



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Memphis District

# Project Fact Sheet

## MS RIV HATCHIE/LOOSAHATCHIE, MS RVR MI 775-736, TN & AR

WRDA 2018, Section 1202

### Feasibility Study (Investigation)

**Location:** The study area is a 39 mile reach of the Mississippi River and the surrounding batture beginning at the mouth of the Hatchie River and extending south to the mouth of the Wolf River Harbor. The reach includes crossings, pools, side channels, bendways, and overbank areas between west levee and east bluff (2-9 miles). There are three tributary mouths in the reach ( Hatchie, Loosahatchie, and Wolf Rivers). Meeman Shelby and Fort Pillow State Parks, Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge and JM Tulley Wildlife Management area border this reach.

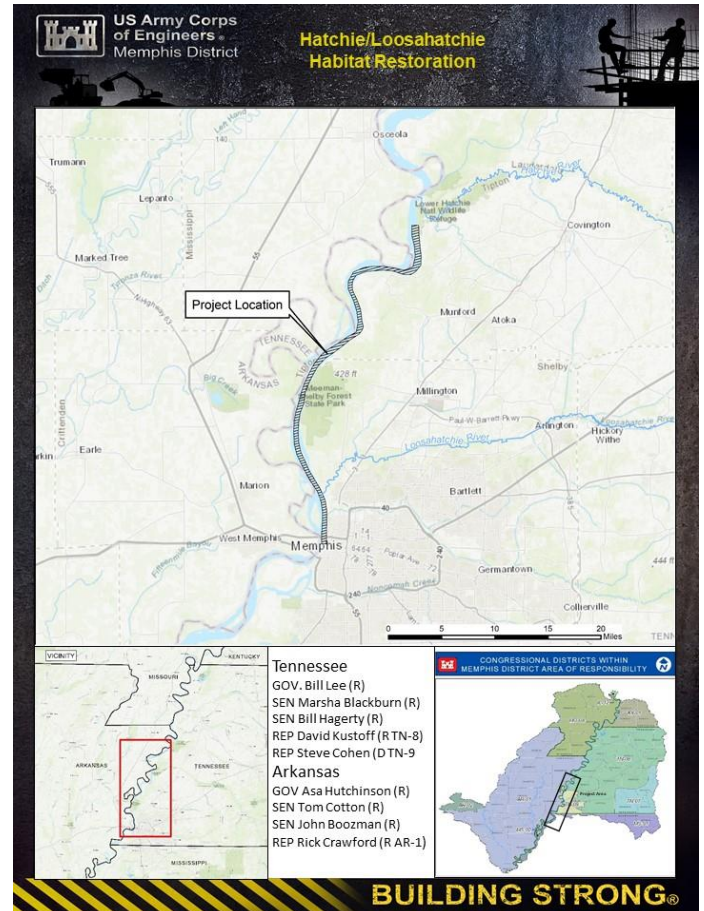
**Description:** The study will examine restoring ecological structure and function along the Mississippi River including side channels and other aquatic habitat; floodplain forests; and several scarce vegetative communities - wetlands, canebrakes, riverfront forests and BLH forests.

**Issues:** Reduced vegetative diversity and forested habitats; disconnected side channels, backwaters, and oxbows; invasive species; degraded gravel bars and sandbars; reduced floodplain habitat quality; decreased habitat diversity in the main channel.

**Importance:** The Mississippi Flyway hosts the world's largest bird migration, connecting Arctic to South America. Over 300 species of migrating birds and approximately 70% of the Nation's migratory waterfowl use the flyway. The active floodplain of the Lower River is a dynamic freshwater ecosystem that changes with the river's annual hydrologic regime. The nearly 3 million-acre floodplain is interspersed with abandoned channels, meander scars, and forests. These areas provide an array of aquatic habitats and are connected to the river at high water. The river also supports over 90 freshwater fish species, approximately 50 native mussel species, and several federal threatened or endangered species.

**Risk:** The opportunity to restore some of the diverse habitats of the Mississippi River will be delayed or missed without this project.

**Consequence:** If a project were not implemented, the nation would miss the opportunity to improve the Mississippi River ecosystem.



**Activities for FY 21:** Initiate study and sign Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with non-federal sponsors.

**Project Sponsor:** Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee.

**Congressional Interest:** Senate Blackburn (TN), Haggerty (TN), Cotton (AR), and Boozman (AR) House: Kustoff (TN-08), Cohen (TN-09) and Crawford (AR-01)