



## Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan

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### What is a Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan?

The plan describes options for restoring injured natural resources in the Springfield Plateau ecoregion. The Springfield Plateau lies in the western Ozark Highlands of southwestern Missouri. It comprises portions of Cedar, Dade, Jasper, Newton, Lawrence, Greene, Polk, Webster, Christian, Barry St. Clair, Hickory, Barton, McDonald, Stone, and Douglas Counties.

The objective of the plan is to compensate the public, through environmental restoration, for losses of natural resources that have been injured by releases of hazardous substances into the environment. Natural resource funds received must be used to restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources.



Historic mining activities in southwest Missouri have led to the potential injuries of the natural resources.



Restored site in Newton County.



### What Are the Goals of the Plan?

1. Identify the natural resources and services potentially injured by the release of hazardous substances.
2. Develop a request for proposal process to evaluate and select restoration projects to achieve restoration strategies.
3. Expedite and gain efficiencies in the natural resource damage assessment and restoration process.
4. Expedite restoration of potentially injured natural resources and lost services.



### Summary of Restoration Alternatives

The selected alternative must restore, rehabilitate, replace and/or acquire the equivalent of those natural resources and their services potentially injured by the releases of hazardous substances within the Springfield Plateau:

*Alternative A:* No Action

*Alternative B:* Primary Restoration of Injured Natural Resources

*Alternative C:* Offsite, Compensatory Restoration and/or Acquisition of Equivalent Resources or Replacement

***Alternative D: Tiered Project Selection Process Evaluating the Feasibility of Primary Restoration, Compensatory Restoration, and Acquisition of Equivalent Resources (Preferred)***

### Restoration Project Evaluation Criteria

There are two components to the project evaluation process. They are:

1. Acceptability Criteria: These criteria evaluate the initial project and whether it is achievable.
2. Project Ranking Criteria:
  - ◆ Location
  - ◆ Examples of preferred resources & services
  - ◆ Benefits provided
  - ◆ Time required for restoration
  - ◆ No adverse environmental effects
  - ◆ Cost-effectiveness
  - ◆ Evaluation component
  - ◆ Probability of success



Mine tailing piles located throughout southwest Missouri.

### Settlement History

Settlement	Settlement Date	Available Restoration Funds (approx.)
Eagle Picher	2/95	\$200,000
Carver Salvage	2/95	\$3,000
Newton County Wells	5/07	\$100,000
ASARCO—Newton County	12/09	\$7 million
ASARCO—Jasper County	12/09	\$13 million

### Copies of the Plan Are Available

Copies of the plan can viewed online and copies are also available for on-site review at:

- **Joplin Public Library**, 300 S. Main Street, Joplin, Missouri; **Neosho Public Library**, 201 W. Spring Street, Neosho, Missouri
- **Springfield Public Library**, 4653 S. Campbell Ave, Springfield, Missouri
- **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, 101 Park DeVille Dr. Suite A, Columbia, Missouri
- **Missouri Department of Natural Resources**, 1730 E. Elm St., Jefferson City, Missouri

### Public Comment Period

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service invites the public to review the *Springfield Plateau Regional Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment*. Written comments are encouraged and must be postmarked no later than **Feb. 24, 2012**. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service are committed to helping the citizens of Missouri by providing information and assistance. Please contact either of these agencies with any questions you may have regarding natural resource damages process.