PROJECT PROFILE

WOODY DEBRIS ENHANCEMENT
PRAIRIE POINT, ARKANSAS

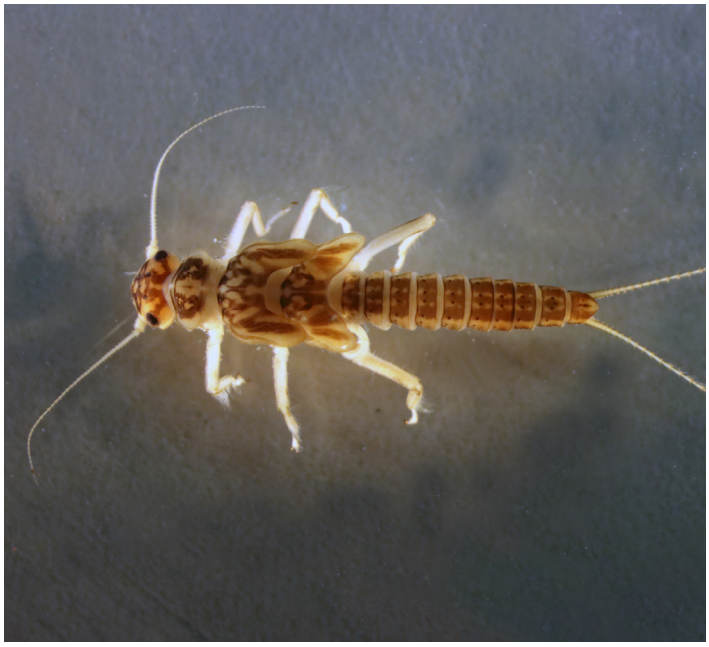
LOCATION
Prairie Point Secondary Channel, Phillips County, Arkansas, at Helena. River Miles 668-663.

TIMELINE
2019-2021

DESCRIPTION
The Prairie Point woody debris habitat enhancement project involves testing a V-shaped structure made of wooden poles and steel cables to trap drifting trees, limbs, leaves and other woody debris. The trap will be seeded initially with trees collected from bank-clearing projects. The Lower Mississippi River has lost much of its naturally occurring woody debris because of the installation of concrete revetment on the river's banks, previous de-snagging work and other river engineering. In response, scientists at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, working with the LMRCC and with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, are testing ways of artificially collecting floating woody debris using traps. The debris will serve as crucial substrate for stoneflies, cadddisflies, mayflies and other invertebrates, important components of the river's food and nutrient cycles.

GOALS
- Install a woody debris trap.
- Monitor the trap for aquatic invertebrates.
- Transfer knowledge and data gained in this pilot habitat enhancement project to similar projects in other secondary channels along the lower river.

PARTNERS
Engineer Research and Development Center
Corps of Engineers, Memphis District
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Mississippi River Trust
The Nature Conservancy



Audrey Harrison with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (above) collects data at Prairie Point. Stonefly larvae (below) were among the invertebrates collected in early tests with small traps suspended in the channel.