Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment and Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Missouri

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to identify management objectives to meet the conservation goals of Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (NFWR). The EA examined the environmental consequences that each management alternative could have on the quality of the physical, biological, and human environment, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). The EA evaluated three alternatives for the future management of Big Muddy NFWR.

The alternative selected for implementation on the refuge is *Alternative C*. This preferred alternative delineates and includes management direction for three urban and two rural river reaches. Within all existing and future refuge units the alternative calls for restoring hydrology, reconnecting the Missouri River and tributaries to their floodplains, returning or maintaining natural cover types, and providing a specified standard level of visitor services. This alternative also emphasizes biological inventory and monitoring and additional visitor services and facilities within two of the five river reaches. One reach centered on Columbia, Missouri receives the greatest emphasis.

For reasons presented above and below, and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, we have determined that the action of adopting Alternative C as the management alternative for Big Muddy NFWR is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Additional Reasons:

- Future management actions will have a neutral or positive impact on the local economy.
- This action will not have an adverse impact on threatened or endangered species.

Supporting References:

- Environmental Assessment
- Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Christopher P. Jensen 8/28/2014
Regional Director Date

Christopher Jensen
Acting Regional Director