

Wilmington District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has published a draft environmental impact statement of the effects of channel excavation on 2.3 miles of Scuppernong River, in Washington and 1.8 miles of Mauls Creek, a tributary of Scuppernong River, in Washington County, near the towns of Creswell and Cherry and Lake Phelps, and has asked government agencies, special interest groups, and individuals to comment on it.

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The proposed project consists of clearing right-of-way for, and constructing a two-mile-long channel along Scuppernong River from Creswell to Mauls Creek with a bottom width of 70 feet and average depth of about 11 feet. The 0.3-mile-long channel from Mauls Creek to Cherry would have a bottom width of 60 feet and an average depth of about 8 feet. The 1.8mile-long channel on Mauls Creek would have a 45-foot-wide bottom width and an average depth of about seven feet.

The entire project has been previously excavated. Local interests will renovate small auxiliary channels and ditches in conjunction with the project. The banks will be seeded to prevent erosion and improve

The placement of excavated material would be in such a manner as to leave intermittant openings to assure minima. adverse effects on wildlife resources, and surface inlet pipes would be provided under the excavated material in areas where it is impractical to leave openings. This procedure will permit continued swamp flooding to occur after project construction. Construction time for the \$554,000 project is expected to take about nine months beginning sometime after May and continuing to before or not later than April of the following year.

All work will conform to the State of North Carolina's pollution control regulations and the Corps of Engineers' construction guide specifications for environmental protection to keep pollution of all types to a

The Wilmington District seeks comments from now until May from some 30 federal. state and local agencies. conservation groups, and all interested persons. After all the solicited remarks are reviewed, the text will be revised and the final statement filed with the Council on Environmental Quality in Washington, D.C.

Single copies of the Scuppernong River Flood project draft environ: ental impact statement are available from the Wilmington District, U. S. Army Corps of Enigineers, P.O.

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