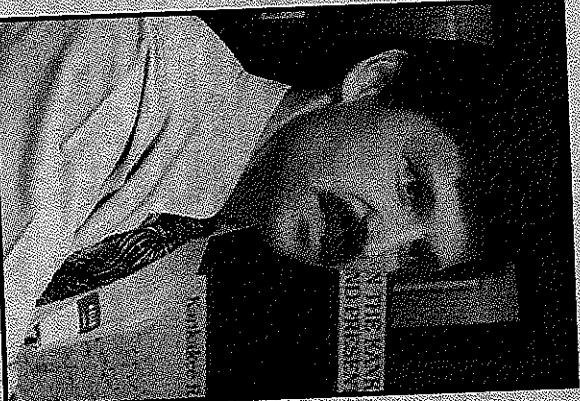


River sediment serious — U.S.

Indiana channelization key to problem



By Bill Burns
Journal writer

Armed with a barrage of charts and graphs, a spokesman for the United States Geological Survey Thursday said that sedimentation in the Kankakee River is becoming serious.

"We've documented loss in both channel capacity and loss of channel in two sections of the river," said Paul Terrio, hydrologist and project director for the USGS's Kankakee River Study.

When asked pointedly by members of The Alliance to Restore the Kankakee River how he would describe the problem, Terrio replied grimly. "It's serious."

Terrio told ARK that USGS studies showed significant deposits of sand and sediment between 1978 and 1994. Sites in the Mononence Wetlands between the mouth of Singleton Ditch and the state line, and in "Six-Mile Pool," between the Iroquois River and the Kankakee River, were studied.

In one two-mile reach, roughly at the mid-point of "Six-Mile Pool," researchers documented over 193,000 tons of deposited sediment within a 200 foot cross section of the river.

At a site in the Mononence Wetlands, 148,280 tons of deposited sediment was reported compared to 142,000 tons of suspended sediment passing the gaging station on the west side of Mononence.

Studies showed "significant deposits" of sand and sediment between 1978 and 1994 from samplings in the Mononence Wetlands and in the "Six-Mile Pool."

Overall, USGS sampled 64 cross sections of the river in 1994 and compared those results with similar studies conducted by the Illinois State Water Survey in 1980 and 1978. At certain locations, researchers were able to

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PAUL TERRIO
... U.S. Geological Survey

Serious

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1994 data with state studies going back as far

information on sedimentation of the river within a historical context of earlier river studies. Terrio advised ARK that this is merely a preliminary report and that the full scope of the studies is not yet completed. Still to come are the results of the three year long suspended sediment study where USGS and ARK volunteers monitored six gaging stations on the Illinois and Iroquois Rivers in Illinois and Indiana. "Results", Terrio said in

comparación

compare 1994 data with 2000 data. The 2000 data were obtained with

as 1958. At most stations, mixed resus were deposited and areas showing increased counts compared to earlier

Momence ~~Wetland~~. "We saw 65... river nearest the state line with a relatee-
ment deposit" at every cross section with a decrease in stream flow." These are the strongest in Indiana.

The USGS findings... that channelization in Illinois. Over 90 miles of the river in Indiana was channelized between 1860 and 1918 reducing its length to roughly 100 miles today. The channelization also drained the 400,000 acre Grand Kankakee Marsh which spanned both states. Draining the marsh and channelizing the river nearly doubled the gradient (fall) of the river channel by USGS. In Illinois, the river returns to its natural meandering course. The cross sectional study is one of three studies that is attempting to provide

Gerhard Schultz, Cliff Stein, Webster and Don Zeiss, celli, Jim Wasser, Verlyn Webster and Don Zeiss. The ARK volunteers also received a copy of a resolution from the Kankakee County Board recognizing their efforts.