



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Memphis District

# Project Fact Sheet

## Running Reelfoot Bayou, TN

Sec. 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (PL 91-611)

### Mississippi River and Tributaries Feasibility Study (Investigation)

**Location:** Running Reelfoot Bayou is the main outlet of Reelfoot Lake. It flows south from the lake for nearly 20 miles and into the Obion River in northwest Tennessee in Lake, Obion, and Dyer Counties.

**Description:** The original project provides flood control around Reelfoot Lake. This project will analyze methods that restore aquatic and floodplain habitat that is complimentary to the flood control project.

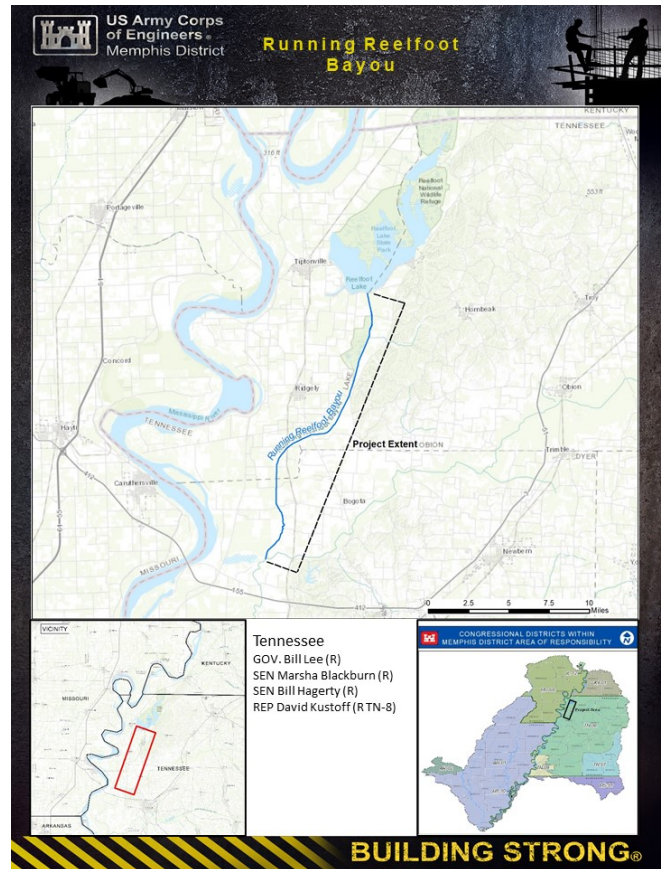
**Issues:** Channel degradation, lack of riparian and floodplain habitat, loss of bottomland hardwood forests. Downstream flooding is also occurring because the channel has lost capacity.

**Importance:** This project would restore aquatic and floodplain habitat along a 20-mile corridor from Reelfoot Lake and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuge to the Obion River. The National Park Service lists Reelfoot Lake as a Threatened National Natural Landmark. There are two National Wildlife Refuges adjacent to the proposed study area. The lake is home to a large wintering population of bald eagles and is a significant stopover for many species of waterfowl along the Mississippi Flyway.

**Risk:** Running Reelfoot Bayou will continue to degrade and habitat will not improve without a project. Downstream flooding will also continue and may increase.

**Consequence:** If a project were not implemented, the nation would miss the opportunity to improve the ecosystem in a unique corridor connecting the Mississippi River to Reelfoot Lake. Flood damages to agricultural cropland will also continue.

**Activities for FY 21:** Initiate the study and sign the Feasibility Study Cost Sharing Agreement and begin coordination with other federal agencies and stakeholders.



**Amount That Could be Used in FY 22:** Funding of \$600,000 could be used to complete the Alternatives and Tentatively Selected Plan milestones and to initiate public and technical review.

**Project Sponsor:** West Tennessee River Basin Authority (WTRBA).

**Congressional Interest:** Senate Blackburn and Hagerty (TN). House: Kustoff (TN-08)

Phase	FY 21 Budget	FY 22 Budget	FY 22 Additional Capability
MR&T Investigation	\$200,000	\$600,000	TBD

The capability for each study or project is defined as the estimated amount of additional, new funding that, if provided in the applicable FY, can be used effectively and efficiently in that FY, consistent with law and contracting and execution policy, assuming that all unobligated carry in to that FY is used first. However, each capability estimate is made without reference to the availability of manpower, equipment, and other resources across the Army Civil Works program, so the sum of the capability estimates exceeds the amount that the Corps actually could use in a single FY. The Budget allocates funding among studies and projects on a performance basis in a manner that will enable the Corps to use that funding effectively. Furthermore, the overall funding level proposed in the Budget for the Army Civil Works program reflects the Administration's assessment of national priorities in view of the range of potential private and public use of funds. Consequently, while the Corps could obligate additional funds for some studies and projects, offsetting reductions within the Army Civil Works program would be required to maintain overall budgetary objectives.