

FACT SHEET
CRAB ORCHARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT RESTORATION PLAN

FACT SHEET NUMBER 2 **JUNE 1997**

INTRODUCTION

This Fact Sheet presents information on the **Draft Final Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Plan for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge)**. This information includes an explanation of **NRDA**, how it relates to the **Refuge**, particularly to the **Superfund** sites, and what is planned for the restoration of damaged natural resources that occurred from the release of **Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB)**.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND SUPERFUND

NRDA is the process for determining proper compensation for injury to natural resources from a release of hazardous substances. There are established procedures under **NRDA** for assessing damages to natural resources. Monetary damages must be used to restore, replace, or acquire natural resources and may reimburse assessment costs.

The **NRDA** program is a component of the **Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**, more commonly known as **Superfund**. Authority also stems from the **Clean Water Act** and the **Oil Pollution Act**. The **NRDA** program at the **Refuge** relates more specifically to the **Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB)** contamination.

Natural resource **Trustees** are expected to seek damages from polluters for injuries to natural resources. A Consent Decree was signed in 1991 between the Department of Interior and Schlumberger Industries, Inc. That included a \$2.5 million settlement for injury to, or destruction or loss of natural resources resulting from releases of hazardous substances at the **Refuge**. As an agency of the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the **Trustee** for **Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge**, and the **Refuge** is a trust resource.

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The Superfund program is concerned with the actual clean up or remediation of the hazardous waste sites. The NRDA program goes beyond clean up. Its objective is to restore the natural resources injured by the contamination and the services they provide to a pre-release condition.

THE RESTORATION PLAN

The Refuge has developed a Draft Final Environmental Assessment and Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan that outlines the various alternatives for restoration. The restoration alternatives provided in this document were suggested by the general public, non-profit environmental groups, State agencies, and Refuge staff. Although a number of alternatives were considered, including the no action alternative, the preferred alternatives include: reforestation, shoreline and riparian restoration, grassland restoration, public education/outreach program, and land acquisition. These restoration alternatives consist of a mixture of management activities that will provide benefits to aquatic and wildlife species. Benefits associated with these alternatives would help to compensate the public for loss of natural resources and the services they provide. These alternatives are consistent with the existing Refuge management plans and contribute towards Refuge objectives and restoration goals. The environmental impacts associated with these restoration activities are minimal when compared to the benefits that will result from the implementation of these restoration efforts.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public participation is very important in the NRDA process. The purpose for the Public Meeting is to inform the public about the NRDA program and to receive comments from the public on the restoration alternatives. **This meeting will be held at the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Information Center on June 30, 1997, from 2:00pm to 8:00pm.**

Public comments from this meeting will be considered and incorporated into a Final Environmental Assessment and Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan that is scheduled for release in August 1997.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Copies of the settlement for restoration can be found in the Consent Decree that is located in each of the Administrative Record Files and the Information Repositories listed here. Copies of the Draft Final Environmental Assessment and Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan can also be found in the Informational Repositories.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILES

Morris Library - Fifth Floor
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901

USEPA, Region V
77 West Jackson Blvd
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959
(618)997-3344

Marion Carnegie Public Library
206 South Market Street
Marion, IL 62959

Carbondale Public Library
405 West Main Street
Carbondale, IL 62901

Marion Federal Penitentiary
Department of Justice
Bureau of Prisons
Route 5 Little Grassy Road
Marion, IL 62959

If you wish to be place on our mailing list for either NRDA or Superfund activities at the Refuge, please complete the form below and mail to:

Refuge Manager
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959
(618) 997-3344

I would like my name placed on the mailing list for the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Superfund Activities. Please send information to the address listed below:

Name/Title _____

Organization _____

Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____