Sedimentation Impacts at the Confluence of the Sangamon and Illinois Rivers

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Omaha, Nebraska

US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®

RSM Project Origin FY12

- Problems:
  - Chronic navigation dredging area
  - Beardstown small boat harbor access
  - Muscooten Bay backwater habitat
- System-wide Approach:
  - Understand watershed characteristics and past changes
  - Inventory existing data
    - Rough sediment budget
  - Identify potential management actions

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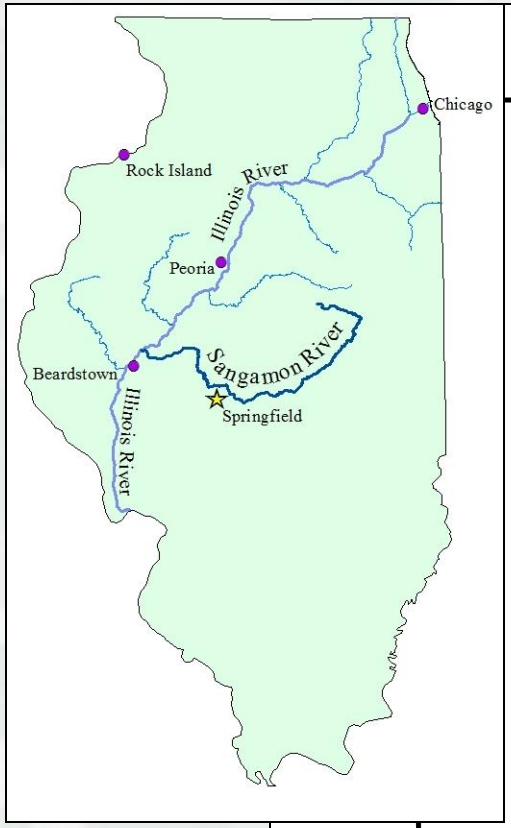

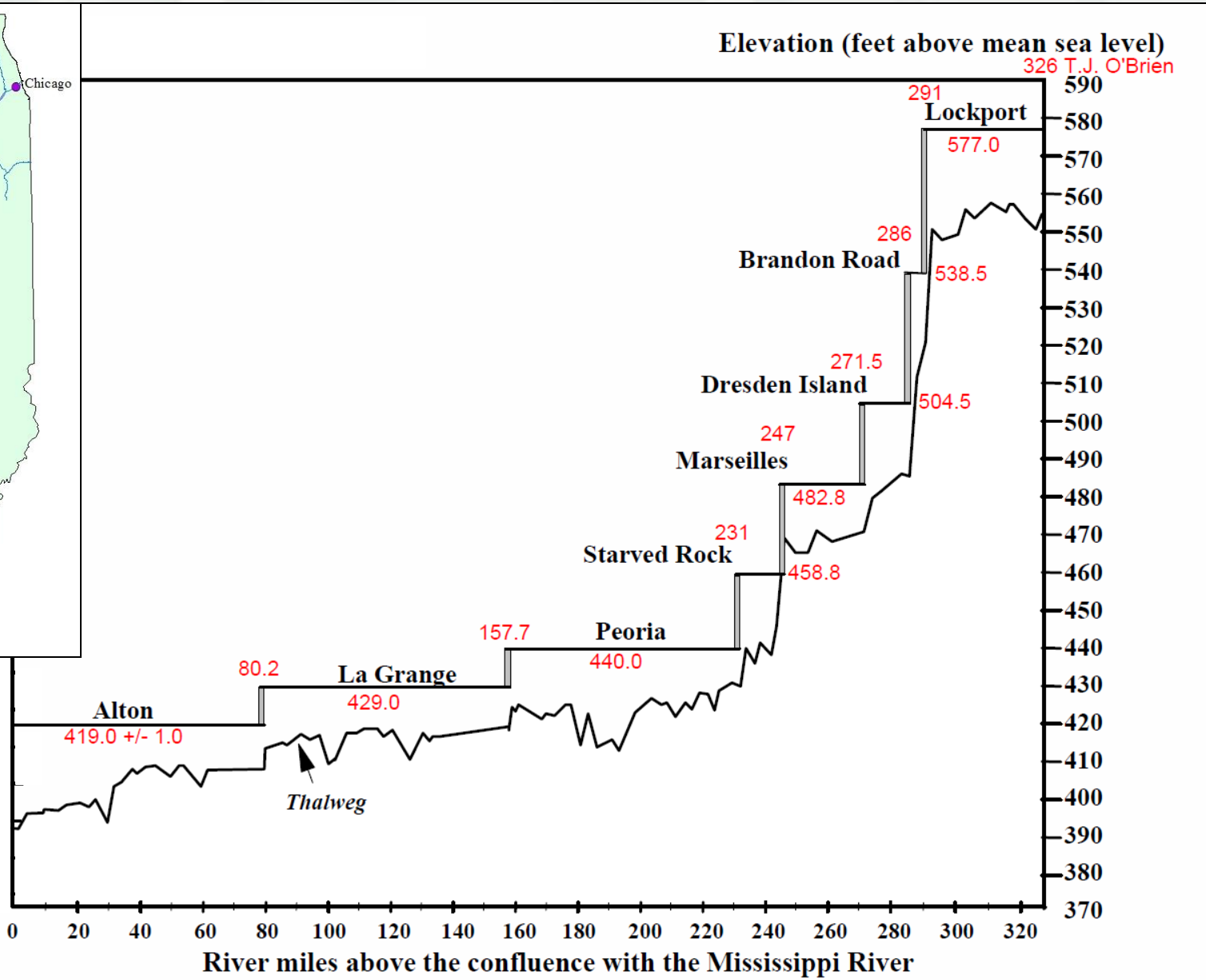

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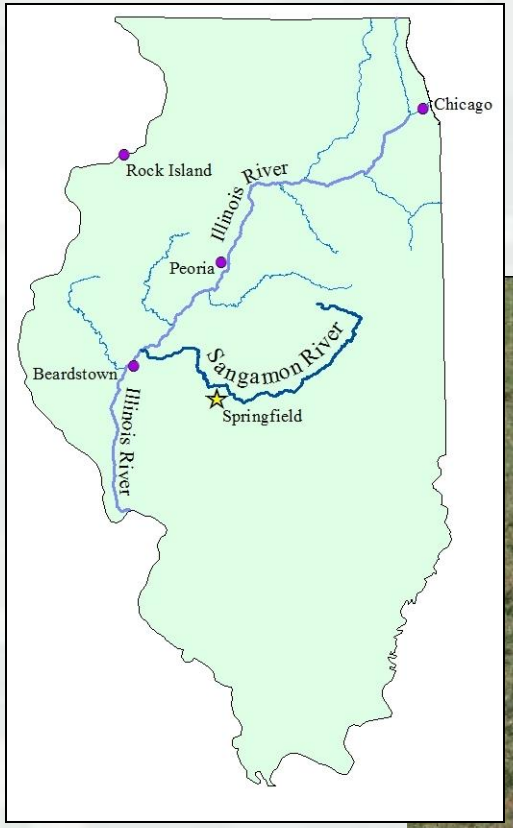
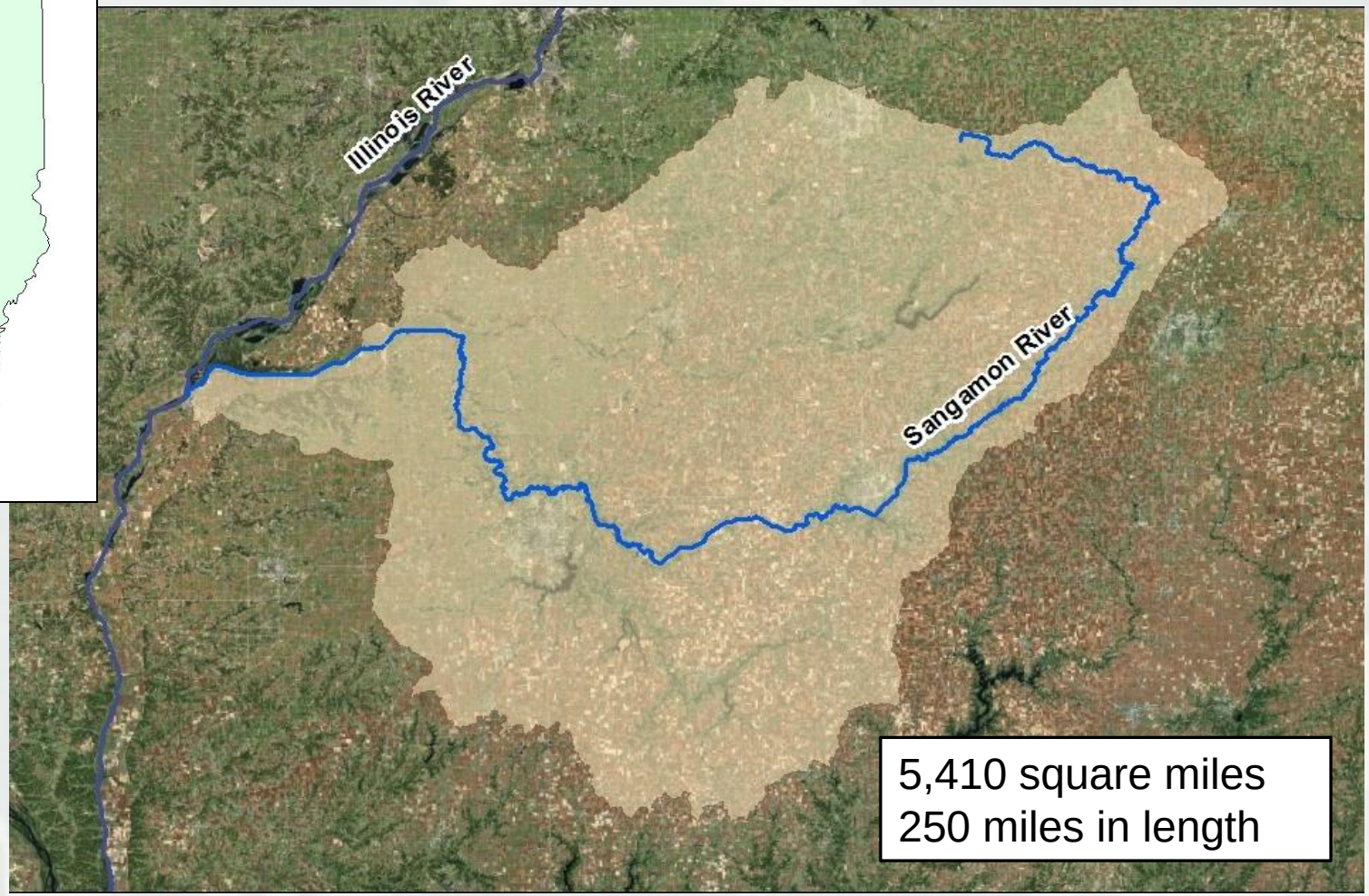


The Illinois River was recognized by WRDA ’86 as “a nationally significant ecosystem and commercial navigation system.”



5,410 square miles
250 miles in length

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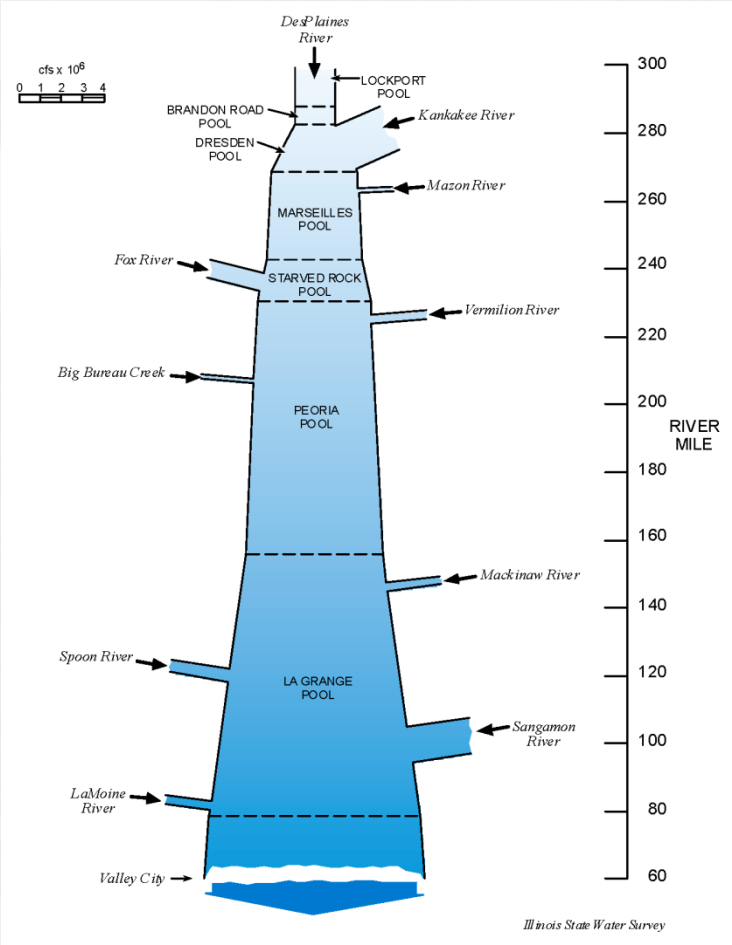
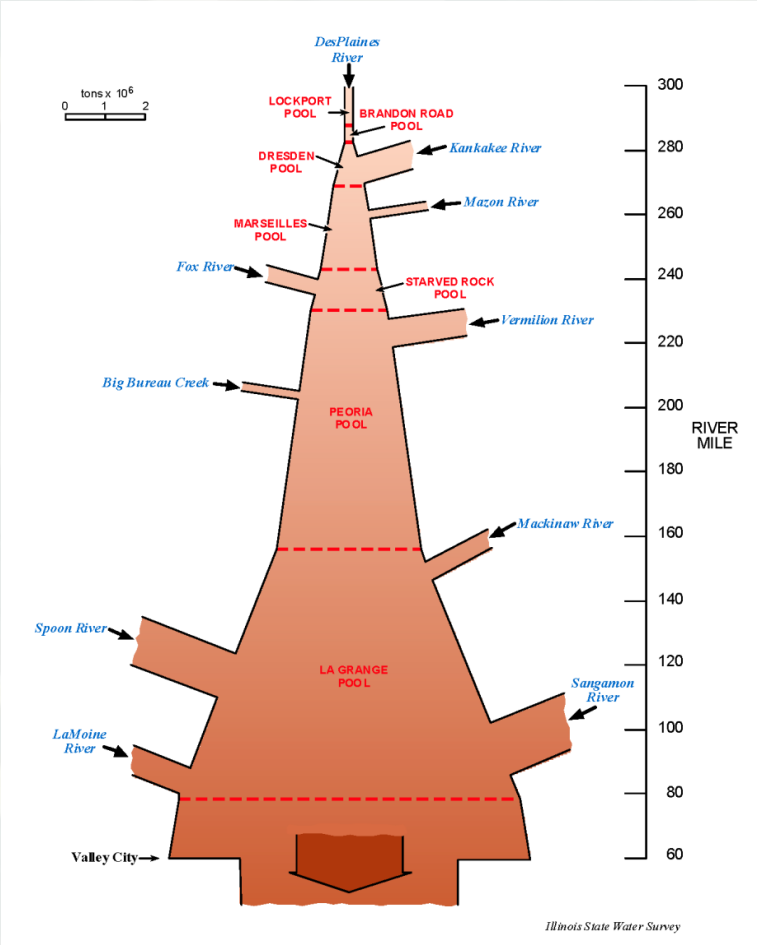
Annual Sediment Yield of the Sangamon River from 1981 – 2000 = 1,738,200 tons





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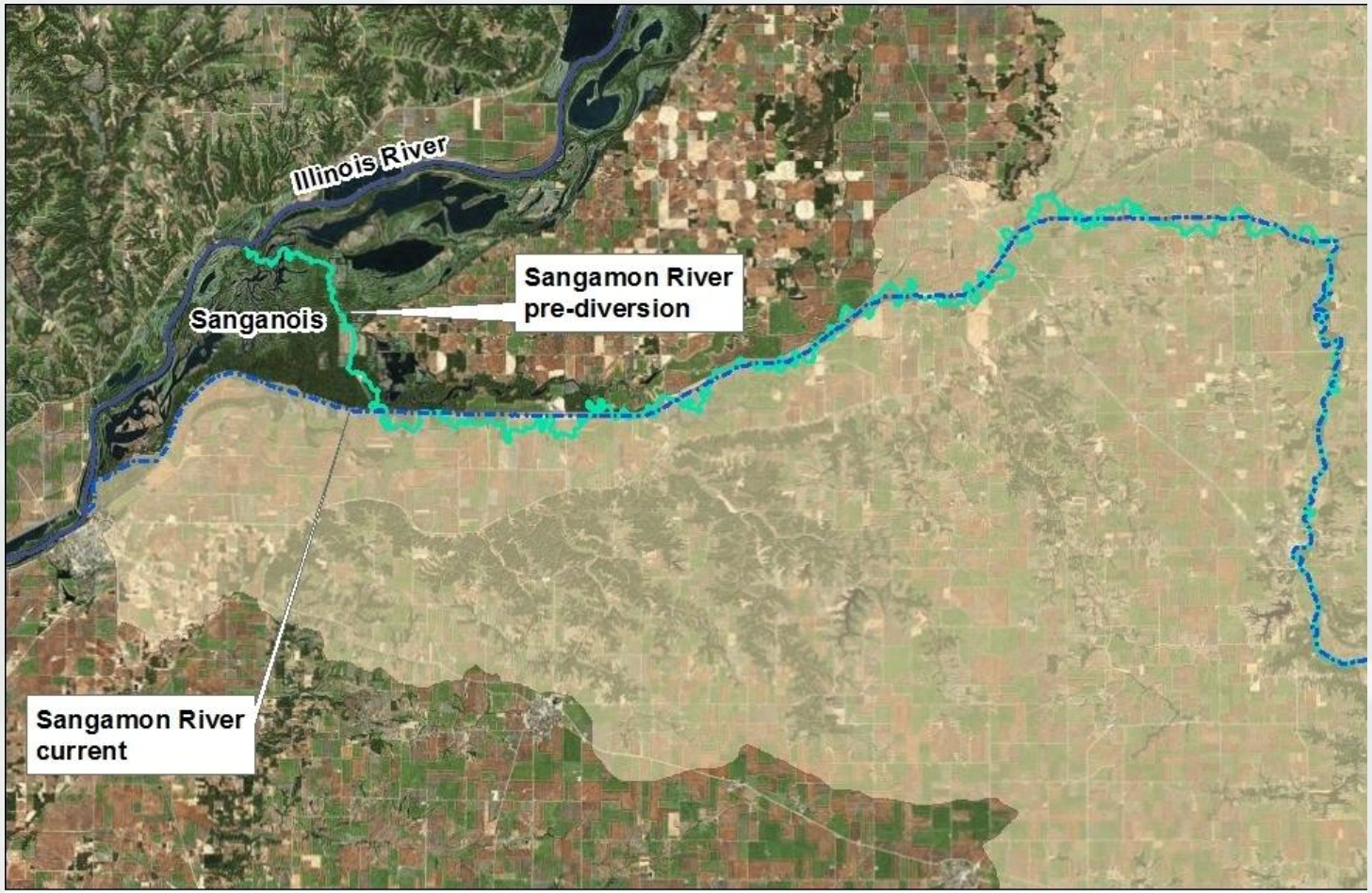

Historical Length = 63 miles
Historical Slope = 0.5’/mile

Current Length = 36 miles
Current Slope = 1’/mile

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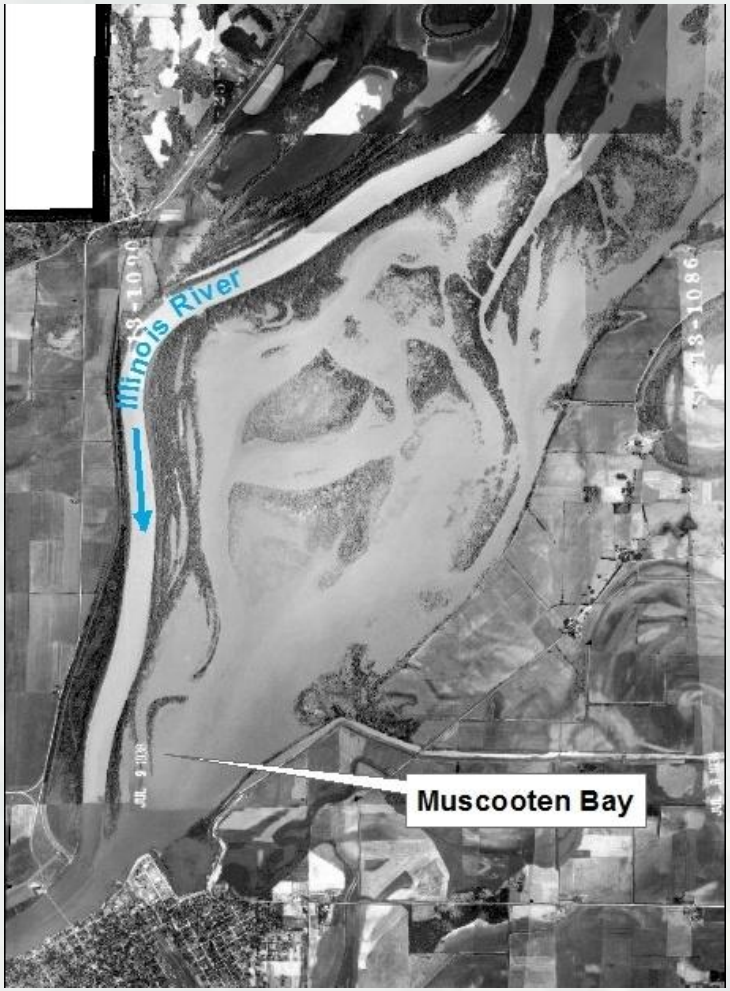
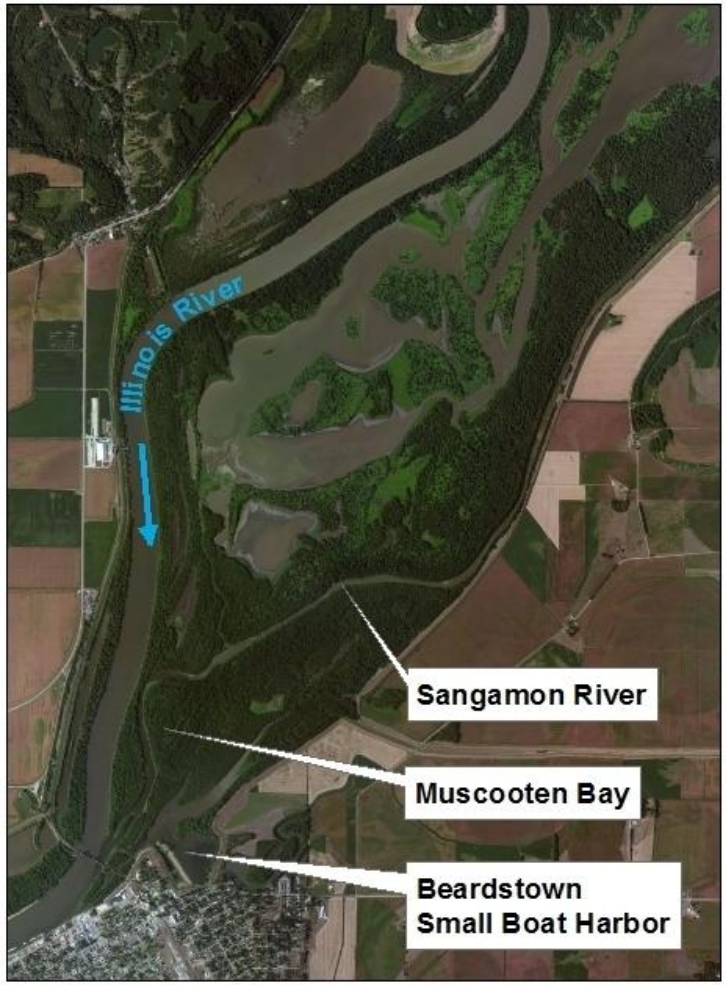


Pre-Diversion
Illinois Historical Aerial Photography
1937-1947



Current
Bing Maps

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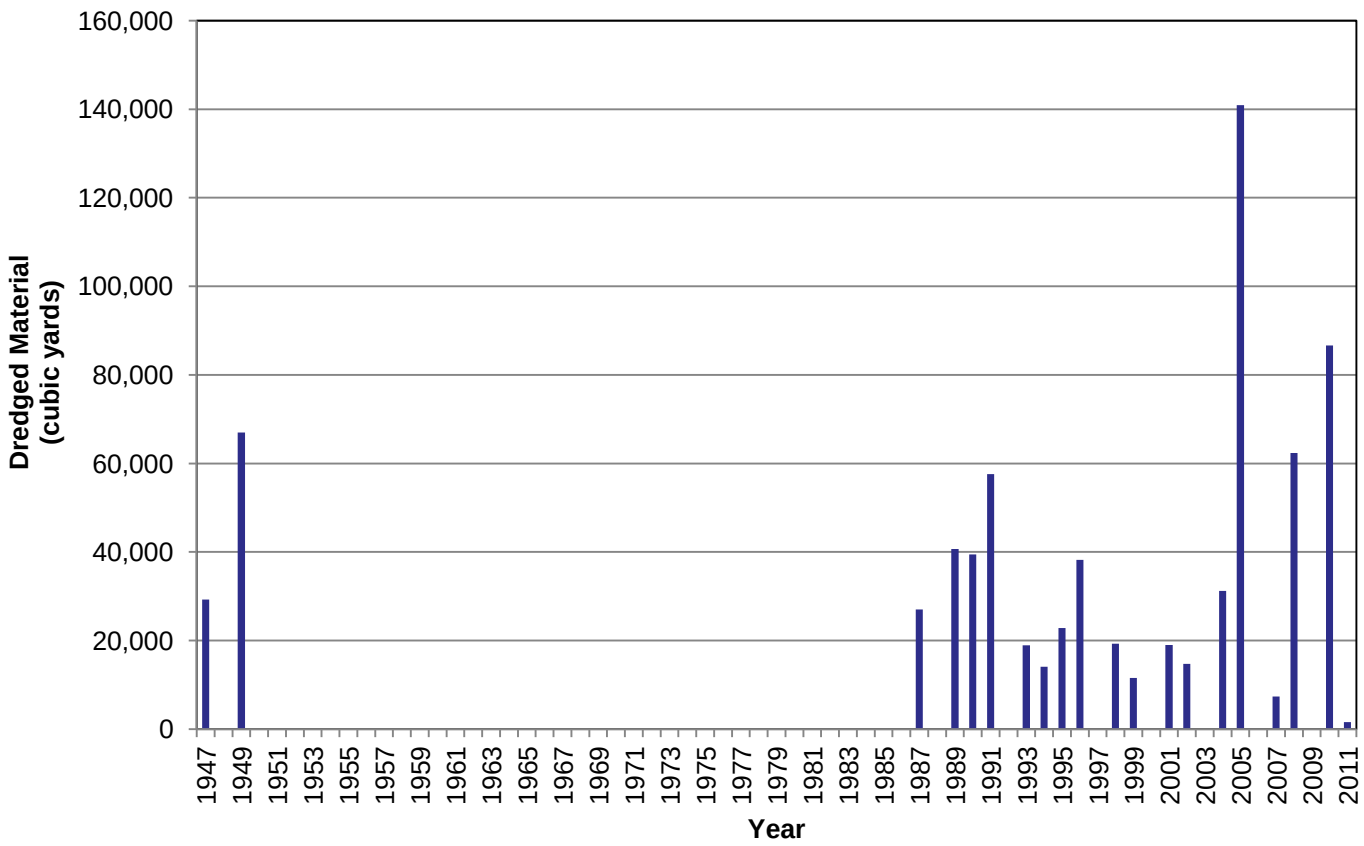

FY13

- District RSM PDT formed
  - Planning, Operations, Engineering
- DOTS
  - Long-term – reduce sediment entering system or keep it moving
  - Short-term – manage sediment already overwhelming system
  - Identified data gaps

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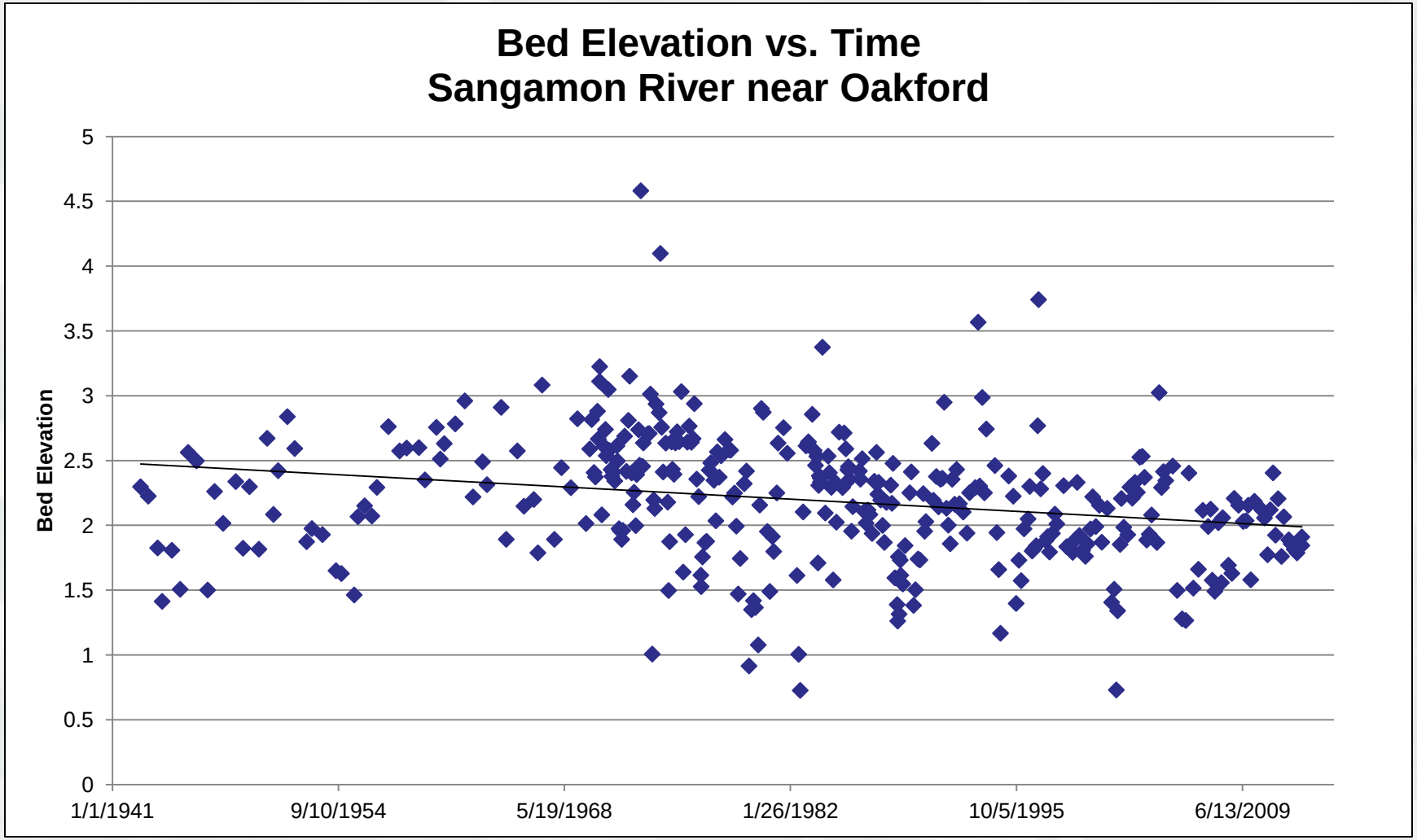

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John Marlin, IDNR – Beneficial Use Ideas

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Mackinaw River Sediment Collector Trial – July 2013

2 ft. and 4 ft. collectors

Placing the 2 ft. collector

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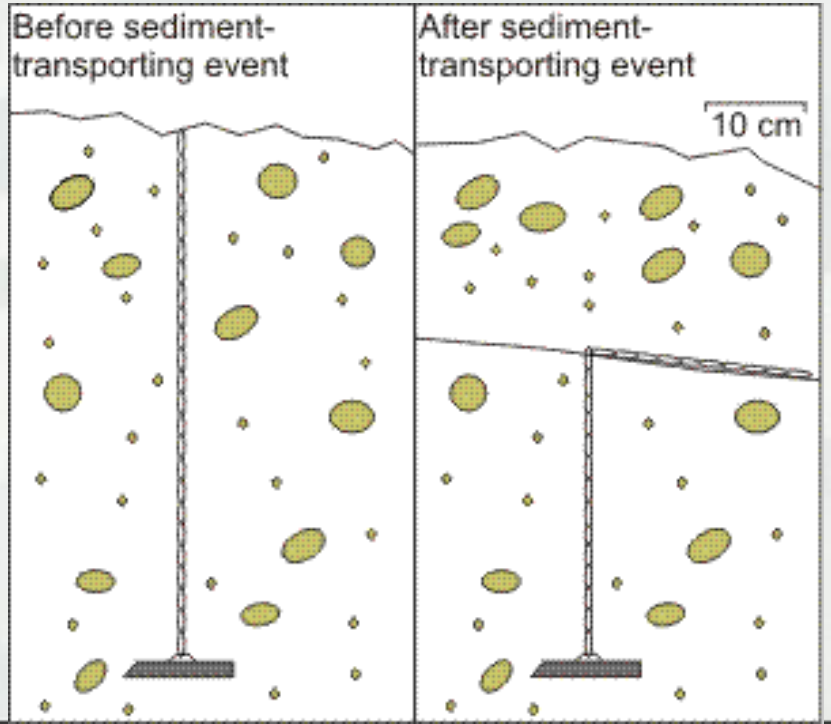
Sediment Sampling Plan

FY14 Tasks/Goals

- Conduct an Erosion Analysis
- Survey Cross Sections *
- Collaborate with Stakeholders
- Develop Beneficial Use Strategies



Questions?