



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Memphis District

Public Notice

REPLY TO ATTN: [REDACTED]
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
167 North Main Street, Room B-202
Memphis, Tennessee 38103-1894
Telephone: (901) 544-0732
Fax: (901) 544-0211
[REDACTED]

POSTMASTER PLEASE POST UNTIL: April 27, 2012

PUBLIC NOTICE NO:
MVM-2012-126 (RDM)

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:
March 28, 2012

EXPIRATION DATE:
April 27, 2012

**Joint Public Notice
Corps of Engineers
and
State of Arkansas**

AUTHORITY: Pursuant to 33 CFR 325, as published in the Federal Register dated November 13, 1986, this notice announces an application submitted for a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

APPLICANT: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
White River National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 205
St. Charles, AR 72140
(870) 282-8200

LOCATION: The project is located at the White River National Wildlife Refuge south of St. Charles in Sections 10, 15, & 23, Township 4S, Range 1W, in Arkansas County, Arkansas, at approximate latitude 34.35°N and longitude -91.11°W on the Indian Bay SE 7.5 minute quadrangle map (Attachment 1).

PURPOSE: The purpose of this project is to replace an existing road that is too dangerous to allow public travel because the recent 2011 flood event washed away parts of the road.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: The applicant proposes to abandon an existing roadbed that is used for forest management and public use and establish a new roadbed that will be used for the same purposes. The road to be abandoned is approximately 3,591 feet long X 70 feet wide and the road to be established is approximately 3,616 feet long X 70 feet wide (Attachment 2). Approximately 5.8 acres of trees will have to be removed from an existing bottomland hardwood forest in order to create the new roadbed. Approximately 5, 12-18" culverts may have to be installed along portions of the new road to facilitate water movement/drainage. Approximately 2,000 cubic yards of gravel from the abandoned roadbed will be removed and placed onto the new roadbed impacting approximately 5.8 acres of wetlands. The applicant proposes to offset those impacts by allowing the old roadbed to regenerate naturally into approximately 5.7 acres of bottomland hardwoods.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: By copy of this public notice, the applicant is requesting water quality certification from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality that the activity will comply with applicable requirements set forth in 33 U.S.C. and 1341(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and all State laws and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. This certification or evidence of this water quality certification or waiver of the right to certify must be submitted prior to the issuance of a Corps of Engineers permit. The Corps of Engineers' evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat, are known to exist in the project area. This application is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Any comments they may have regarding endangered or threatened wildlife or plants, or their critical habitat, will be considered in our evaluation of the described work.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Memphis District will evaluate information provided by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally-recognized Tribes, and the public in response to this public notice and we may conduct, or require a reconnaissance survey of the project area.

FLOOD PLAIN: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to advise all interested parties of the activities for which a permit is sought and to solicit comments and information necessary to evaluate the probable impact on the public interest.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reason for holding a public hearing. The District Engineer will determine if the issues raised are substantial and whether a hearing is needed for making a decision. If a public hearing is held it will be for the purpose of obtaining additional information that we could not otherwise obtain through a public notice process; not to inform the public about the specific details of the project in greater detail than what is found in this notice. This is not a Corps project. We are not a proponent or are we an opponent of the project. We are merely the permitting authority of Section 404 and Section 10 permits required by our office.

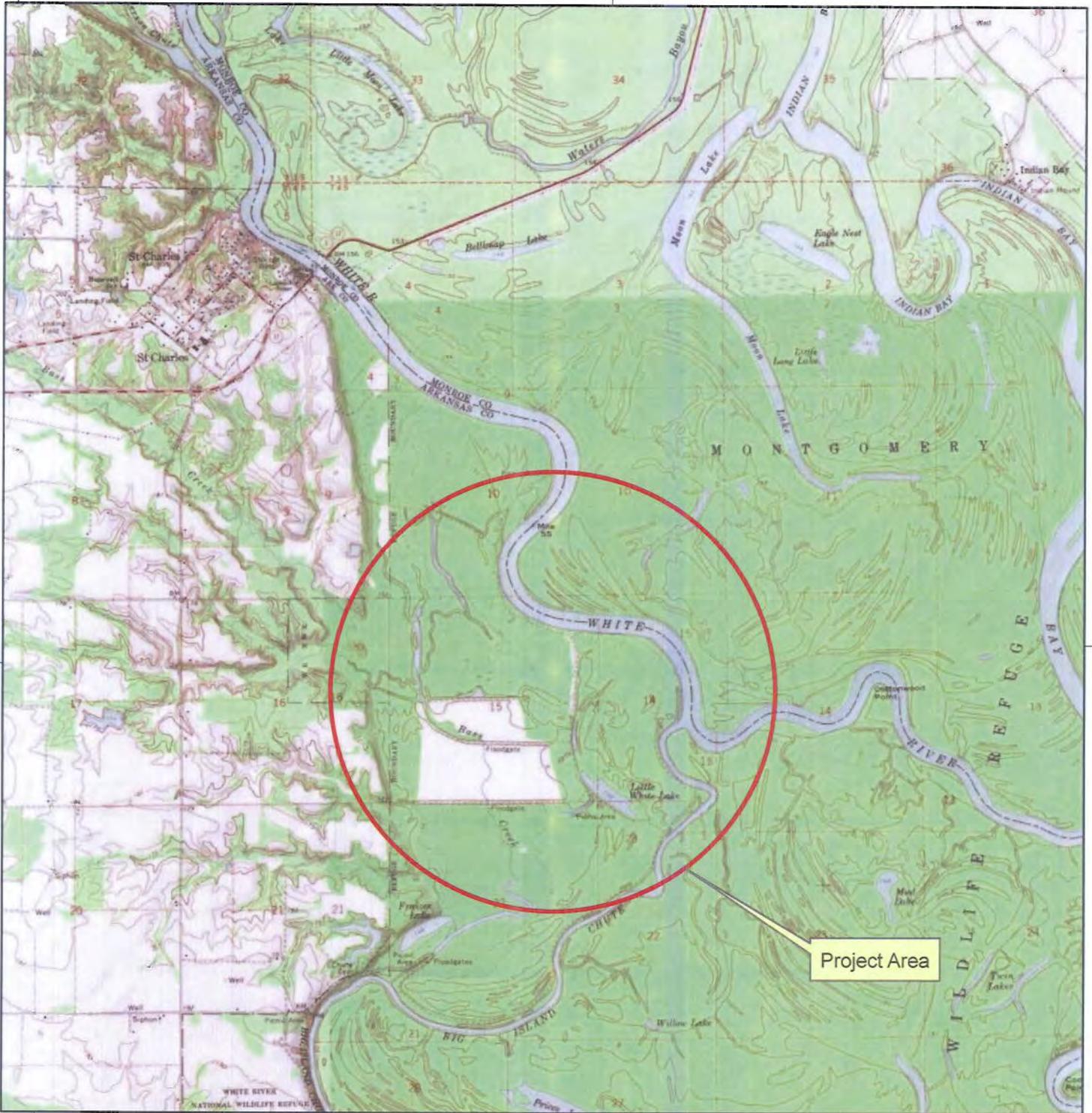
COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Send comments to the Corps of Engineers, Memphis District and Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. Comments may be sent via mail or e-mail to the following: [REDACTED] U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 167 North Main Street, Room B-202, Memphis,

White River National Wildlife Refuge Access Road
MVM-2012-126 (RDM)

Tennessee 38103-1894; [REDACTED] and Mark Hathcote, State Permits Branch, Water Division, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, 5301 North Shore Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317; email: Hathcote@adeq.state.ar.us.

Copies of all comments, including the names and address of commenters, may be provided to the applicant for consideration and response prior to a decision by the Corps. Comments should be received by April 27, 2012.

Attachments

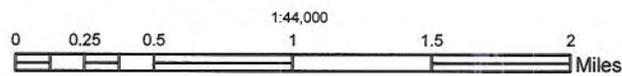


Legend

NGS USA Topographic Maps

Attachment 1

Arkansas County, Arkansas



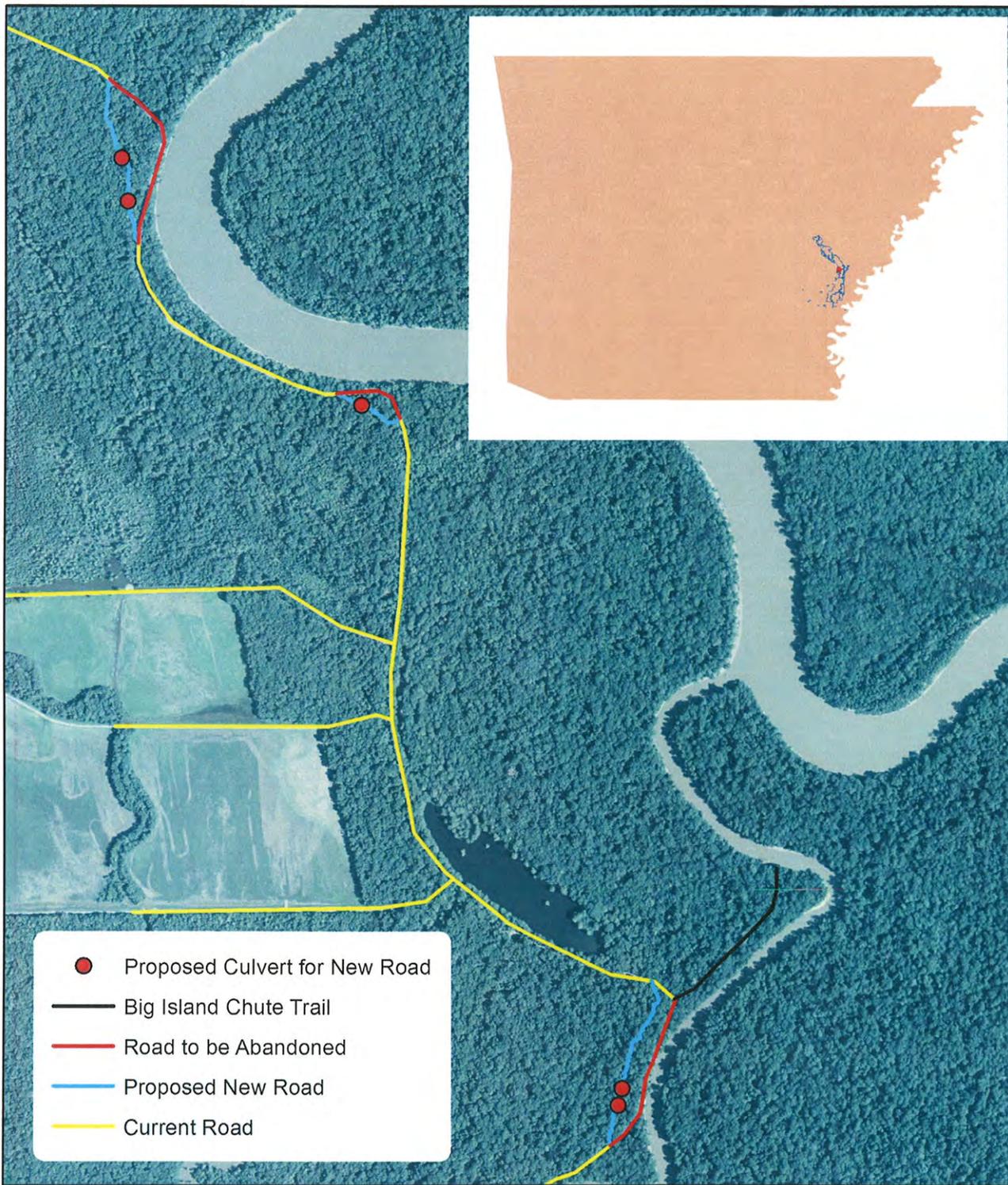


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

White River National Wildlife Refuge

Arkansas County, Arkansas

Movement of Portions of Wildlife Drive



LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 2009
 MAP DATE: 3/13/12
 BASEMAP: NAIP 2009
 FILE: J:\HITCHCOCK\PROJECT FILES\WILDLIFE DRIVE 404.MXD



Attachment 2



UTM ZONE 16
NAD 83