



Reply to
Attention of:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MEMPHIS DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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MEMPHIS TN 38103-1894

For Immediate Release

Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project

Fact Sheet

- Development of design plans and engineering specifications are ongoing.
- The total amount of money spent on the feasibility studies of the Eastern Arkansas Irrigation Projects was \$11,583,000. These studies included project alternatives, an economic analysis of the GPADP, and EIS (Environmental Impact Study) reports.
- An additional amount of \$7,924,000 has been spent to date on initiation, construction and specifications of the on-farm reservoirs in the GPADP plan.
- The U.S. Congress has appropriated \$20,300,000 in fiscal year 2001 for continuation of work on construction and specifications of the on-farm water storage systems and other parts of the GPADP plan.
- The fiscal year 2001 appropriation includes a \$2,000,000 engineering review of water sources required by a compromise struck by U.S. Congressman Jay Dickey (R-Ark.) between government agencies and local detractors of the project.
- The initial project cost was estimated at \$270,500,000 in 1996. The total cost of the project, including all costs listed above and all costs for studies and work to date, is \$319,000,000.
- The local share of the project's cost is \$111,000,000 or 35 percent of the total cost of the project.
- Peak water usage in the Grand Prairie area is in July and August, typically the hottest and driest months of the year.
- The GPADP's on-farm water reservoir plan will create 88,000 additional acre-feet of water storage.
- The GPADP's on-farm water reservoir plan will pump water from the White River at a pumping station to be built at DeValls Bluff. The pump will supply water at a rate of 1,640 cubic feet per second through a series of canals, pipelines and natural streams for agricultural use in place of water now being siphoned from the alluvial and sparta aquifers.

- Located within the Grand Prairie area is Stuttgart, Arkansas - the agribusiness hub of the area, also widely known as “the rice and duck capital of the world.”
- As the main thoroughfare in the Mississippi Flyway, Stuttgart’s primary economic engine is rice production and guided duck hunting along with lodging, dining and facilities for corporate meetings.
- There are approximately 241,777 acres of irrigated cropland within the Grand Prairie area. Nearly 50 percent of that is sown in rice with another 30 percent in either single-cropped or double-cropped soybeans.
- Approximately 17,400 acres of cropland are currently flooded after harvest for use in waterfowl management. This system of on-farm water storage will allow flooding of rice and soybean fields after harvest for the creation of an additional 38,000 acres of waterfowl habitat and food supply.
- Shorebirds would also benefit from the flooded rice and soybean fields and the on-farm water reservoirs created by the GPADP.
- The drying of bottomland hardwoods from the depletion of their water source – groundwater from the aquifers – could be reversed or at least slowed by the GPADP.
- The plan calls for the reintroduction of as much as 3,000 acres of native prairie grasses eliminated when the Grand Prairie was cleared for agricultural use.
- The project does not include or call for any modification via channel redirection or enlargement of the White River or any channels, streams, tributaries or oxbow lakes.
- The studies show the effect of drawing excess water from the White River for on-farm storage would move river conditions to a more natural and historic condition.
- The project is expected to greatly increase various wildlife species in the area, enhance the area’s economic engine and increase property values and employment opportunities.
- The project will also support and maintain the level of agribusiness and waterfowl sport income the area currently enjoys.
- The GPADP project is expected to be completed by the end of this decade.

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