

Project Factsheet for: Whitebreast Creek Watershed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

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Project Location Information

Location: Whitebreast Creek Watershed is located in south central Iowa encompassing portions of Clark, Lucas, Warren and Marion counties. This 273,000-acre watershed lies within the Des Moines River drainage area, and empties into Lake Red Rock Reservoir.

River Basin(s): Des Moines

State(s): IA

Congressional District(s): IA-3 , IA-4 , IA-5

Status

Feasibility report is complete and was submitted to for approval. Project cannot be approved until comment responses are prepared but the project is on hold due to insufficient funding.

Description

Government Land Office surveys between 1832 and 1859 show prairie and timber accounted for 75% and 21%, respectively, of the Whitebreast Creek watershed. The pre-settlement woodland and grassland have been converted to row crops, hay, and pasture reducing the vegetation cover. The change of vegetation has led to increased surface runoff and erosion, and has contributed high sediment loads as far away as Whitebreast Bay of Lake Red Rock. Further, the Whitebreast Creek watershed has lost 98.9% of its wetlands, and has been channelized reducing channel sinuosity.

Restoring wetlands to the watershed will improve wetland aquatic habitat. Selected plantings and hydrology enhancements will create high quality aquatic habitat. The scope of this project focuses on proposed project features that would improve wetland and in-stream habitats and enhance resource values. Project features will include construction of upland wetland ponds, floodplain wetland ponds and in-stream pool-riffle complexes. The project was planned for the benefit of native species of mammals, amphibians, fish, birds and migratory birds consistent with agency management goals.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	\$4,615,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$2,485,000
Total Cost	\$7,100,000
Allocations through FY 2008	\$579,000
Allocations for FY 2009	\$0
Budget Request for FY 2010	\$0
Balance to Complete after FY 2010	\$4,036,000

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY 2009: None. On hold due to insufficient funds. If sufficient funding is provided the feasibility study could be completed.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY 2010: If funding is provided and feasibility report is approved, Design and Implementation Phase could be initiated.

Authority

Project Manager Information

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