

Thank you for your comment, Lorin Crandall.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is GLMRIS50528.

Comment Date: March 29, 2011 22:33:47PM

GLMRIS

Comment ID: GLMRIS50528

First Name: Lorin

Middle Initial: R

Last Name: Crandall

Organization:

Address: 6143 Roberts Ave

Address 2:

Address 3:

City: Saint Louis

State: MO

Zip: 63139

Country: USA

Privacy Preference: Don't withhold my personal information from the website and NEPA documents

Attachment:

Comment Submitted:

Aside from the apparent and obvious solution of closing the Chicago Sanitary & Shipping Channel to prevent the destruction of the Great Lakes Ecosystem, I have a few other thoughts regarding the invasive carp that have come to dominate the main stem of the Mississippi River, which I will explain below:

I am starting with the premise that the current utter and complete dominance of the Mississippi River ecosystem by invasive Asian Carp is unacceptable. The condition of the Mississippi River ecosystem must be restored, we cannot allow this Great River to be desecrated, decimated and abandoned as a lost cause.

I have also come to embrace the premise that the attempts to shock the river so as to prevent Asian Carp from entering the Great Lakes is a wholly unsustainable solution that relies to heavily up human management and maintenance, the absence of natural disasters, and surely carries a very stiff cost in terms of excessive power consumption and taxpayer contributions to maintain this system in perpetuity.

I believe it may be more fruitful to build an understanding of what conditions have created this optimum habitat for the invasive carp and seek to mitigate and reduce these contributions in order to reduce the extent of the intense population explosions of this invasive species.

Are there any particular conditions that correspond to the concentrations of carp?

What do the carp eat? Their food supply must be at least as copious as their numbers.

Is this food supply connected to a particular land use condition or runoff input that would cause an unnatural imbalance of food sources specifically beneficial to the invasive species of carp?

Would reducing the food supply for these invasive species reduce the concentrations of these invasive species?

And would a reduction in the food supply for these species result in a reduction in the "risk" of these species entering the Great Lakes while also curbing their domination of the aquatic ecosystems of the Mississippi River Basin?

I suggest that a study is initiated to identify the sources responsible for creating the unnaturally conducive conditions for the observed population explosion of these species.

I suggest that the Chicago Sanitary & Shipping Channel is closed as soon as possible. The electrification of the river is obviously a disaster waiting to happen (if it hasn't already!), and the expenditures of energy & tax payer resources are difficult to justify for a system that only needs to fail once to fail completely, a system that relies on a constant power supply and ongoing management and maintenance in perpetuity to prevent the imminent decimation of the Great Lakes Ecosystems.

I also support an aggressive adaptive management strategy to reduce nutrient loading in the tributary watersheds. We suggest a coordinated effort by the NRCS and USACE to utilize a combination of in lieu 404 mitigation fees and WRP, WREP, CRP, & CREP funds to fund mitigation efforts specifically targeted to reduce nutrient loading in order to prevent the inundation of these

invasives in other areas that may result in the infection of the Great Lakes with these invader species.

Thank you for considering my comments, I greatly value the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River and I encourage your continued efforts to restore wetlands and reconnect floodplains to improve water quality and reduce flood risk.

Sincerely

Lorin Crandall
6143 Roberts Ave
Saint Louis, Missouri 63139
314.680.2575