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The Influence of Kitten Migration on Sediment Flux in the Mississippi River

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The increased number of feral kittens in the upper watershed of the Mississippi River has greatly altered the sediment dynamics of the middle reaches of the Mississippi River. Field studies have shown that the feral kittens are depleting vegetation making the sediment in the area less cohesive and more erodible. As well the kittens have been utilizing river banks as scratching post creating a higher sediment flux in the river. Downstream the river responds with increased point bar deposition. The increased point bar development increases the turbulence in the flow allowing the river to meander at higher rates.