

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEETPOOL 8 ISLANDS - PHASE II
POOL 8, RIVER MILES 685.7-688.0, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WISCONSIN

LOCATION: The site is the open lake-like reaches of pool 8 east of the navigation channel on the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Stoddard, Wisconsin. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Many of the islands in pool 8 providing valuable habitat in the pool have eroded or disappeared. It is believed that the increased wind fetch and associated turbidity from river flows are causal factors for the observed loss of valuable aquatic plant beds which are used by fish and migratory waterfowl.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project is to stabilize about 4,000 linear feet of existing islands and construct about 12,000 linear feet of new islands in the lake-like portion of pool 8 to reduce wave action and the associated turbidity. The islands would be constructed of dredged material and protected with rock riprap or other means to prevent erosion. This project would be a continuation of the overall pool 8 islands project which includes construction of islands in other areas of the pool for habitat enhancement. The project would be constructed in 5 phases because of its large size and the desire to assess the effectiveness of completed portions of the project before proceeding with additional island construction. Construction of Phase I (located just west of phase II) was essentially completed in 1993.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: Construction of the islands would maintain existing valuable habitat, reduce sediment resuspension caused by wind-generated wave action, and provide physical conditions (low turbidity levels) necessary for the re-establishment of aquatic plant beds in about 900 acres of the lake-like reaches of pool 8. Dredging about 15 acres of selected backwater areas to obtain material for island construction would create much needed deepwater fish habitat. The deepwater areas and additional aquatic plant beds would provide a greater diversity of fisheries habitat. The intent would be to maximize the value of the fish habitat by dredging at locations where the deepwater areas will be adjacent to flowing water (in sloughs) and aquatic vegetation beds.

FINANCIAL DATA: The general design phase of the project is estimated to be \$180,000 and construction costs are estimated at \$3,500,000 for phase II of the five-phase project. Annual costs for OM&R are estimated at \$4,000. Because the project would be located on lands of the National 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.