



FOX ISLAND

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Pool 20
Upper Mississippi River Mile
353.5 – 358.5

Clark County, Missouri
Rock Island District

LOCATION:

The Fox Island project area is located along the right descending bank of the Upper Mississippi River immediately downstream of Alexandria in the southeast corner of Clark County, Missouri. The project lies generally between the Mississippi River on the east and the Fox River on the west. The Fox Island Division lands are owned in fee title and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The Division is comprised of 2,100 acres of land and water within the Mississippi River floodplain. Currently, about 1,200 acres are floodplain forest, 300 acres are wetlands, backwaters and sloughs, and the remaining 600 acres are farmed.

RESOURCE PROBLEM:

The extent and quality of forests, wetlands, and grasslands along the Mississippi River has been steadily declining over the years. The proposed project area has historically provided substantial benefits to waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. Sedimentation has reduced wetland depths to the point where they are dry most of the year.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Reduce forest fragmentation and increase bottomland hardwood diversity by allowing 640 acres to reforest naturally and planting 275 acres of mast trees in existing forested areas and cropfields
- * Enhance 78 acres of wetlands by providing wells for water supply and water control structures for flooding existing wetlands;
- * Restore a sand prairie by planting 98 acres of native prairie grasses and forbs.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

The project will restore historic wetland habitat, which is critical for resident and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds. The project will also provide greater habitat diversity through sand prairie and mast tree plantings. The sand prairie planting will provide feeding and nesting opportunities for a wide variety of wildlife. The mast tree plantings, coupled with natural regeneration, will create a large tract of continuous forest that is critical habitat for forest dwelling species.

FINANCIAL DATA:

General design costs are estimated at \$400,000. Estimated construction costs will be included in the draft Definite Project Report (DPR). Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Missouri Department of Conservation is the non-Federal project sponsor.

STATUS:

General design of the project has been initiated. A draft DPR is scheduled for completion in 2004.