suite 1100, Oakland, CA 94612-2530, (510) 286-4161.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and Public Law 102-484 Section 2834, as amended by Public Law 104-106 Section 2867, the Department of the Army and the California State Coastal Conservancy hereby give notice of intent to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Proposed Hamilton Army Airfield Wetland Restoration Project, Marin County, California.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be the lead agency in preparing the EIS. The EIS/EIR will provide an analysis supporting the requirements of

both NEPA and CEQA in addressing impacts to the environment which may result from restoring wetland habitat at the former Hamilton Army Airfield and adjacent properties.

1. Proposed Action

The Hamilton restoration site consists of the former Hamilton Army Airfield, adjacent Navy ballfields, and the former Hamilton North Antenna Field. The project would restore up to 950 acres of tidal marsh and seasonal wetland at the site. All restoration alternatives have a goal of creating a mix of 80% tidal marsh and 20% seasonal wetland. Existing levees would be raised and new ones would be constructed around the perimeter of the site. The re-establishment of tidal marsh would require higher elevations than currently exist to allow the growth of wetland vegetation. These higher elevations could probably be achieved by breaching the existing bayfront levee and allowing tidal activity to deposit sediments. However, placement of suitable dredged material at the site to raise elevations closer to the eventual marsh plain would allow marsh vegetation to establish much sooner. In addition, the placement of suitable dredged material or other suitable fill is needed to achieve target elevations for seasonal wetland habitat restoration. Placement of dredged material would be accomplished by pumping a slurry of dredged material to the site from barges moored in San Pablo Bay.

2. Project Alternatives

a. No action. The area would remain free from tidal action as it is now and no marsh would develop. Pumps would continue to be required to remove runoff water.

b. Wetland would be restored to the Airfield and Navy ballfields without the use of dredged material. Approximately 700 acres of wetland would be restored.

c. Wetland would be restored to the Airfield and Navy ballfields using dredged material to accelerate marsh establishment and raise elevations for seasonal wetlands. Approximately 700 acres of wetland would be restored.

d. Wetland would be restored to the Airfield and adjacent properties at the site without the use of dredged material. Approximately 950 acres of wetland would be restored.

e. Wetland would be restored to the Airfield and adjacent properties at the site using dredged material to accelerate marsh establishment and raise elevations for seasonal wetlands. Approximately 950 acres of wetland would be restored.

3. Scoping Process

Federal, state and local agencies, and interested individuals are invited to participate in the scoping process to determine the range of issues and alternatives to be addressed. The California State Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will hold two public scoping meetings to receive oral and written comments at the following locations and times:

9:30 am-12:00 pm, March 25, 1998,
Hamilton Community Center, 203 Bel Bonito Street, Novato, California
And

7:30 pm-10:00 pm, March 30, 1998,
Novato City Council Chambers, 908 Machin Drive, Novato, California.

In addition, written comments will also be accepted until April 8, 1998 at the addresses listed above.

4. Availability of EIS/EIR

The Draft EIS/EIR should be available for public review in August 1998.

Richard G. Thompson,

Corps of Engineers, District Engineer.

[FR Doc. 98-7042 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Department of the Army****Corps of Engineers****Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the San Juan Creek Watershed Feasibility Study; Orange County, CA**

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Los Angeles District, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The San Juan Watershed encompasses a drainage area of approximately 176 square miles in southern Orange County. Eight major tributaries feed San Juan Creek along its twenty-seven mile course from the Cleveland National Forest in the Santa Ana Mountains to the Pacific Ocean at Doheny State Beach near Dana Point Harbor. Rapid development since the early 1980s has produced a variety of environmental concerns that threaten the overall functional integrity of the watershed. Issues warranting concern identified in the Reconnaissance Study include channel degradation, loss of habitat, decreased water quality and supply, loss of recreational and aesthetic values, and increased flooding. In response to these and other problems raised by various federal and state offices, interest groups, and private parties the Corps is developing an

integrated watershed management plan to enhance positive trends in maintaining the San Juan Creek Watershed system.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information contact Mr. Timothy J. Smith, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CESPL-PD-RN, P.O. Box 532711, Los Angeles, California 90053-2325; phone (213) 452-3854; email tjsmith@spl.usace.army.mil

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: To prepare for preparation of the EIS, the Corps will be conducting a public scoping meeting on March 26, 1998, at 7 p.m., at the Del Obispo Community Center, located at 34052 Del Obispo Road, Dana Point, California. This scoping meeting will be held to solicit public input on significant environmental issues associated with the proposed project. The public, as well as Federal, State, and local agencies are encouraged to participate in the scoping process by attending the Scoping Meeting and/or submitting data, information, and comments identifying relevant environmental and socioeconomic issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis. Useful information includes other environmental studies, published and unpublished data, alternatives that should be addressed in the analysis, and potential environmental enhancement and restoration opportunities that exist in the watershed. Individuals and agencies may offer information or data relevant to the proposed study and provide comments suggestions by attending the public scoping meeting, or by mailing the information to Mr. Timothy J. Smith. Requests to be placed on the mailing list for announcements and the Draft EIS should be sent to Mr. Timothy J. Smith.

Alternatives: The study will develop an integrated watershed management plan as well as a list of potential environmental enhancement and restoration opportunities throughout the San Juan Watershed. Specific measures selected for implementation will be analyzed in detail in supplementary National Environmental Policy Act/California Environmental Quality Act documentation.

Gregory D. Showalter,
Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 98-7043 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Wolf River, Memphis, TN, Feasibility Study

AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this study is to determine the feasibility of providing aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem restoration, wetlands protection, and increased recreational opportunities within the Wolf River Basin of west Tennessee and north Mississippi. A resolution by the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives on 24 September 1992 provides study authorization.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Jim Bodron, telephone (901) 544-3639, CEMVM-DD-P, 167 North Main Street, B-202, Memphis, TN 38103-1894. Questions regarding the DEIS may be directed to Mr. Richard Hite, telephone (901) 544-0706, CEMVM-PD-R.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

1. Proposed Action

A Corps reconnaissance study, completed October 1995, revealed that channelization and realignment of the lower 22 miles of the river have significantly reduced seasonal flooding, eliminated large amounts of riparian forest and fisheries habitat, induced progressive channel bank and bed erosion, and initiated long-term drying of adjacent wetlands.

Also, agricultural practices have contributed to sediment movement and deposition. Sediment deposition in tributary streams and wetlands has adversely impacted fish and wildlife habitat and killed valuable timber. The Wolf River study will attempt to identify an economically and environmentally feasible plan that would retard damage to and help restore components of this important ecosystem. The study area currently comprises the entire Wolf River Basin. The river is 86 miles in length; and the drainage basin includes portions of Shelby, Fayette, and Hardeman counties in west Tennessee and parts of Marshall, Benton, and Tippah counties in north Mississippi.

2. Alternatives

Alternatives being considered include combinations of features such as main channel weirs to reduce erosion and provide fish habitat, reforestation, and wetland restoration. Alternative plans will be compared to the No Action alternative.

3. Scoping Process

An intensive public involvement program will be initiated and maintained throughout this study to (1) solicit input from individuals and interested parties so that problems, needs, and opportunities within the project area can be properly identified and addressed and (2) provide status updates to concerned organizations and the general public. Scoping is a critical component of the overall public involvement program. The scoping process is designed to provide early detection of public concerns regarding needed studies, plan alternatives, procedures and other important study-related matters. Affected federal, state and local agencies; affected Indian tribes; and other interested private organizations and parties are invited to participate in the scoping process. This study will analyze project impacts (positive and negative) to significant area resources such as wildlife, fish, endangered species, wetlands, water quality and recreation.

4. Public Scoping Meeting

A public scoping meeting will likely be held in Memphis, Tennessee, during the Spring of 1998.

5. Availability of DEIS

It is anticipated that the DEIS will be available for public review during the Spring of 1999. A public meeting will be held during the review period to receive comments and address questions concerning the DEIS.

Mary V. Yonts,

Alternate Army Federal Register Liaison Officer.

[FR Doc. 98-7045 Filed 3-17-98; 8:45 am]

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DELAWARE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

Notice of Commission Meeting and Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that the Delaware River Basin Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 25, 1998. The hearing will be part of the Commission's regular business meeting which is open to the public and scheduled to begin at 1:30