UPPER MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP
Project Portfolio

The Yellow River Initiative

BACKGROUND
Provide information to Yellow River watershed landowners that will show the benefits of riparian woodlands and the importance of these woodlands for neotropical migratory birds. These educational programs will lead to an increase in the size and continuity of the riparian forest in the Yellow River watershed.

LOCATION
Yellow River is located in northwest and north central Indiana and it is a sub watershed of the Kankakee River which is part of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED
Habitat fragmentation in the Upper Mississippi River Basin had led to a large decline in songbirds populations. Large contiguous forests, such as Yellow River Forest, are need for many songbirds to nest successfully. The establishment of riparian woodlands in the Yellow River floodplain will enhance the area's ability to support songbirds.

GOALS
- Increase the amount of acres of riparian wood forest habitat by encouraging land use change, be it by tree planting or allowing natural regeneration.
- Provide information to the Yellow River watershed owners on how to create or improve riparian forest habitat for neotropical migratory birds.

RESULTS
Increased awareness of the value a managed forest can have in terms of wildlife habitat and providing recreational opportunities.

OUTCOMES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- Four landowner education workshops were held with 250 people attending (two forestry field tours on forest management impacts on bird habitat, two tree planting workshops, and a timber marking workshop.)
- Two "Nature's Classroom" workshops were held for teachers.
- Forestry and bird habitat needs educational materials were purchased and distributed to 10 Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

PARTNERS
- **Arrow Head Country Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Forestry Committee**
- **Pulaski, Fulton, Starke and Marshall County Soil and Water Conservation Districts**
- **Indiana DNR Division of Forestry**
- **Northwest Territory Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D)**
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

FUTURE PLANS
Continued contacts will be made with riparian owners in the Yellow River watershed. Requests received from these contacts and from tree planting contacts in the watershed will be compiled and evaluated for future migratory bird habitat projects.

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Grant Amount: $2,000

The USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry and the Midwest State Foresters have joined in partnership to build a watershed-wide approach to forestry efforts in the Upper Mississippi watershed in order to improve water quality.