Natural Resource Trustees Seek Public Comment on proposed Restoration Projects in Southeast Missouri

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service, acting as Trustees for Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (Trustees), are seeking public input on a draft restoration plan, and invite the public to an information meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2019, to learn about proposed natural resource restoration projects in southeast Missouri. The meeting will be from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Steelville City Library, 210 S. 4th Street, Steelville, Missouri.

Agency representatives will be on hand to present information on proposed restoration projects described in the draft Stream, Riparian, and Floodplain Habitat Restoration within Crooked and Huzzah Creeks Restoration Plan, which will be available beginning December 2, 2019 at the Service's website for Natural Resources Damage Assessment activities in southeast Missouri. The proposed projects include conservation agricultural practices, stream bank stabilization and riparian (near stream) restoration projects in portions of Crooked Creek and Huzzah Creek to benefit surface water, stream sediments, floodplain soils, benthic organisms, migratory birds and their supporting ecosystems.

The proposed projects are part of the ongoing natural resource damage assessment and restoration (NRDAR) in the Viburnum Trend Lead Mining District. Funding for the proposed restoration projects comes from a settlement with Cyprus Amax Minerals Company for natural resource damages associated with activities at the Buick Mine, Mill and Smelter facilities. Requests for paper copies of and written comments on the draft plan may be submitted to the Trustees either by email (leslie_lueckenhoff@fws.gov) or by mail (USFWS Columbia Field Office, 101 Park DeVille Dr., Suite A, Columbia, MO 65203, Attn: Leslie Lueckenhoff). The public comment period begins December 2, 2019, and ends on December 31, 2019.

The Viburnum Trend is an active mining district comprised of a string of mines and associated facilities that span multiple counties in southeast Missouri. Mining in the Viburnum Trend is ongoing, and the district remains a major producer of metals.