

# News Release



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## **Agencies Offer Information on Current and Proposed Restoration Activities**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, acting as Trustees for Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (Trustees), invite the public to an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2015, to learn about the proposed acquisition and restoration projects in southeast Missouri. The meeting will be from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the visitor's center of Johnson Shut-Ins State Park, 148 Taum Sauk Trail, Middlebrook, MO 63656-9601.

The Trustees will also update the public on restoration projects that are being currently funded and being implemented including land acquisitions, streambank stabilizations, and riparian corridor restoration projects. Additionally, the Trustees will discuss potential future stream restoration projects.

Agency representatives will be on hand to discuss current and proposed restoration projects. Funding for the current and proposed acquisition and restoration projects comes from settlements with ASARCO, LLC, Magmont Joint Venture, and Freeport McMoRan for natural resource damages associated with mining and smelting at sites in the Southeast Missouri Lead Mining District.

Among other locations, ASARCO, Magmont Joint Venture, and Freeport operated mines, mills, and smelters which released heavy metals in St. Francois, Iron and Reynolds counties. The Southeast Missouri Lead Mining District spans multiple counties from 40 to 90 miles southwest of St. Louis, Missouri, and is located in the Big River, Black River and St Francois River watersheds. It is one of the largest lead-producing regions of the world.

With the proposed purchase and restoration of high-quality habitats, the Trustees are seeking to compensate the public for the loss of natural resources as a result of lead and zinc contamination. Natural resources injured by the release of mining-related contaminants include surface water, stream sediments, fish, aquatic invertebrates and migratory birds, and their supporting habitats, such as streams, riparian corridors, forests and savannas. The Trustees are evaluating locations in the Black River, St. Francis River and Eleven Point River watersheds and are seeking the public's input on these proposed acquisition and restoration activities.

The Trustees will also provide an update on their land acquisitions activities, streambank stabilization, and riparian corridor restoration projects funded and currently being implemented

in the Big, Black, and Meramec River watersheds. Finally, the Trustees would like to discuss potential future stream restoration projects in the Viburnum Trend.

For more information about natural resource damage assessment and the Southeast Lead Mining District, visit <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/es/ec/nrda/SEMONRDA/index.html> or <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/hwp/sfund/nrda.htm>. In particular, the Southeast Missouri Ozarks Regional Restoration Plan, available at the above websites, provides more detailed information about natural resource damage restoration.

*The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit [www.fws.gov/midwest](http://www.fws.gov/midwest); or connect with our Facebook page at [facebook.com/usfwsmidwest](https://facebook.com/usfwsmidwest), follow our tweets at [twitter.com/usfwsmidwest](https://twitter.com/usfwsmidwest), watch our YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/usfws](https://youtube.com/usfws) and download photos from our Flickr page at [flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest](https://flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest)*