

the flow. High silt and sedimentation impact on the fish stocks. Particularly in the spring when the flow is often higher and the fish are spawning. There are few mature trees on the upper miles of the river, due largely to the unstable stream bed.

In years that the siphon is activated while there is still ice on the river, we suffer flooding, scouring of the banks, shearing of the trees and deposition of new rock piles on the flood plains which are often hay fields.

Right now, the river is running about 5 or 6 inches deeper than usual. I would say normal but don't know what that is. The rehabilitation, I suspect will increase this flow even more. There are extra problems maintaining intake screens in this high silt and sand environment. Just crossing back and forth to work in a canoe or boat is extra work.

Point bars never get a chance to rest and grow trees or brush. As they silt in during flood times and raise the bank level in the "birth of this river/canal" the opposing bank will usually erode and allow the point bar to advance yet again. I can show you where my swimming hole was forty years ago. It is more than 100 feet from the water today and the two islands that were there are also gone.

I have areas where alfalfa was planted that has since fallen into this canal. Fencing is an increased problem and many times I have seen fence parallel to the river fall in, not just the end posts that go to the river.

Maybe another hundred years of this canal will stem this erosion as it eventually reaches river status but to ignore that there are very real expenses in maintaining this canal is a disservice to all riparians through whose land it flows.

I have long felt that this should be recognized officially. I apologize for this hastily drafted note if parts are a little confusing. My reference to birth of a river is because the stream is only full for part of a year (1/3rd?) and will be many more years before the bed is stabilized enough to call it a river, regardless of its name. 100 years of being used as a canal has only given this artificial river about 30 years of development.

Thanks for your attention,

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