

Response to American Rivers report.

The impacts of the Grand Prairie Area Demonstration Project have been analyzed. The project would have insignificant impacts to the river, the surrounding wetlands, and the fisheries. The project would have positive benefits for waterfowl. The project would only use excess water as defined by the state of Arkansas after the needs of the river had been met for water quality, fish and wildlife, and navigation. The American Rivers new release that we have seen says the project will use 100 billion gallons of water per year. The flow in the White River is on average over 7 trillion gallons per year. The water used is less than 2% of the river flow and, more importantly, this small loss of flows does not cause significant impacts. In addition to the significant positive benefits for waterfowl, the project would protect the aquifers including the drinking water source and prevent the loss of \$46 million annually in farm receipts.. The Grand Prairie project does not require a choice between the environment and agriculture. With the project you could sustain irrigated agriculture and protect the agricultural based economy, not have significant negative impacts to the environment, provide waterfowl habitat, and sustain the aquifers for the future.

The Grand Prairie project was planned in the open seeking public input and disclosing project information including the scientific studies. The science used is available in reports on this web sight for your review. The project pamphlet in the project and reports section contains a summary of the environmental studies.

The White River is a controlled system with reservoirs, levees, and a navigation project. This area contains significant natural resources. The Corps recognizes the importance of the river and has budgeted for a comprehensive study of the river and its significant resources. The study would be conducted in partnership with the AGFC, ASWCC, ANHC, AWC, MDC, MDNR, the Nature Conservancy, and the NWF. A study plan had been developed in cooperation with these sponsors and a cost sharing agreement is scheduled to be executed in April 2002 to initiate studies.