

ARKANSAS RIVER CORRIDOR

Appendix C: Cultural Resources

ARKANSAS RIVER CORRIDOR, TULSA COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Introduction

The Arkansas River is a water resource serving numerous nationally significant purposes. The river has historically served as a nationally significant resource for aquatic and terrestrial habitat of the nation's wildlife that live, breed, and migrate through the Arkansas River ecosystem. This includes federally endangered Interior Least Tern (Least Tern, *Sterna antillarum*), a nationally significant resource, and two federally threatened bird species, the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and the Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*) as well as a plethora of native species and migratory waterfowl that support a healthy and functional riverine ecosystem. Keystone Lake and its dam located along the Arkansas River also play vital roles in supporting the continued provision of many of those multi-purposes. In particular, the lake and dam provide flood risk management benefits, contribute to the eleven reservoir system operation of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, provide clean and efficient power through the associated hydropower plant, and provide a source of water for municipal and industrial uses. However, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Keystone Dam, lake, associated hydropower operations and other multi-purposes have significantly degraded the riverine ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes below Keystone Dam on the Arkansas River within Tulsa County, Oklahoma.

Stage of Planning Process

This is a feasibility study. A planning Charette was conducted in October 2013, and an Alternatives Milestone Meeting was completed in September 2015. The study is in the Alternative Formulation and Analysis Phase. Utilizing a reasonable level of detail, the PDT has analyzed, compared, and evaluated the array of alternatives to identify a Tentatively Selected Plan for consideration by the Vertical Team.

Study Authority

The Arkansas River Corridor study is authorized in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, Section 3132.

Section 3132. Arkansas River Corridor.

- (a) IN GENERAL. – The Secretary is authorized to participate in the ecosystem restoration, recreation, and flood damage reduction components of the Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan dated October 2005. The Secretary shall coordinate with appropriate representatives in the vicinity of Tulsa, Oklahoma, including representatives of Tulsa County and surrounding communities and the Indian Nations Council of Governments.
- (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS. – There is authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 to carry out this section.

Non-Federal Sponsor

Tulsa County is the non-federal sponsor for the Arkansas River Corridor feasibility study. An amended feasibility cost-sharing agreement was executed in May 2015.

Purpose

This study is in response to the Section 3132 authorization of the 2007 WRDA. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the aquatic ecosystem restoration components of the October 2005 Arkansas River Corridor Master Plan (ARC Master Plan) and determine if there is a Federal Interest that aligns with the Corps of Engineers ecosystem restoration mission.

Cultural Resources

Federal agencies are required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to “take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties” [(36 CFR 800.1(a)]. There are other applicable cultural resources laws, rules and regulations that will inform how the investigations and evaluations will proceed throughout the study and implementation phases (e.g., Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, National Environmental Policy Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Engineer Regulation 1105-2-100).

Existing Conditions

A review of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey (OAS) maps and existing information indicates numerous known sites within a ¼ mile buffer of the 42 mile stretch of river, but also indicates significant tracks of land remain unsurveyed. The known archeological, cultural, and historical sites inventory includes artifact scatters, deeply buried deposits, historic homesteads, farms, missions, cemeteries, and a levee system. While there are sites located within the floodplain, the majority are located on ridges/bluffs and more than likely will not be impacted or effected by any of the currently proposed measures.

Proposed Pool Structure #1 (river mile 531) – River mile 531 is the former location of the Keystone re-regulating dam removed in 1986. No surveys or known sites are located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed Sand Springs pooling structure. A 44-acre survey to the north of the proposed measure did note the presence of the historic Sand Springs Levee (34TU203) segment (ca. 1930-40s), but no significance or National Register eligibility determinations were made at that time. The levee segment will not be impacted by implementation of the proposed measure.

Proposed Pool Structure #2 (river mile 530) and Prattville Creek Rock Riffles/Riparian Plantings – No surveys have been conducted within the immediate vicinity of the second proposed pooling structure and the rock riffles/riparian planting features on Prattville Creek. Two sites (34TU197, 34TU200) are recorded nearby, but neither are considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register. A linear survey was conducted to the very south of the proposed measure location. It was conducted in 1998 for an interceptor line replacement – no archeological sites were recorded. No additional surveys were identified.

Cherry Creek Riprap/Riparian Plantings and Riverside Wing Deflectors – No surveys or known sites are located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed Cherry Creek riprap/riparian plantings and Riverside wing deflector features.

Broken Arrow Least Tern Island – No surveys or known sites are located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed least tern island features. However, there are three undetermined eligibility sites recorded nearby; two historic debris scatters (34TU12, 34TU146) located in the floodplain, and one historic mission site (34TU126) on the ridge

overlooking the river. Currently, the proposed island locations do not impact these three known sites.

Recommendations

It should be noted, that because no surveys have been conducted within the proposed measures' footprints, and the possibility that ground-disturbing measures along the river and associated creeks might be recommended, there is a likelihood that some level of surface and subsurface survey will be required to determine if anything significant might be impacted. As restoration measures, access routes, and staging/stockpiling locations are further refined, additional, more in-depth research, and coordination with the OAS, Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and appropriate federally recognized tribes will need to occur to determine if, and to what level, survey might be required.