



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# ***St. Croix Watershed Reconnaissance Study***

## **Process and Overview**

### **Summer 2005**



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## ***The Big Question:***

**“How can the Corps of Engineers partner with you to solve water resource problems in the St. Croix River Watershed?”**

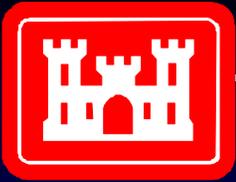


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# *Who is the Corps, and what do they do?*

- ◆ **Federal Agency**
- ◆ **Provides technical expertise in water resources**
- ◆ **Saint Croix Watershed is within St. Paul District**

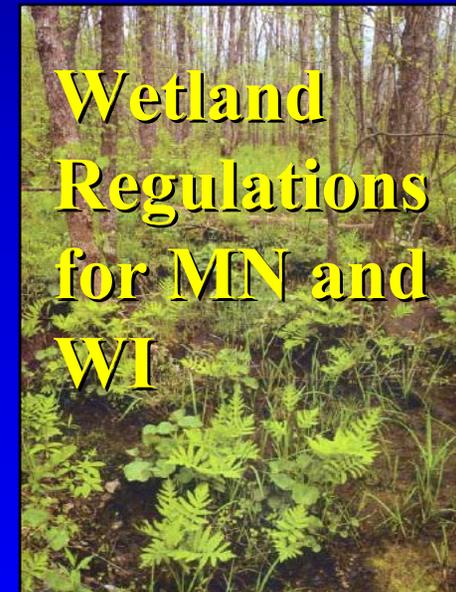
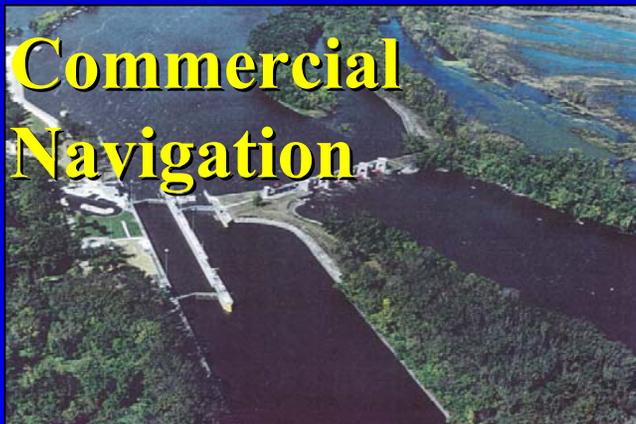
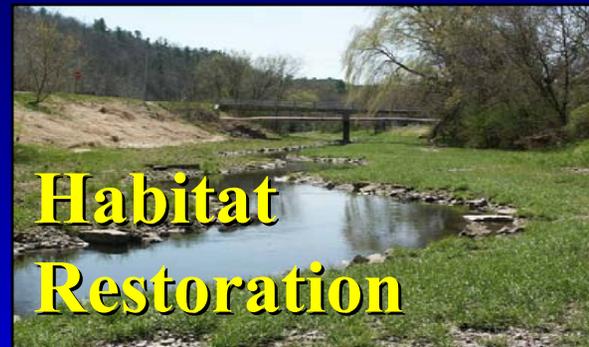




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# Corps Mission Areas





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# Why is the Corps Studying the St. Croix Watershed?

- ◆ Study authorized by a Resolution of the U.S. House of Representatives dated Sept. 25, 2002.
- ◆ Study has flexibility to review for opportunities *“...in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, water quality and related purposes to include developing a comprehensive coordinated watershed management plan for the development, conservation, and utilization of water and related land resources in the St. Croix River Basin and its tributaries.”*





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# Why is it important?



Photo: R. Ferrin, USNPS



**The St. Croix Watershed has great ecological, social and economic importance to the region**



Photo: WisDNR  
with credit below

William A. Smith



Photo: J. Hensel, MnPCA



Photo: N. Rowse, USFWS

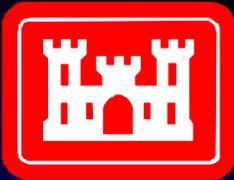


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# *What Can This Study Consider:*

- ◆ **Great flexibility**
- ◆ **Congressional Interest appear to favor environmental issues**
- ◆ **Need to consider zebra mussel issues**





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# *Study Area: The entire watershed*

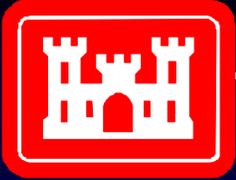




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# *Example Problems and Opportunities*

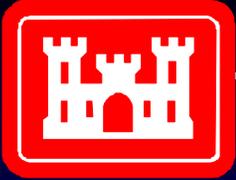
- ◆ **Nutrient enrichment within St. Croix River**
- ◆ **Urban sprawl and rural development**
  - Need for Watershed Management Plan
- ◆ **Endangered species concerns**
- ◆ **Invasive species concerns**
- ◆ **Stream, Lake or Wetland Habitat Improvement**
- ◆ **Dam removal and/or fish passage**
- ◆ **Flood Damage Reduction**
- ◆ **Other???**



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# *Reconnaissance Study Purposes*

**A Recon Study is the first  
step toward  
specifically authorized  
studies or projects**



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# *Corps of Engineers Project Development Process*

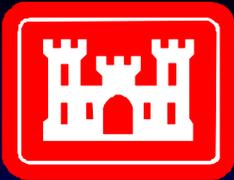
- ◆ **Congressional Study Authorization**
- ◆ **Reconnaissance Phase (18 months)**
- ◆ **Feasibility Phase (2-3 years)**
- ◆ **Congressional Construction Authorization (WRDA, as needed)**
- ◆ **Preconstruction Engineering & Design (1-2 years)**
- ◆ **Construction (time varies with project)**
- ◆ **Operation & Maintenance**



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# *Corps of Engineers Project Development Process*

- ◆ **Note that some type of watershed management plan could be developed during the feasibility phase**



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# *Reconnaissance Study Tasks*

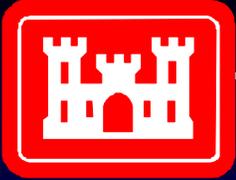
- ◆ **Gather existing information**
- ◆ **Meet with stakeholders**
- ◆ **Define problems & possible solutions**
- ◆ **Identify Potential Projects and Project Sponsors**
- ◆ **Determine the federal interest in further study**
- ◆ **Prepare Reconnaissance Report**
- ◆ **Execute Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreements (FCSA)**



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# *What a Recon Study Can Not Do*

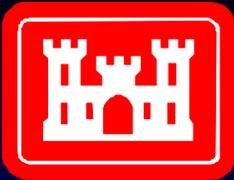
- ◆ **Collect New information**
- ◆ **Perform Complex Analyses and Design Development**
- ◆ **Extensive Report Preparation (Recon report is relatively short)**



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# *Who can be involved*

- ◆ **Federal and State natural resource agencies**
  - USFWS, NPS, State DNRs, NRCS, etc.
  
- ◆ **Local and non-governmental:**
  - SWCDs, counties, cities, watershed districts
  - NGOs (e.g., The Nature Conservancy)



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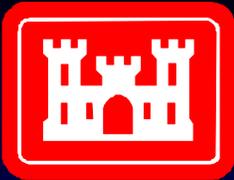
# *Recon vs Feasibility Phases*

## ◆ Reconnaissance Phase

- 100% federal cost
- Show potential federal interest
- Identify non-fed sponsors for Feasibility studies

## ◆ Feasibility Phase

- 50% federal, 50% non-federal cost
- Formulate and evaluate alternatives
- Prove the federal interest
- Recommend federal projects to Congress



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# Construction Phase

- ◆ **Construction Phase**
  - 65% federal, 35% non-federal cost
  - Requires Congressional Construction Authorization (WRDA)

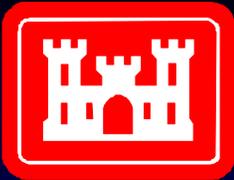




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# *Non-federal Partners' Role*

- ◆ **Provide “sponsor letters of intent”**
  - Corps needs letters sometime in 2006
  - Sponsors must be “legally constituted public bodies”
  - Other partners can send “letters of support”
- ◆ **Identify problems and potential solutions**
- ◆ **Participate in study scoping**
- ◆ **Support Federal and non-Federal funding**
  - Work in kind services
- ◆ **Assist with public involvement**

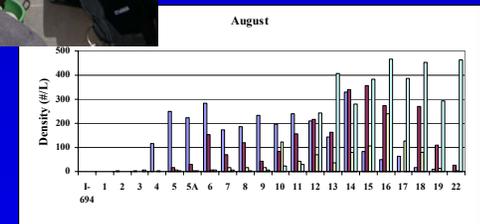


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# Feasibility Non-Federal Contribution

## ◆ Can include In-Kind work services

- Data collection
- Analysis
- Field Work
- Report Preparation
- Participation
- Other



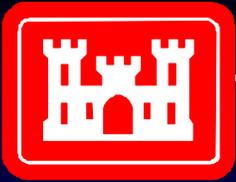
## ◆ Can also include cash contribution



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# *Recon Study Report*

- ◆ **Corps will prepare a report of its Recon analysis.**
- ◆ **Report study will identify a range of problems and opportunities**
- ◆ **Recon study will refine the list to potential plans, studies or construction projects with a federal interest**
- ◆ **Recon study also discusses cost-share sponsors for potential projects**



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# *Recon Analysis Includes:*

- ◆ **Course evaluation of benefits (ecological or \$\$\$)**
- ◆ **Course evaluation of cost**
- ◆ **Determine if cost appears warranted by benefits**
  - Benefit/Cost ratio for flood damage projects
  - Ecological benefits are more difficult to compare
- ◆ **Discussion/ID of potential sponsors**



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# *Schedule*

- ◆ **Study began: March 2005**
- ◆ **Resource Agency meetings: April 2005**
- ◆ **Stakeholder Meetings: July/August 2005**
- ◆ **Complete Draft Recon Report: Winter 2006**
- ◆ **Prepare project management plans for specific feasibility projects: Spring 2006**
- ◆ **Sign Feasibility cost-sharing agreements: Summer 2006**



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# *Federal Funding Situation*

- ◆ **Recon Study Authorized for \$200,000**
  - \$80,000 on-hand for FY05: enough to complete scoping process
  - \$120,000 needed for FY06: enough to complete Recon Report and plan for 1 to 2 specific feasibility projects
  - Funding in FY06 uncertain



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# *What we need from YOU!!!*

## Ideas for potential projects

- ◆ Can be site-specific
- ◆ Can be broad (such as a watershed management plan)
- ◆ Can be for any water resource issue the Corps can participate on
  - ★ Environmental Restoration
  - ★ Flood Damage Reduction
  - ★ Watershed Planning
  - ★ Other???



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# *What we need from YOU!!!*

## **Existing information**

- ◆ **Any reports or data that discuss existing conditions**
- ◆ **Can include existing watershed or landuse plans**
- ◆ **Provide us with a citation or reference where we can obtain this report, data or information**



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# *What we need from YOU!!!*

## **Several ways to get us your ideas!!!**

- ◆ **Fill out a comment form and return to us today.**
- ◆ **Send us additional comments by e-mail, regular mail or phone:**

**Elliott Stefanik**

**651-552-7031**

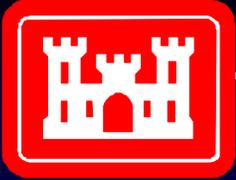
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**190 5<sup>th</sup> Street East**

**St. Paul, MN 55101**

**[Elliott.L.Stefanik@usace.army.mil](mailto:Elliott.L.Stefanik@usace.army.mil)**

**Get us your ideas by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005.**



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# *What we need from YOU!!!*

**We also need your continued support!!!**

- ◆ Support as sponsors
- ◆ Congressional Support

**Let your representatives know you think this study is important**



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# *For More Information*

Contact:

**Elliott Stefanik**

**Project Manager**

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

**190 East Fifth Street**

**St. Paul, MN 55101-1638**

**(651) 290-5260**

**Elliott.L.Stefanik@usace.army.mil**

**<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/info/stcroixrecon>**