



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

St. Paul District

# Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock and Dam 1 Disposition Study

## Scoping Frequently Asked Questions

May 2023

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## Study Background

### **1. What is the US Army Corps of Engineers and why are they doing this study?**

The Corps is a federal agency that works across the Nation to deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk. Navigation was the Corps of Engineers’ earliest Civil Works mission, dating to Federal laws in 1824 authorizing and funding the Corps to improve safety on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and several ports. In the St. Paul District, the Corps supports inland navigation by operating 13 locks and dams and by maintaining the Mississippi River 9-foot Navigation Channel.

In 2014, Congress directed that the Upper St. Anthony Falls (USAF) lock be closed within one year<sup>1</sup>. On June 9, 2015, the last lockage was made at USAF, eliminating the commercial navigation between the Minneapolis Upper Harbor and downstream reaches of the Mississippi River. This closure also affected recreational navigation. In 2016, the Corps began a disposition study to determine whether there is Federal interest in continuing to own and operate the projects at Lock and Dam 1, Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and consider deauthorization along with disposal of lands and structures. 2018, Congress directed the Corps to separate the study of the disposition of USAF from that of any other lock and dam<sup>2</sup>. The Disposition Study for LSAF, LD1, and the associated navigation channel began in 2022.

### **2. What is the Twin Cities Locks and Dams disposition study?**

The purpose of a disposition study is to determine whether there is Federal interest in the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) continuing to own and operate Lock and Dam 1 (LD1), Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam (LSAF), and the federal navigation channel in the Twin Cities. Federal interest is determined based on an evaluation and comparison of the benefits, costs,

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2010 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRRDA 2014), dated June 10, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Section 1168 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (WRDA 2018), dated 24 October 2018, directed the Corps in carrying out a disposition study to consider removing the project or a separable element of the project

and impacts (positive or negative) of continued operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (or lack thereof) of those sites<sup>3</sup>.

If there is no longer a federal interest, the Corps is then directed to identify a viable disposal alternative such as transferring lands and the structures to a different local, state, or federal agency or other entity. Before the locks and dams could be disposed to another entity, Congress would need to deauthorize the project. The outcome of the disposition study will be a report to Congress with a recommendation.

Deauthorization means that LD1, LSAF, or the navigation channel in the project area would no longer be authorized federal water resources projects that the Corps is required to operate and maintain for navigation, there would be no federal navigation mission in the Twin Cities (or parts of it). Project lands and structures could be disposed of as no longer required for the federal mission.

### **3. What level of detail will the Corps study various topics in the disposition study?**

Based on the early study scoping, the level of analysis for the topics is shown below. If a topic will be addressed with existing data, that does not indicate a topic is not important. Instead, it is likely that existing information from the Corps, other groups, or agencies already provides a sufficient level of detail for the disposition study or that the impacts from disposition study alternative recommendation would be anticipated to be none or minimal on the resource area. Data collection will be commensurate with the level of detail needed to make a recommendation on study alternatives.

**Higher Level of New Data or Analysis-** The team may collect or prepare new information or conduct new analysis.

- Geological and Soil Resources
- Channel Geomorphology and Floodplain Impacts
- Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste
- Site Operational Costs (including repairs) over the next 50 years
- Native American Resources and Federal Trust Responsibilities
- Economic Impacts: The benefit assessment will be both quantitative or qualitative and, if appropriate, monetized.
  - National economic impacts - changes in the economic value of the national output of goods and services.
  - Regional economic impacts - changes in the contribution to a regional economy, such as changes in regional employment or income.
  - Environmental economic impacts - positive and negative impacts to the environment consistent with current ecosystem restoration or environmental compliance guidance
  - Socio-economic impacts - effects to a wide range of factors: urban and community impacts; life, health, and safety factors; displacement; and long-

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<sup>3</sup> Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (PL 91-611) authorizes the Secretary of the Army to review operations of completed projects, when found advisable due to changed physical, economic, or environmental conditions

term productivity. Environmental justice will be considered under this category but also related to other topics.

**Moderate Level of New Data or Analysis-** The team may collect or prepare new information or analysis but also rely on a set of existing information from sources both within and outside of the Corps.

- Hydrology & Hydrologic Impacts (including pool elevations)
- Dam Safety and Operations
- Recreation
- Aquatic Habitats
- Study Area Infrastructure
- Cultural or Historic Resources
- Traditional Cultural Resources

**Existing Data Level of Detail-** The team will likely not collect new information to inform our analysis but will instead rely on existing information, sources, or analysis from both within and outside the Corps.

- Fish and Wildlife
- Fishing, Hunting, and Gathering Practices
- Energy Resources
- Endangered Species
- Invasive Species
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Water Quality
- Climate Change / Greenhouse gasses
- Public Health and Safety
- Air Quality

#### **4. What alternative scenarios will be considered in this study?**

The disposition study will determine if there is a Federal interest for the United States to continue to own and operate the two locks and dams and the navigation channel. If the answer is “No,” for any of the locks and dams or navigation channel, the Corps will then make general recommendations to Congress on next steps. Corps Disposition Study Guidance<sup>4</sup> identifies the types of alternatives that should be considered in this study. The Corps team is referring to these as “alternative scenarios.”

The study will examine an array of potential combinations of different alternative scenarios. It’s possible that the Corps would make different recommendation for LSAF and LD1. However, like many Corps studies, it is anticipated that some alternative scenarios will not undergo detailed analysis based on early screening criteria. Currently identified screening criteria and their definitions are below.

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<sup>4</sup> Revised Implementation Guidance for Section 1168 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2018, Disposition of Projects

Effectiveness- extent to which the alternative achieves the study objectives

Efficiency- extent to which the alternative is the most cost effective means of achieving study objectives

Acceptability- extent to which the alternative is acceptable in terms of applicable laws, regulations, and public policies

Completeness- extent to which the alternative provides and accounts for all necessary investments or other actions to ensure the realization of the study objectives, including actions by other Federal and non-Federal entities

**The types of alternatives scenarios that will be considered in this study for both LSAF and LD1 are:**

**No Action:** This alternative is the status-quo and the future without project condition. The no action alternative scenario is the condition upon which other alternatives are compared.

- No Action LSAF or LD1: Under this alternative, the lock and dams would remain an authorized Federal project and would continue to be operated and maintained by the Corps for navigation purposes. The United States would continue to own property at the locks and dams. Operation and maintenance would include routine maintenance, current operations, and occasional major maintenance as required for safety or to meet the authorized project purpose. Those actions would be funded with federal appropriations consistent with budgeting and Corps funding priorities. The Corps would continue to grant temporary real estate permits for compatible uses. Cooperation with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would continue.
- No Action Navigation Channel: Under the no action alternative, the navigation channel in the study area would remain authorized for navigation and the Corps would retain maintenance responsibilities that are carried out subject to availability of funding. This may involve occasional dredging in designated cuts and maintaining associated structures such as mooring cells.

**Full Deauthorization/Disposal:** Congress would deauthorize the locks and dams and the navigation channel. All activities associated with maintaining commercial navigation by the Federal government at the site(s) would cease.

- Full Deauthorization/Disposal LSAF and/or LD1: This alternative will address all activities associated with maintaining commercial navigation by the Federal government at the site(s) ceasing AND the dam site(s) and all associated features in their entirety or portions thereof disposed of to a willing entity through the General Services Administration (GSA).
- Full Deauthorization/Disposal Navigation Channel: This alternative will address deauthorizing the channel for navigation, ending all Federal channel maintenance activities (channel dredging to maintain a 9' depth).

**Partial Deauthorization/Disposal:** Some activities associated with maintaining commercial navigation by the Federal government at the site(s) would cease AND/OR portions of the dam site(s) and associated features would be disposed of to a willing entity. Thorough evaluation would be required to ensure compatibility with new ownership and use of portions the site and

the remaining areas required by the Corps for ongoing access to perform operations and maintenance activities. Under this scenario, alternative authorized water resources purposes could be considered (see new purpose scenario, below).

- Partial Deauthorization/Disposal LSAF or LD1: This alternative will cover **some** activities associated with maintaining commercial navigation by the Federal government at the site(s) ceasing AND/OR **portions** of the dam site(s) and associated features disposed to a willing entity through the General Services Administration (GSA).
- Partial Deauthorization/Disposal Navigation Channel: This alternative will cover **partial** deauthorization, ending channel maintenance activities within part of the associated navigation channel. Other parts of the navigation channel in the study area would remain authorized for navigation and the Corps would retain maintenance dredging responsibilities carried out subject to availability of funds.

**Dam Removal**: This alternative only applies to LSAF and LD1.

- Dam Removal LSAF or LD1: This alternative will consider removal of federally owned lock and dam structures. Under this alternative scenario, dam removal could be carried out by the Corps, cooperating with a non-federal sponsor (partner) prior to disposal. Alternatively, dam removal could be carried out by a new owner after disposal. Dam removal would require additional study and assessments beyond the scope of typical disposition studies. See question 5 for more information.

**Potential Opportunities for a New Purpose**: Locks and dams would be evaluated for a new purpose. If additional opportunities are identified, additional study and assessments beyond the scope of typical disposition study would be necessary.

- New Opportunities LSAF or LD1: Currently the LSAF and LD1's primary purpose is navigation. This alternative will look at new purposes such as ecosystem restoration, hydropower, or recreation the locks and dams could provide.
- New Opportunities Navigation Channel: The purpose of the maintenance of the Mississippi River channel in the Twin Cities to a 9' depth is navigation. This alternative will look at new purposes for maintaining the channel at a certain depth, such as ecosystem restoration, hydropower, or recreation.

## 5. Is the Corps studying removing one or both locks and dams?

Dam removal is a possible future scenario that will be evaluated. However, the outcome of this study would not be immediate dam removal by the Corps or other entities.

If the Corps recommends that the locks and dams be deauthorized and dam removal is a potential option, the Corps could undertake a feasibility study with a non-federal sponsor (partner). Congress would need to allocate Federal funds for a new feasibility study with a non-federal sponsor sharing 50 percent of study costs<sup>5</sup>. The product of that study would be a report

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<sup>5</sup> See 2018 Implementation Guidance at [https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/Civil%20Works/Projects/MplsLocksDisposition/WRDA2018\\_Sec1168\\_Disposition\\_of\\_projects.pdf?ver=2019-08-20-110847-820](https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/Civil%20Works/Projects/MplsLocksDisposition/WRDA2018_Sec1168_Disposition_of_projects.pdf?ver=2019-08-20-110847-820)

that would include a recommendation for ecosystem restoration along with an associated environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. If authorized by Congress for construction, the Corps could construct an ecosystem restoration project with a non-federal sponsor sharing the costs.

It is also possible that, if deauthorized, one or both locks and dams could be disposed of to another entity who could pursue dam removal without Corps involvement and would be required to follow all necessary local, state, and federal regulations.

In either of these cases, dam removal, if possible, would require several years of additional highly detailed study and approvals.

Although dam removal is a scenario being evaluated in this study, the scope of the analysis will be high level to better understand the potential costs and benefits relative to the costs and benefits of the other alternatives.

**6. How will the Corps consider costs and benefits of each alternative it considers? How will it consider non-monetary cost/benefits, i.e., non-economic metrics such as ecosystem services?**

The Corps of Engineers takes a comprehensive approach to documenting costs and benefits. For monetary costs, under the no-action alternative, the Corps will consider the costs of continued operation, repair, and maintenance over the next 50 years for LD1, LSAF and the federal navigation channel within the study area. The value of the lands within the study area will also be appraised. Corps will also calculate the monetary costs of the various action alternatives. All costs developed will be parametric, meaning they are rough calculations that can be used to compare the various scenarios.

The Corps is required to comprehensively evaluate and provide a complete accounting, consideration, and documentation of the total benefits of alternatives in four benefit categories: national economic development, regional economic development, environmental quality, and other social effects. Alternatives are assessed to determine if they have net benefits in total and by type. Judgement will be done in collaboration with non-federal partners and in consideration of other study interests and stakeholders, using available data, analysis, input from peer review, and professional judgment.

The national economic development benefits look at the changes in the economic value of the national output of goods and services.

The regional economic development benefits look at changes in the distribution of regional economic activity that result from each alternative. Evaluations of regional effects are to be carried out using projections of income, employment, output, and population.

The Environmental Quality benefits will address non-monetary effects on ecological, cultural, and aesthetic resources including the positive and adverse effects of alternatives.

The Other Social Effects addresses alternatives' benefits from perspectives that are relevant to the planning process but are not reflected in the other three accounts. At a minimum, consider urban, rural and community impacts; life, health, and safety factors; displacement; and long-term productivity under this benefit evaluation.

**7. What is the project area? What parts of the river channel does the study include?**

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam (LSAF) and Lock and Dam 1 (LD1) are located on the Mississippi River in Minneapolis, Minnesota (Figure 1). Each of the sites consist of a dam that traverses the entire river and a lock located on the right bank. The locks and dams and associated buildings are owned by the federal government. The government also owns fee and/or easements at dam sites. The navigation channel in this associated reach extends from river mile 843.8 to 857.6. The Corps operates and maintains these sites as federal project features. The LSAF, LD1, and associated navigation channel are considered the project area for this Disposition Study which will examine potential future use of these sites.

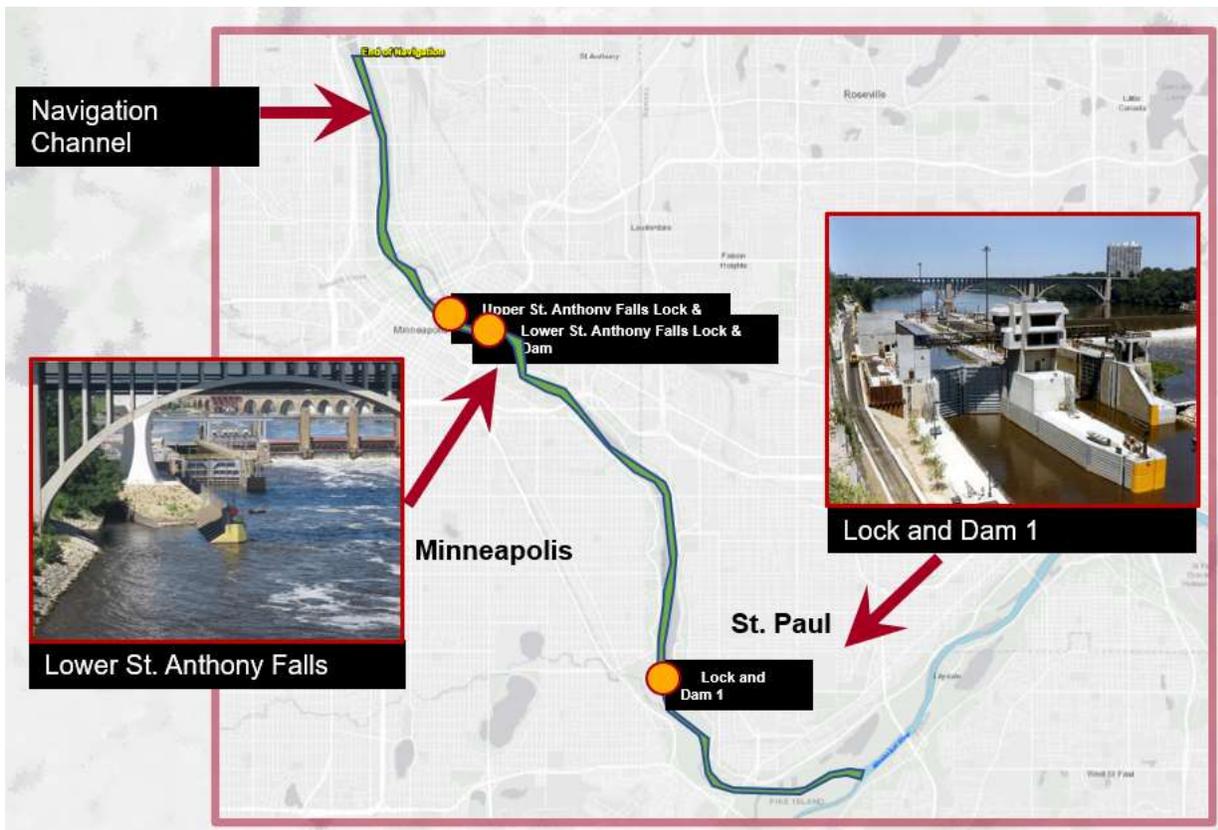


Figure 1. Study Area Map

## Disposal Process

### **8. How does the Corps “dispose” of property?**

The underlying disposal authority dictates the process to follow for Federal, Corps-managed lands or real property improvements deemed excess to the Department of Defense or surplus to the needs of the Federal government. The primary authorities under which the Corps may dispose of real property interests include: the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (Property Act) and specific legislation that directs the agency to convey property interests to a particular entity. When the Property Act is referenced as the disposal authority, the subject property may be disposed by the Corps or the General Services Administration (GSA), depending on the market value of the property. When specific legislation is cited as the disposal authority, the legislative language dictates who the disposal agent is for the Government.

### **9. Could LSAF or LD1 be sold to another country or private individual or corporation?**

If Congress deauthorizes the navigation channel and a willing (and qualified) entity is identified to assume ownership of the structures and property, the associated locks and dams or other associated properties may change ownership and it will be up to the General Services Administration (GSA) to follow the conveyance of the disposal process. If there is more than one willing entity, a hierarchical order of priority is followed that first recognizes other Federal agencies, state agencies, then lastly, private individuals or corporations. This process may be altered should Congress direct the Corps to do so.

Outside of U.S. Federal agencies, real property interests may be conveyed to the following governmental bodies: U.S. territories, States, counties, cities, municipalities, townships, parishes, and other local government entities of the 50 States; the District of Columbia; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; Guam; American Samoa; the U.S. Virgin Islands; the Federated States of Micronesia; the Marshall Islands; Palau; and the Northern Mariana Islands. Property conveyance to a private individual or corporation of the U.S. is permissible after the property has gone through a systematic screening process.

### **10. Does an entity need to “prove” they can be responsible owners?**

This depends on the property rights being conveyed and any government reservations and conditions contained in the conveyance document. The responsibility of determining the qualifications of a potential new owner is under the General Services Administration (GSA).

### **11. What is the effect, if anything, on the National Park Service and the MNNRA?**

Section 701(a) of MNNRA’s authorizing legislation requires the Corps to assess any potential undertaking to the seven critical resources: economic, historic, cultural, natural, recreation, scientific, and scenic. Any study recommendations by the Corps are subject to review by the

Secretary of the Interior for compatibility with the purposes of the MNNRA. If deemed incompatible, the Secretary is directed to notify Congress under 703.

## Environment

### **13. What does the Corps know about the sediment behind the dams and what new sediment data will be collected as part of this study?**

Current sediment quality is currently unknown. It is anticipated fine grained sediments have been deposited in slackwater areas and in front of LD1. Fine-grained sediments from urban and industrial inputs can host contaminants. Sediment samples will be collected and tested for chemical analysis as a part of this study.

### **14. What did the Mississippi River look like before the dams were constructed and what will happen to the pools behind the dams if the dams are removed?**

Before the locks and dams were built, this part of the river had one of the only high gradient rapids in the Mississippi River. The reach consisted of riffle habitat, where slabs of limestone from waterfall migration dominated, and likely was a crucial spawning area for certain fish species like blue sucker, paddlefish and lake sturgeon. Closer to the Minnesota River confluence, the Mississippi River transformed into a braided river environment with sand and gravel deposits.

Removal of the impounded water behind both LSAF and LD 1 would change the river dynamics, but the water flow volume will be unchanged. Currently with the elevated water levels, flows are in a subcritical state, deep and slow. With the removal of the elevated water levels, the flow would change into a supercritical state, fast and shallow. Supercritical flow would erode the riverbed, river bluffs and around any river obstruction such as bridge piers or rock outcrops unpredictably.

### **15. Do the pools behind the locks and dams provide flood control or water supply?**

There is no flood control benefit or ability at the locks and dams in the Twin Cities because they do not have the ability to store enough water volume to impact flood peaks, by design. Main water inflow supply for Minneapolis is controlled by USAF. However, numerous water outlets were constructed that benefit from steady water level conditions created by the regulation of water levels at both LSAF and LD 1.

### **16. What will happen to the spread of invasive species, specifically invasive carps?**

LSAF and LD1 may slow the upstream spread of invasive carp, but they are not a complete barrier. A Minnesota DNR telemetry report shows that large-bodied fish are capable of passing through LSAF and LD1 via the lock chambers. Without these dams in place, fish movement would be unimpeded from LD 2 to USAF. However, they would not be able to pass through USAF due to the lock's closure in 2014 and the high velocities spilling over the horseshoe spillway.

**17. What is the Meeker Dam? Are there other historic structures in the pool behind the dams?**

The Meeker Island Lock and Dam (a.k.a. Lock and Dam 2/Government Dam) opened in 1907 allowing navigation between St. Paul and St. Anthony/Minneapolis. It was located just upstream of the Lake Street Bridge between Minneapolis and St. Paul. The Meeker Island Lock and Dam was partially destroyed in 1912 following a revised design for Lock and Dam 1 (a.k.a. High Dam/Twin City Lock and Dam/Ford Dam) to increase lift for hydroelectric power being constructed approximately 2.5 miles downriver of Meeker Island and completed in 1917. Remnants of the dam still remain on the bed of the Mississippi River and the dam is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are a variety of historic docks and existing historic bridge piers in Pool 1. The Intermediate Pool contains two remnant piers of the former Tenth Avenue Wagon Bridge, historic mooring cells/docks and piers of the historic Stone Arch Bridge.

**18. Why is the Corps writing an Environmental Assessment (EA) instead of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?**

An environmental assessment is prepared when effects are anticipated to be less than significant or are unknown.

Deauthorization and disposal of one or both dams at LSAF and LD 1 or portions thereof could include transfer of property “as is” with no changes to the structures or flow/reservoir management operations. It is also possible that modifications or repairs to the sites may be a requirement for sale. However, the requirement for modifications has not been confirmed and costs of such repairs are not included in the economic evaluation used to inform selection of the recommended plan. Throughout the study process, as alternative scenarios are considered and developed, such modifications may be included as part of an alternative and parametric costs may be developed.

Deauthorization of the associated navigation channel would result in the Corps ceasing dredging operations. If the EA’s findings indicate significant environmental impacts for the recommended alternative, the Corps would prepare an EIS.

The study may recognize the potential for a subsequent cost-shared Federal study for ecosystem restoration involving dam modification or removal, and/or for the transfer of property out of Federal ownership where the receiving entity evaluates changes to flow/reservoir operations or structural modifications/removal. In either circumstance, such proposals would be subject to detailed environmental analysis at that time which could include preparation of an EIS if warranted.

**19. What will be considered baseline conditions for the environmental assessment?**

The environmental assessment will contain information on how the various scenarios would affect resources or conditions over the next 50 years. For context, those predicted impacts will be

compared to a baseline condition. The baseline condition for LSAF, LD1, and the navigation channel is the current condition. The Corps will compare the predicted effects of the various scenarios to the predicted effects of the no action scenario (no deauthorization or change in ownership of LSAF and LD1 and continuation of authorized project operation and maintenance, including the navigation channel). The navigation channel has not been maintained since 2014 due to lack of funding for such action. However, periodic dredging in the future may occur under a no action scenario to maintain a functional authorized navigation channel.

Pre-impoundment conditions (prior to the LSAF and LD1 construction) and unmaintained (undredged) navigation channel are historic conditions.

## Recreation

### **19. What effect will the Disposition study have on rowing and recreational boating?**

The Disposition Study may recommend the navigation channel be deauthorized. Should Congress act on this recommendation, the Corps would no longer be responsible for operating and maintaining the channel and all associated infrastructure, including LSAF and LD1.

The Corps will be collecting recreational usage information as part of the study, including rowing and boating use in the area. The National Park Service is contributing to the data collection and analysis of recreational usage in the study area.

In the event that one or both locks and dams is disposed of to another entity, they would not be required to operate the locks for navigation including recreational users. A new entity would be anticipated to be required to safely maintain structures as long as they remain in place as initially designed. Future actions by that entity such as dam removal or redevelopment of the sites could have effects to recreation that would be further assessed at that time in accordance with applicable federal, state and local laws.

### **20. Will portaging be addressed in the Disposition Study?**

The disposition study will consider alternative water resources purposes for sites, including recreation. Additional portage routes would be anticipated to require modifications to the existing structures to be feasible.

## Lock and Dam Use

### **21. How many boats or barges lock through LSAF or LD1?**

Currently the locks are used primarily for recreational boat traffic. Additionally, there are privately owned commercial cruise boats that use the locks. See the Figure 2 and 3 graphs on the following page.

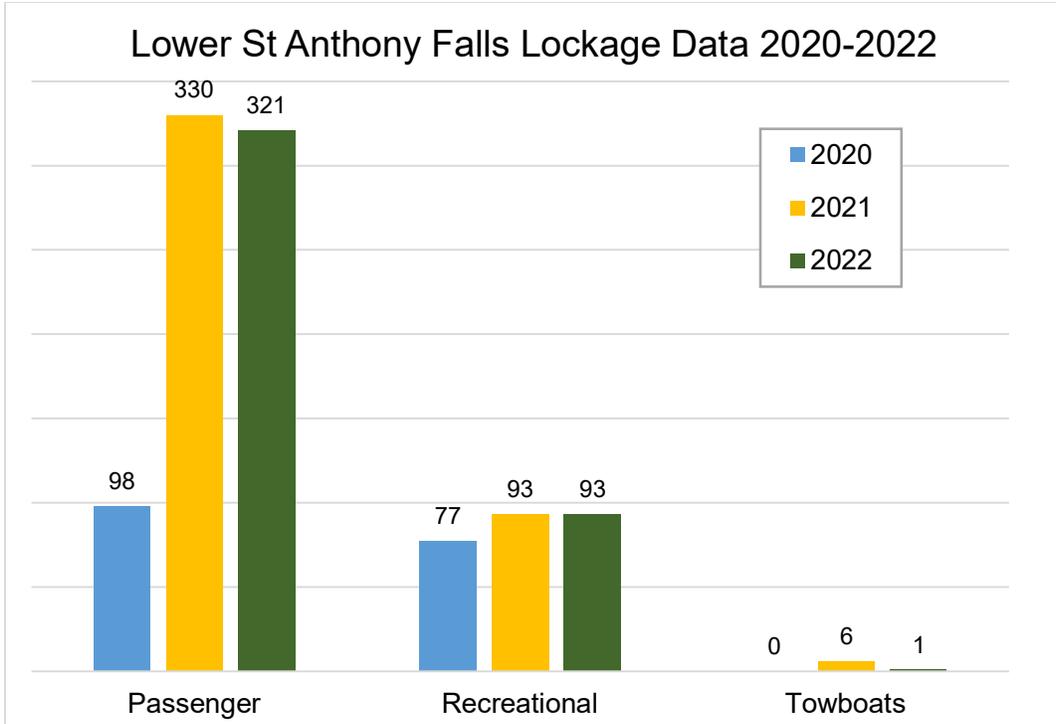


Figure 2. Lockage data for Lower St. Anthony Falls

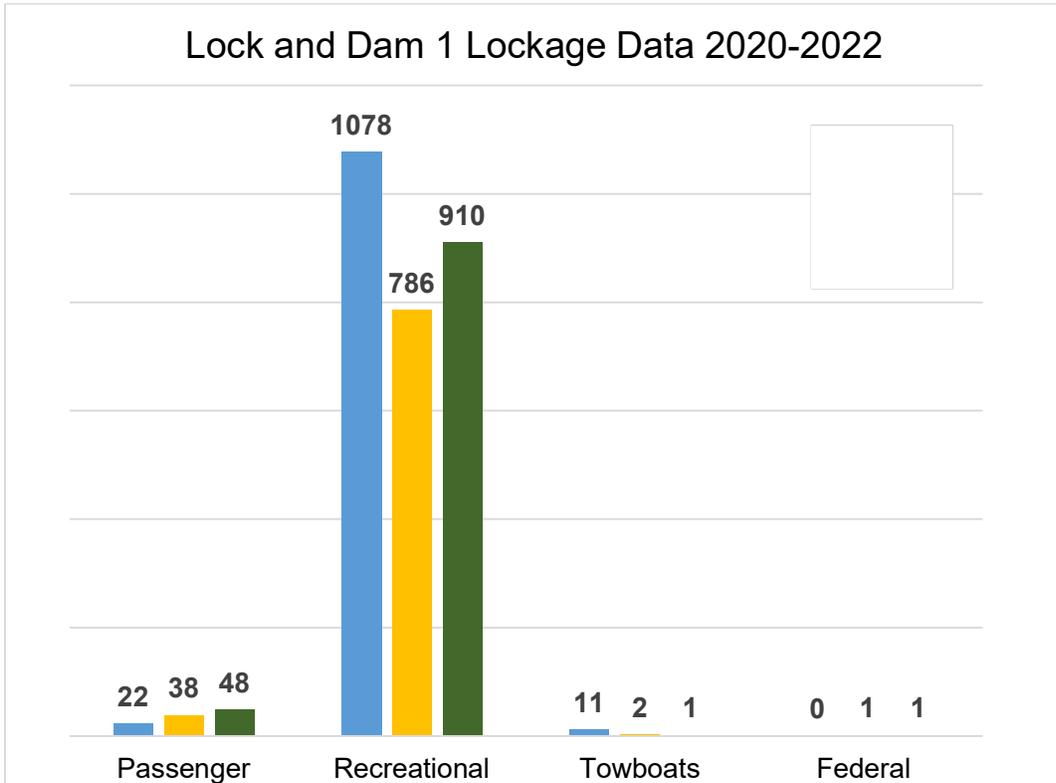


Figure 3. Lockage data Lock and Dam 1

**22. How old are the dams and how long will they be safe to use?**

Lower St. Anthony Falls was constructed and placed into operation September 1956. Lock and Dam 1 was completed in 1917 and reconstructed in 1929. The Lock and Dam 1 main lock chamber was completed in May of 1932 and had its last major rehabilitation from 1978 to 1983. If the locks and dams remain authorized projects, the Corps would continue to undertake operation and maintenance, including major maintenance, subject to funding.

**23. What is current hydropower production at the lock and dams?**

Hydropower licenses are issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). SAF Hydroelectric, LCC holds a FERC License at LSAF and in 2021 generated an output of 37,212,000 kW-hours. The FERC License for LSAF expires in 2034. Twin Cities Hydro, LLC holds a FERC License at LD1 and in 2021 generated an output of 84,766,000 kW-hours. The FERC License for LD1 expires in 2056.

**24. Could another entity operate the lock and dams (or just the dams)? Could hydro power at each site be expanded?**

Both of these scenarios may be a possibility and will be evaluated in this disposition study.

**25. What is the Corps doing currently to make sure the structures are safe/structurally sound?**

The Corps inspects structures and completes preventative and recurring maintenance.

## 26. What is the current annual cost to operate the lock and dams?

See Figure 4, below.

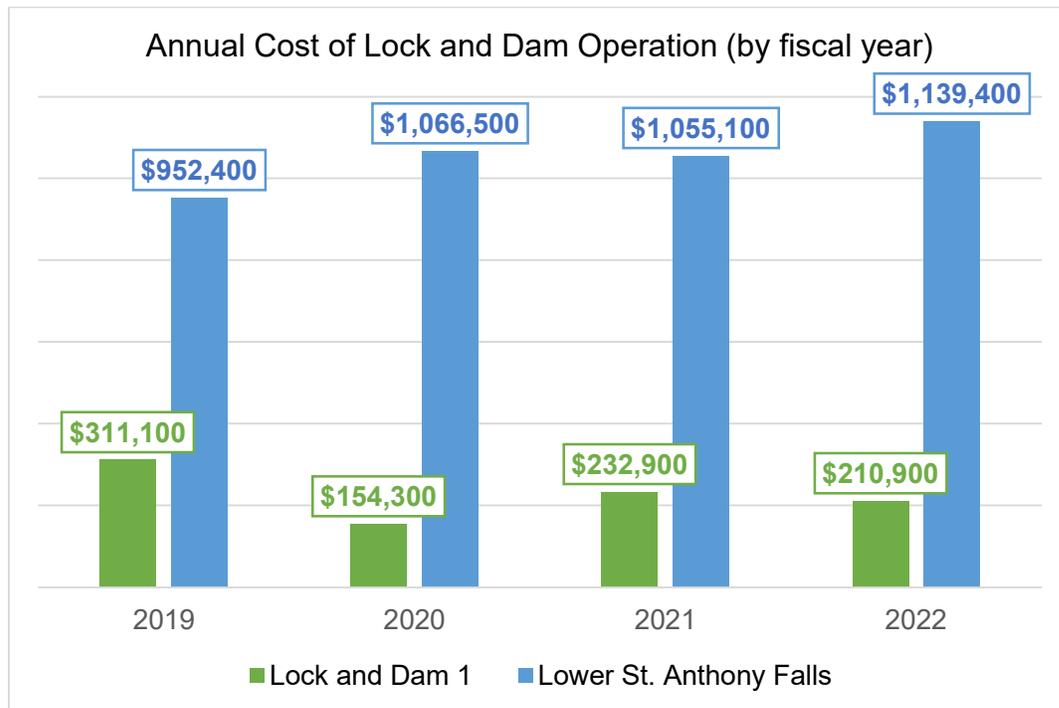


Figure 4. Operating costs for Lock and Dam 1 and Lower St. Anthony Falls

## Public and Stakeholder Engagement

### 27. What has the Corps done to engage stakeholders so far?

As part of the scoping process, MVP conducted a series of meetings/open house events and online education. The purpose of this outreach was to introduce the study by describing LSAF and LD1, the study's purpose, a Disposition Study process, and study timeline. The Corps also asked the public and agencies to help identify any issues or concerns associated with the alternatives under consideration or the disposition study in general via written public comments. This 2022 scoping outreach is summarized in the May 2023 Scoping Document:

Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam and Lock and Dam 1 Section 216 Disposition Study. This document can be found at <https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/LSAF/>.

### 28. How will the Corps continue to engage stakeholders?

This FAQ and 2022 Scoping Summary is intended to further explain the Corps disposition study process. Over the next approximately two years, the Corps will complete the disposition study. Completion of this study will be a process that requires data collection and analysis, interagency coordination, tribal coordination, community outreach, report writing, and internal reviews and

quality checks. During this time, the Corps will keep our website up to date with study progress and updates. The public is welcome to reach out directly to the Corps at any time with questions or to request an update on the study process. These requests may be emailed to: [mplslocksdisposition@usace.army.mil](mailto:mplslocksdisposition@usace.army.mil).

Following *draft* disposition report completion, the Corps will post the report online for public and agency review and comment for a minimum of 30 days. Concurrent with this review period, the Corps will host public meetings and conduct public outreach to inform the public of the draft report and the preliminary findings.

The Corps will then review public and agency comments as well as internal agency technical review comments and comments from Corps Division and Headquarters leadership. The disposition study will be edited and finalized for recommendation to Congress. Once complete, the final report will again be posted online, although this posting will not include a public comment period.

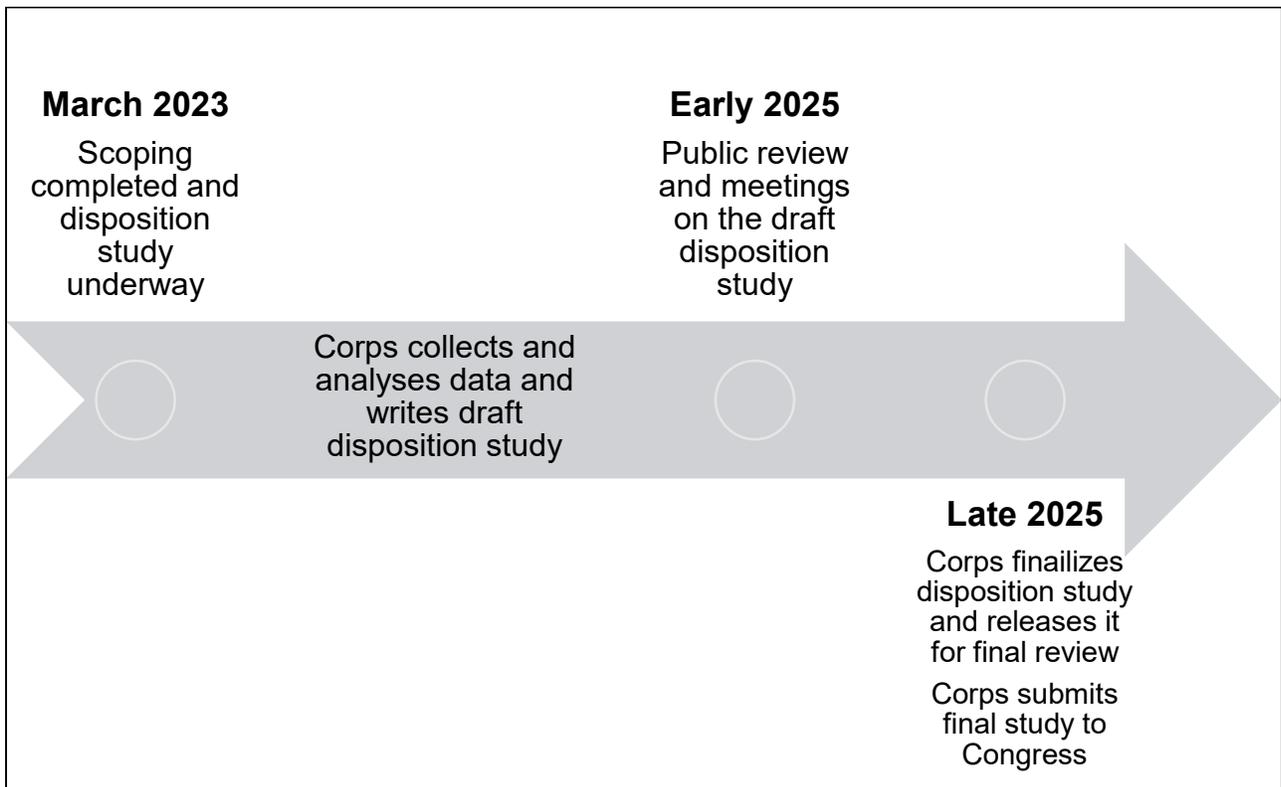


Figure 5. LSAF and LD1 Disposition Study Timeline as of March 2023

## 29. How is the Corps engaging with Indigenous communities?

The Corps continues consulting with 31 Indigenous communities under the Disposition Study. Engagements include regular communication (in-person calls, emails, other notices) on public meetings and events, individual and group meetings, group meetings with agencies and other partners, separate meetings upon request, tours, and various written correspondence.