

Dear Mr. Melinchuk:

Thank you for your presentation before the Mississippi River Commission during the public meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 8, 2003. You provided an excellent overview of your organization, its mission, and the memorandum of understanding executed between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Ducks Unlimited (DU).

The Commission appreciates the vital role that DU plays in restoring our Nation's wetlands. We were pleased to learn that DU's Southern Region has identified the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV) as a high-priority area for conservation and restoration efforts and that DU is working with the Corps on several important projects within the MAV.

We believe that cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and hard work by Ducks Unlimited, the Corps, and other resource management agencies result in the completion of numerous wetland restoration projects in the MAV and across our great nation. The Commission is pleased that two of the DU's potential demonstration projects (the Cache River, Arkansas, project and the Missouri, Mississippi, and Illinois Rivers project) are within the Mississippi Valley Division.

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We expect that a continued spirit of cooperation will exist between DU, the Corps, the Department of Interior, and other state agencies in conducting the Lower Mississippi Resource Assessment when, and if, funding is received for this initiative.

Thank you again for your presentation. The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future public meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley  
Brigadier General, U.S. Army  
President Designee, Mississippi  
River Commission