



# PROJECT PROFILE

## LOWER CRACRAFT CHANNEL FLOW RESTORATION, ARKANSAS

### LOCATION

Lower Cracraft Secondary Channel, Chicot County, Arkansas, River Miles 510-507.

### TIMELINE

2021

### DESCRIPTION

The Lower Cracraft Secondary Channel flow restoration project involves creating two notches, or gaps, in rock dikes to increase the flow of water for most of the year. This will substantially improve habitat for at-risk fish and other aquatic life, improve water quality, and improve reproductive success for the Interior Least Tern and other birds that nest on sandbars. The project will also improve access to the secondary channel for recreational boaters and anglers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers installed rock dikes at the site in the early 1970s to aid navigation. As a result, sand has built up in the channel, restricting fish passage in summer and fall. Since 2006, the LMRCC has worked with the Corps and other partners to restore flow to nearly 30 secondary channels, enhancing more than 100 miles of aquatic habitat.

### GOALS

- Restore flow through 3 miles of degraded channel.
- Facilitate movement of fish in and out of channel.
- Improve habitat for trust species such as Pallid Sturgeon and enhance reproductive success of the Interior Least Tern and other sandbar-nesting species.
- Improve water quality.
- Improve boating and fishing access.

### PARTNERS

Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Mississippi River Trust  
The Nature Conservancy



The Lower Cracraft flow restoration project will improve extra-channel habitat for species such as the endangered Pallid Sturgeon (above), and it is expected to increase reproductive success of the sandbar-nesting Interior Least Terns (below).

