Missouri National Wildlife Refuges

- Mingo
- Great River
- Clarence Cannon
- Middle Mississippi River
- Swan Lake
- Loess Bluffs
- Big Muddy
The Mission

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.
Mingo National Wildlife Refuge

• Southeast Missouri
• 21,592 Acres – Bottomland hardwood forest, cypress-tupelo swamp, marsh, and upland forest.
• 7,730 Acre Wilderness Area – also designated as a Missouri Natural Area
• Wildlife observation, hiking, photography, paddling, fishing, hunting.
  - 30 Miles of Refuge auto tours.
  - 120,000 visits annually
Managed Hunts

- Missouri Department of Conservation
  - Managed deer hunt drawings
  - Waterfowl hunting

Great partnership with MDC on hunting issues.
Pilot Knob NWR

- 90 Acre Refuge
- Established in 1987 – Donation from Pilot Knob Ore Company
- Critical habitat for Indiana Bat
- Refuge partners with MDC on bat exit counts each fall
- Refuge offers 4 hikes per year
Challenges – Feral Hogs on Mingo

• Scattered hog sightings and encounters for the years up to 2011. Most sightings and kills were lone boars.
• During the flood of 2011, numerous hogs were seen on high ground, including sows with young. These sightings were along the northern and western boundaries near an existing population.
• Breeding hog population established summer of 2011
• Substantial number of hogs on the refuge in 2014
Impacts from Feral Hogs

• Negative impacts to water quality
• Act as a vector for invasive plants
• Direct competition with native species
• Will eat ground nesting birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals
• Carry numerous diseases and parasites
• Destroy the land and infrastructure
• Direct impact to livestock and agricultural industries
Trapping
Distribution of 2175 Feral Swine Eliminated from Mingo NWR by Method 2016 - 2019

- **2016**: 431 Traps, 12 Shooting, 419 Total
- **2017**: 424 Traps, 56 Shooting, 365 Total
- **2018**: 455 Traps, 49 Shooting, 406 Total
- **2019**: 848 Total, 127 Aerial Operations, 56 Shooting, 665 Traps

*USDA*
Great River, Clarence Cannon, and Middle Mississippi River Refuge Complex

- 24,124 acres over 300 miles of Mississippi River
- Lands both open river and levee protected
- Habitats range from intensely managed moist-soil to passively managed open river sites.
- Wildlife observation, hiking, photography, fishing, hunting.
- 40,500 visits annually
Public Use Opportunities

• Average peak waterfowl numbers around 200,000
  - Highest visitation during waterfowl migration
• Two managed deer hunts each year at Clarence Cannon NWR
  – Mobility/Visually Impaired Deer Hunt
  – Wildlife observation, photography, hiking, hunting, fishing.
Challenges

- Frequent flooding from Mississippi River
- Seep water
- Narrow management widow
Clarence Cannon HREP and DU Partnerships

Degradation of exterior berm and Setback Fish
WCS cannot be combined.
Historic meander
WCS are only needed if Setback Fish WCS
is selected.
Crains Island HREP Tentatively Selected Plan

Middle Mississippi River HREP

- Sediment deflection berm
- Side channel restoration
Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge

- 20,000 acres and growing
  - 13+ refuge units
  - ACOE

- Acquisition boundary of 60,000 acres of floodplains and adjacent lands on the lower Missouri River between Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri.

- 357 mile long reach

- Headquarters – Boonville, Missouri

- Purpose - Preserve and restore natural river floodplain, manage fish and wildlife habitats, and provide for
Great Fishing!
Swan Lake NWR

• Established in 1937
• 10,900 acres
• 1,100 acres moist-soil habitat – NAWCA project added 265 acres
• Active friends group
• Lots of public use opportunities – Waterfowl hunting, fishing, annual Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt.
Mobility Impaired Deer Hunt

• Managed by MDC
First Fridays
Loess Bluffs NWR

- Established in 1935
- 7,440 acres – 6,700 acres of floodplain
  - Moist-soil
  - Wet Prairie
- 10 Mile auto tour
- Hiking, Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Observation
1,400,000 Snow Geese
Eagle Days

- 476 Eagles
- First full weekend in December
Questions?