

Dear Mr. Peeters:

Thank you for your comments during the public meeting of the Mississippi River Commission on August 13, 2002, in Davenport, Iowa.

The Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is currently working on several environmental projects in Iowa and Illinois. In many cases these projects are directly concerned with the effects of altered hydrology, stream degradation, and sediment movements. As you suggested, the Corps is looking into the effects and benefits of increasing water retention in upland areas, particularly wetland ponds.

One of the opportunities for us to investigate the benefits of numerous small retention structures will occur as part of the ongoing Illinois River Ecosystem Restoration Study. As part of that study, the Corps is developing a model of the basin that will allow us to look at the effects of increased upland water retention as it relates to runoff rates and water level fluctuations on the mainstem.

The Corps is also partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), on a number of projects. NRCS is another Federal agency with authorities to carry out similar work including wetland restoration and creation of ponds.

If you have questions on current restoration efforts, please contact Mr. Brad Thompson, Project Manager for Watershed and Ecosystem Restoration Studies at the Rock Island District, at (309) 794-5256.

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Thank you again for your participation in our Davenport meeting. The Commission appreciates receiving your comments and will be pleased to hear from you at our future meetings.

Sincerely,

Don T. Riley

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