

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEETLONG MEADOW LAKE
LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER, MINNESOTA

LOCATION: Long Meadow Lake is a 1000-acre, spring-fed wetland area located adjacent to the Minnesota River near Bloomington, Minnesota. The site lies within the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Natural levees have been formed by the Minnesota River that have trapped spring and stream flows to create marsh areas, but there are no controlled outlets to the river. The existing outlets allow higher water levels on the Minnesota River to back into the wetlands, depositing river sediments. The natural levees are also topped by Minnesota River flood flows, allowing more sediments into the wetlands. This process is reducing water quality and increasing the aging rates in the marshes. These factors have substantially reduced the areas used by migrating birds for nesting, breeding, and feeding. In addition, some areas of the channel are experiencing erosion which could cause loss of the natural levees. Some of the large cottonwood trees along the riverbank are used by wintering bald eagles and as nesting sites. Other opportunities also exist in the Long Meadow Lake area to develop high quality feeding areas for migratory birds.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project would include installing 2 water control structures to provide outlets from Long Meadow Lake and a cross dike with control structure to subdivide the lake for management purposes, construction of 3 moist soil units (25 acres total) to produce food for migratory waterfowl, and stabilization of about 1,000 feet of riverbank to prevent further erosion. Pumps would be needed to supplement operation of Long Meadow Lake and the moist soil units.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The proposed project would provide water management capabilities on about 1,500 acres of low production marshes to enhance waterfowl habitat and provide an additional 2 million use-days for migratory waterfowl each year, increase waterfowl production by over 2,000 birds annually, prevent sediment from being deposited in the lake, improve the ratio of open water to aquatic vegetation, produce at least 25,000 pounds of seed annually for about 150,000 duck-use days, and preserve 1,000 linear feet of riverbank habitat used by bald eagles.

FINANCIAL DATA: The general design phase of the project is estimated to be \$150,000 and the construction costs are estimated at \$2,100,000. Annual costs for OM&R are estimated at \$3,000. Because the project would be located on lands of the National Fish and Wildlife Refuge System and "managed as a national wildlife refuge" within the meaning of Section 906(e) of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), general design and construction costs would be 100-percent Federal. The project lands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Therefore, in accordance with Section 107(b) of the WRDA 1992, all costs for OM&R would be the responsibility of the USFWS.