



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

St. Paul District

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

Natural Resource Section
La Crescent, Minn.

Jan. 18, 2008

FS-16

It is the policy of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to provide quality, public outdoor recreation experiences to serve the needs of present and future generations while being consistent with ecosystem management principles. In the St. Paul District, the Natural Resource Section Office in La Crescent, Minn., manages these public resources along approximately 243 river miles within the Upper Mississippi River 9-Foot Navigation Channel Project from Minneapolis to Guttenberg, Iowa. Key products and services include:

Operation and Maintenance of Corps' Recreation Areas

The Natural Resource Section operates and maintains, with Corps' staff, four recreation areas. **Blackhawk Park**, approximately 3 miles north of De Soto, Wis., is the largest recreation area in Pool 9 and the only Corps' staffed campground on the project. Approximately 150,000 people visit this site annually. It provides approximately, 150 campsites, 65 of which have electrical hook-ups; two picnic shelters; two boat ramps; a swimming beach; accessible fishing dock; sanitary dump station; playgrounds; showers; and other recreation facilities and interpretive programming. Blackhawk Park is also designated as a placement site for material dredged out of the Mississippi River. The material is used to rehabilitate the park. **Millstone Landing**, approximately 3 miles north of New Albin, Iowa, and **Bad-Axe Landing**, approximately 5 miles south of Genoa, Wis., both in Pool 9, and **Jay's Lake Landing**, near Bagley, Wis., in Pool 10, provide boat ramps, vault toilets, picnic facilities and shoreline fishing opportunities.

Corps' Land Managed by Others

Many Corps of Engineers' owned lands on the project are licensed or leased to other federal, state and local governments for management. The Natural Resource Section staff assists these agencies, as well as serves as liaisons between the agencies.

Recreation at Locks and Dams

The recreation function is responsible for planning, developing and implementing the public-use facility plans for all 13 locks and dams in the St. Paul District. Facilities range from visitor centers at Upper Saint Anthony Falls in Minneapolis and Lock and Dam 7 near La Crescent, Minn., to interpretive displays, observation areas and information kiosks at most of the lock and dam sites.

Shoreline Management

On project lands in Pools 3 through 10, there are approximately 460 shoreline use permits for docks, lifts and floating boathouses and 250 special use licenses for stairways, sheds and other land based facilities. The Corps' recreation staff administers this program, which includes inspections of facilities, maintaining records, initiating renewals, facilitating transfers, collecting fees and maintaining correspondence.

Boundaries

Natural Resource staff determines where new property boundary surveys and/or maps are needed and administers survey contracts when necessary. They also assure project boundaries are adequately marked and signed and respond to frequent requests by individual property owners abutting the project, for boundary

-More-

identification.

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Interagency Cooperation

Corps' employees involved in the recreation business function coordinate with various federal, state and local government agencies that have management interests on the project. Major interagency cooperative efforts include: serving as chair of the River Resources Forum's Recreation Work Group, overseeing a study of recreational users and their perceptions, supporting recreational boating studies, developing beach management plans and conducting regular-user surveys.

Interpretation

Natural Resource staff is responsible for developing and conducting interpretive programs at its facilities and providing community outreach to various groups and audiences.

For more information, please contact:

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