



Environmental Considerations

The impacts a transportation project will have on the natural and human environment are evaluated and documented along with proposed measures to minimize harmful effects. Resource agencies and the public are given an opportunity to comment on the document, an Environmental Assessment or EA in this case, and the information in the EA is also used in applying for permits needed to construct the project.



Forested wetlands



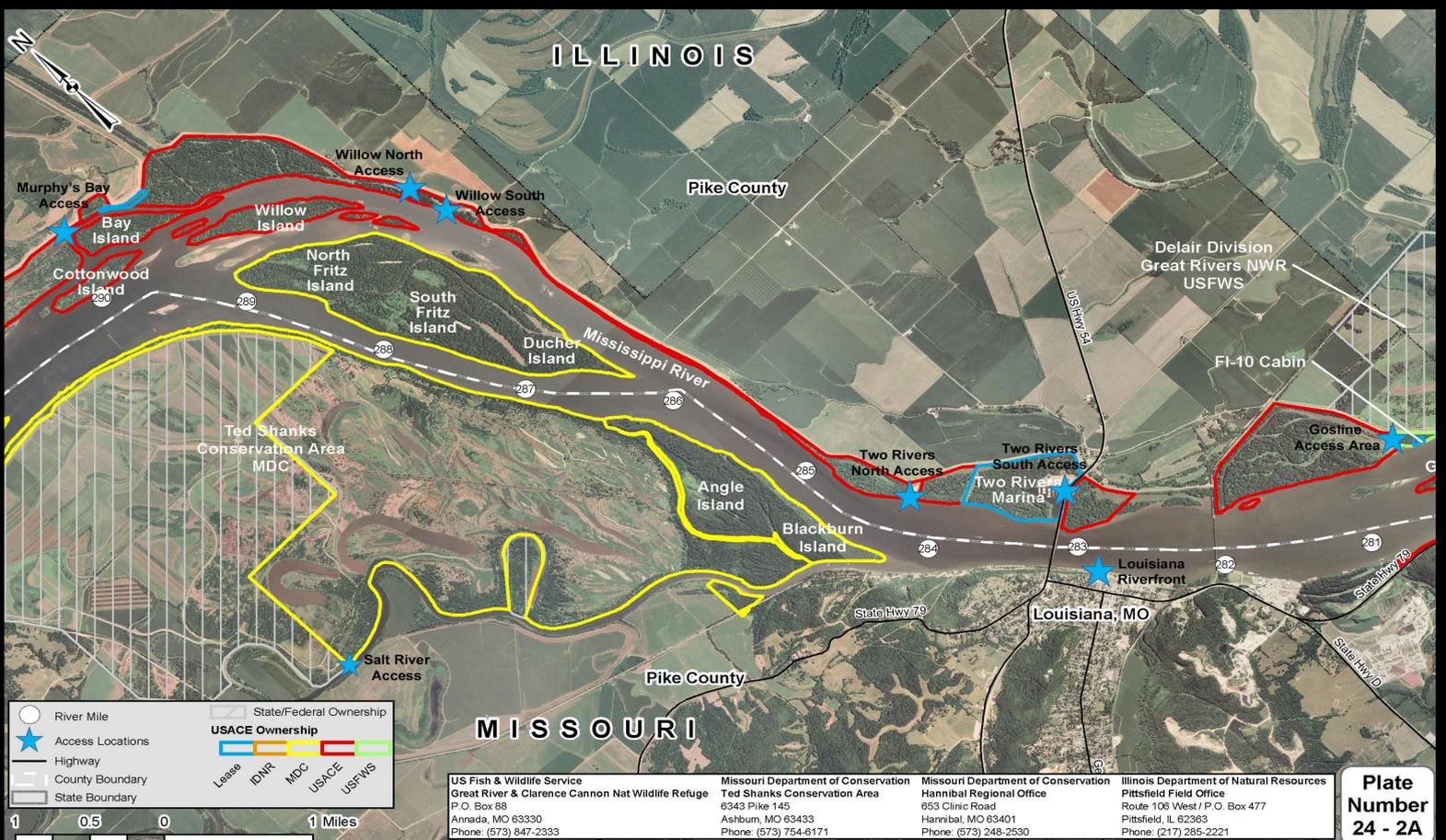
Endangered Indiana bat emerging from tree roost



Some resources considered in planning, project development, construction, and maintenance of transportation facilities	
Air quality	Noise
Wetlands	Water quality
Social and economic aspects of the human environment	Floodplains
Endangered species and wildlife habitat	Farmland
Historic and archaeological sites	Solid and hazardous waste
Publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife & waterfowl refuges	

The EA will look at

- ✓ existing environmental conditions—what's out there?
- ✓ applicable regulations and policies—what laws apply to the resources in the project area?
- ✓ consequences and impacts of specific actions—how will the project affect different resources?
- ✓ methods to lessen or eliminate negative impacts—how can the project be implemented to produce the fewest harmful effects?



Publicly owned recreations areas such as river boat accesses are specially protected by law—federally funded transportation projects must avoid impacting such properties unless there are no feasible and prudent alternatives that avoid such harm.



Missouri Department of Transportation



Illinois Department of Transportation

The three joint lead agencies for the EA will coordinate with regulatory and other agencies including local governments and other affected parties throughout project development.

The general public will have opportunities to participate through the project website as well as at a future public meeting and the public hearing.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Missouri Department of Conservation



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

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