

PARTNERING W/ THE KUL WICASA OYATE (LOWER BRULE SIOUX TRIBE) TO RESTORE AND PRESERVE NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

National Conference on
Ecosystem Restoration 2024

“Strengthening Restoration
through Collaboration”

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U.S. ARMY



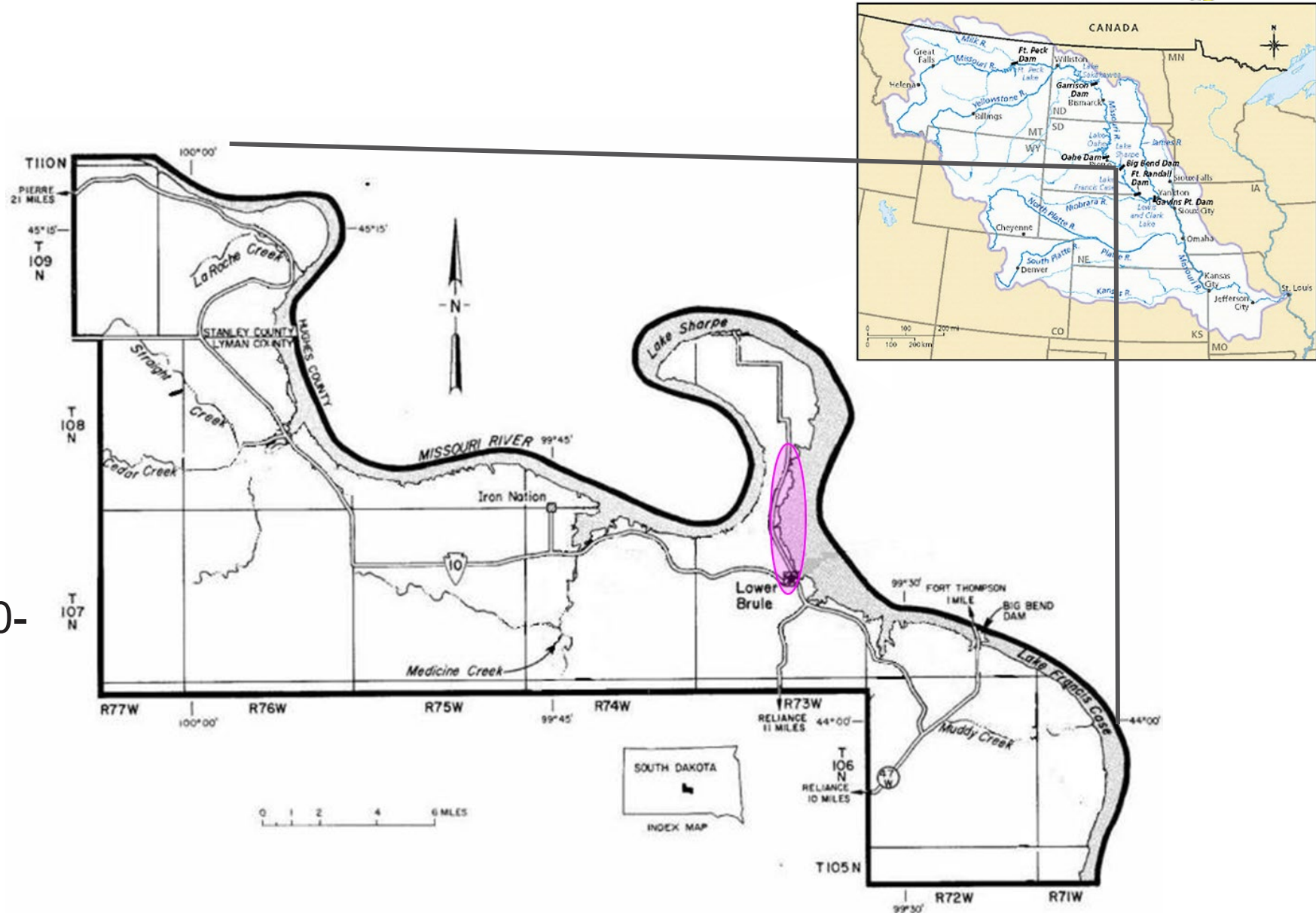
US Army Corps
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AGENDA

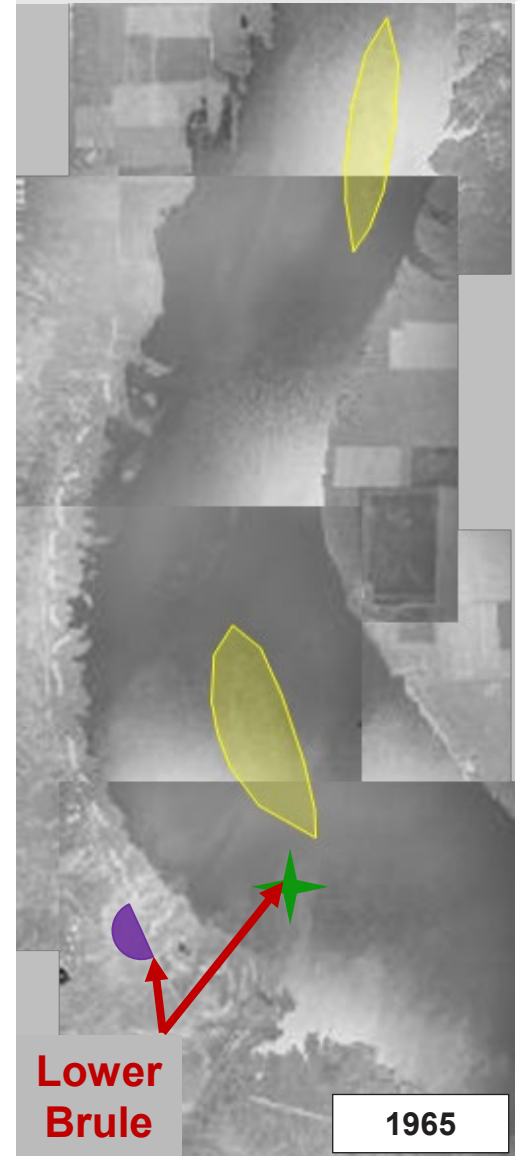
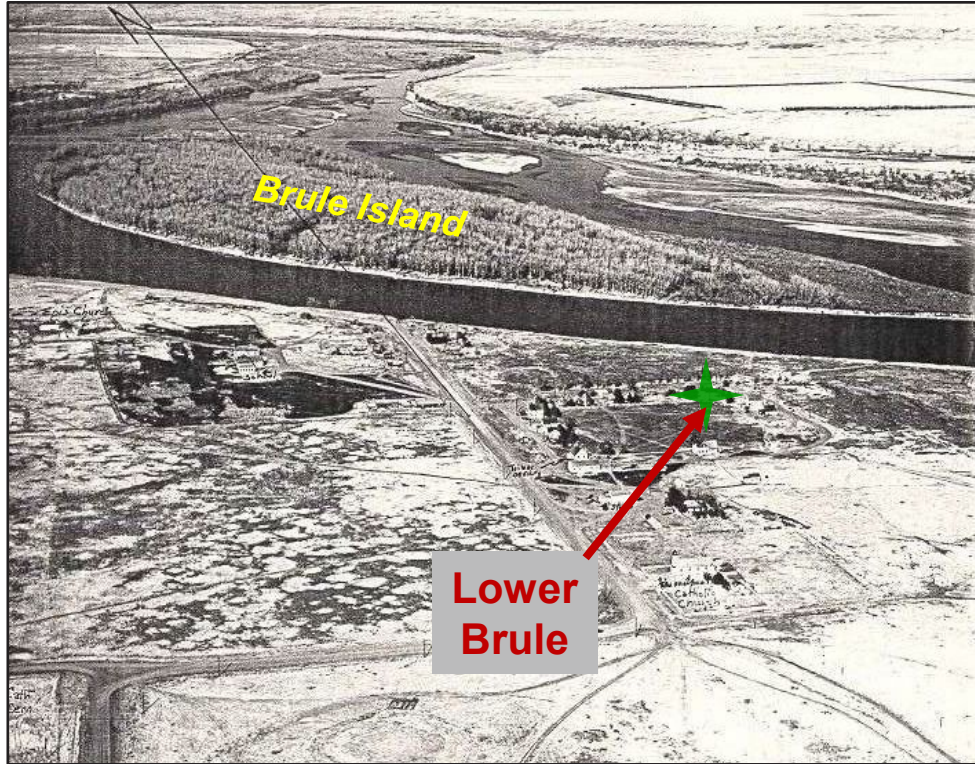


- **Background**
- **History of Progress**
- **1st Project**
LBST Natural Resources Preservation and Ecosystem Restoration Project (2017-2023)
- **2nd Project**
LBST North Ecosystem Restoration Project (2020-present)
- **Lessons Learned**



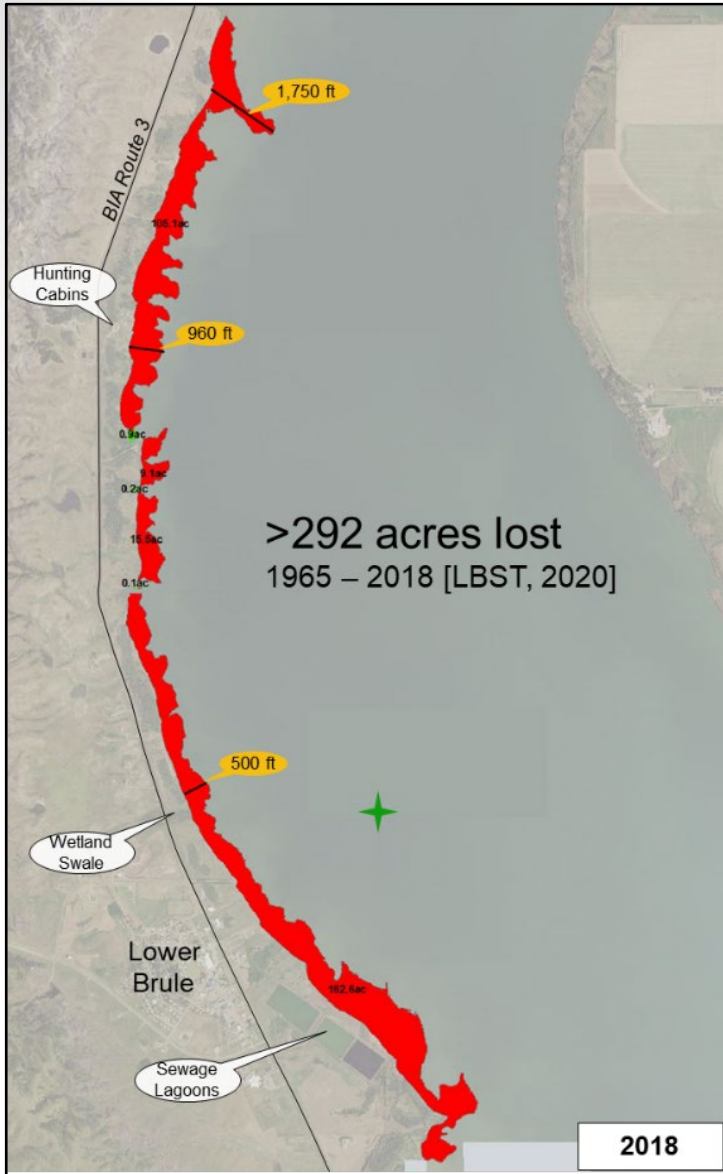


BACKGROUND / SETTING





BACKGROUND / SETTING



Partnering with the Kul Wicasa (Lower Brule Sioux Tribe)



(LONG) HISTORY OF PROGRESS



2004-2009

- LBST proposed a TPP Project using the new Section 203, WRDA 2000 authority (2004)
- USACE MRRP “pilot” project implemented (2006)
- LBST monitoring and analysis of erosion rates along Lake Sharpe shoreline

2009-2017

- USACE TPP 905(b) Recon Report prepared (2010)
- USGS bathymetric mapping (2013)
- USACE – LBST Charette to help define project goals (2014)
- USACE FEST-A Lower Brule Concept Plans (2015)
- USACE hosts an interagency meeting with Fed agencies (2015)
- Section 1119 & 1121 WRDA 2016 ★
- 1st TPP Project
 - FCSA Oct 2017 → Report approved Dec 2019
 - ASA(CW) approves PPA (Apr 2020) → executed Jun 2020
 - Construction completion – July 2023
- Temporary Emergency Bank Stabilization lagoons winter 2019
- 2nd TPP project
 - FCSA Oct 2020 → Report approved July 2023
 - PPA executed January 2024





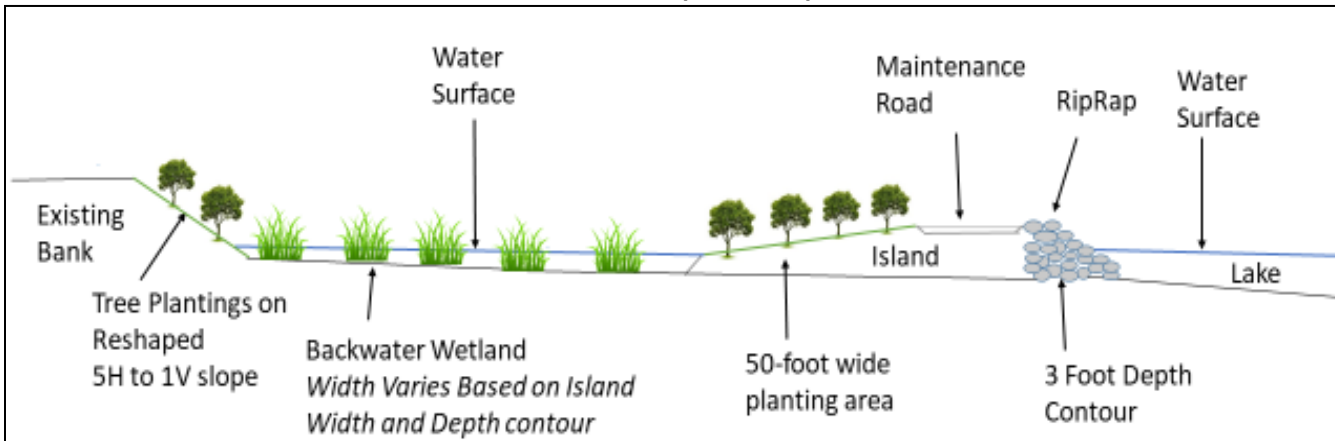
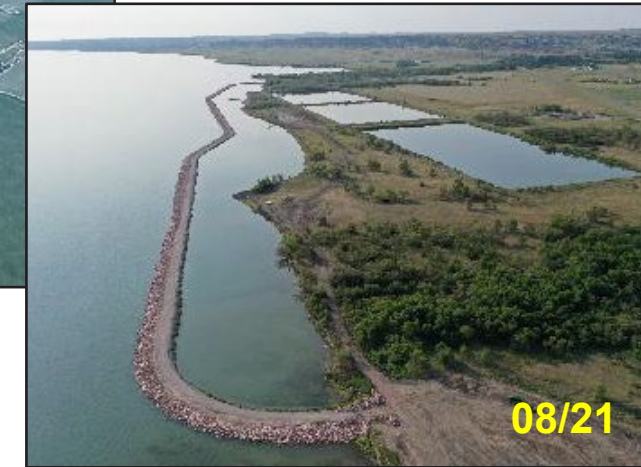
1ST PROJECT – PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION



Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Natural Resources Preservation and Ecosystem Restoration Project

Phased Construction

- Sub-divide the ~\$10M project for funding & prioritize breakwater construction first
- Phase 1 – construct the offshore breakwater (FY20)
- Phase 2 – construct riparian planting benches and recreation/access features (FY21)





1ST PROJECT – COMPLETED PROJECT



Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Natural Resources Preservation and Ecosystem Restoration Project

Phased Construction

- Construction completed July 2023
- Dedication ceremony 23 July 2023



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2ND PROJECT -- PLANNING

Lower Brule North Ecosystem Restoration Project

Historical Perspectives from Tribal Elders★

- Missouri River was central aspect of Tribal life and provided everything
- The land and landscape itself is a cultural resource to LBST
- Islands critically important for many Tribal activities
- Floodplain fertile soils abound with many native plants that were used for food, medicine, and ceremonies
- Steep banks and turbidity preclude safe interaction with the River

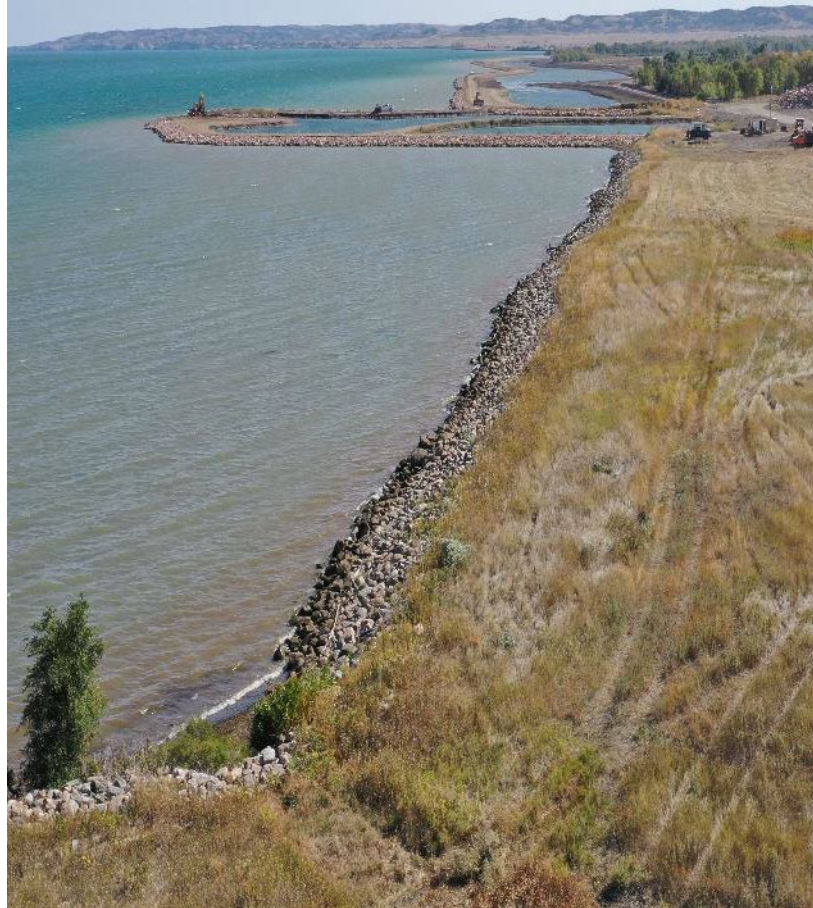
Plan Formulation Strategy

- Wetland & riparian ecosystem restoration (NER)
- Cultural & natural resources preservation (OSE)
- Comprehensive benefits (USACE and Justice 40 guidance)





2ND PROJECT – REACHES 1 & 2

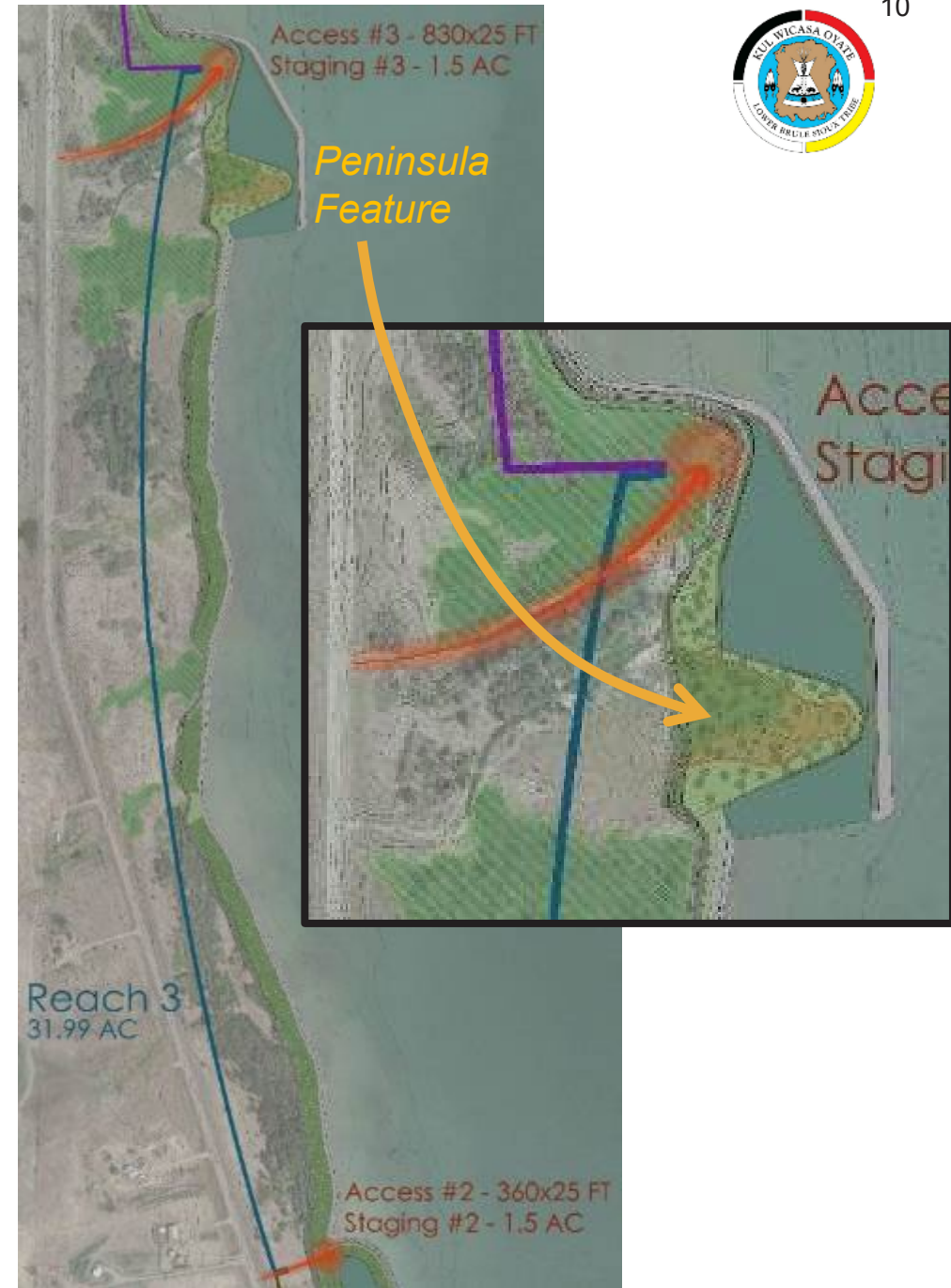




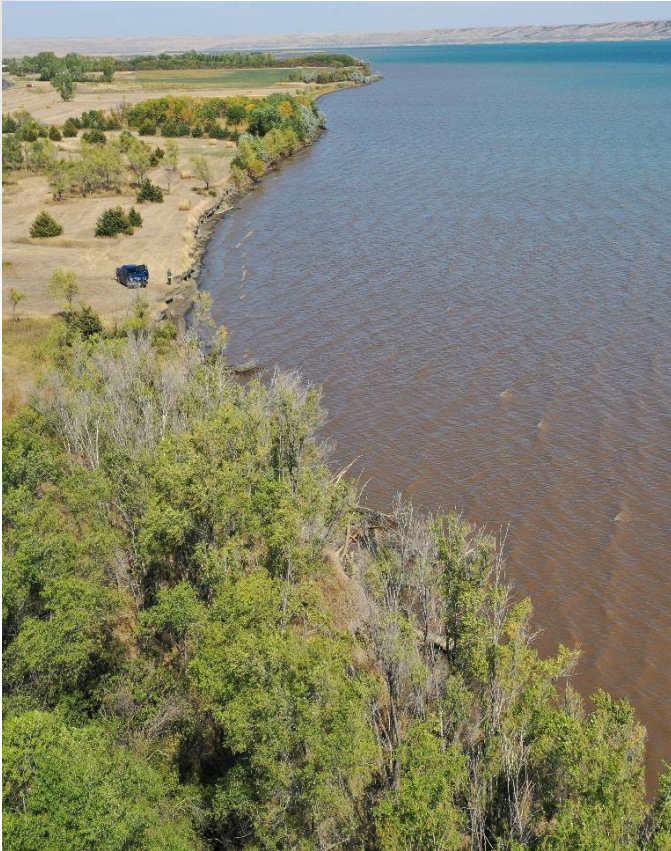
2ND PROJECT – REACH 3



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2ND PROJECT – REACH 4




COLLABORATION

- Understand regulatory roles & relationships of various agencies
- Communication is key
- Apply “whole of government” approach to find best solutions & remove barriers

ENSURING SUCCESS

- Incorporate climate resiliency for both structures & planting plans
- Be willing to innovate and adapt
- Develop & implement Adaptive Management and Monitoring Plan
- Share lessons learned to further science & improve future projects

TRIBAL PARTNERING

- Patience and perseverance are a must
- Respect Tribal Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
 - Meet with or incorporate input from Tribal Elders to inform:
 - Needs
 - History
 - Tribal perspective on cultural significance of the resources and outputs 
- Integrate Tribal agency representatives (Fish & Wildlife, THPO, Housing) on PDT
- Maximize work-in-kind and work with the Tribe to find resources to assist with cost-sharing
- Celebrate successes to expand opportunities

QUESTIONS



Maxine Grassrope, Elder of the Kul Wicasa Clan, 2001, Lower Brule Tribal Elder stated,

“I have lived all my life here and everything that happened, it was about the river. I have lived with my grandparents and we lived in a tent, as I remember, and pretty soon we lived in log houses and these logs we got from along the river, and we don't have them now- And the only source we had of heat and cooking was from the wood and the islands we used to have, we used to get wood and we used to get our food and our source of drinking water was from the river, which used to flow so clean and free. Our cleanliness was dependent on the river and the river also had activity for us such as swimming, canoeing, our laundry, fishing, and we also depended on our fruits, which we don't have now.”