

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEETPOOL SLOUGH WETLAND COMPLEX
POOL 9, RIVER MILE 674, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, IOWA/MINNESOTA

LOCATION: Pool Slough is a backwater area located on the west side of the Mississippi River at the Iowa-Minnesota border in pool 9, near New Albin, Iowa. Part of the site lies in Minnesota within the McGregor District of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The rest of the area lies in Iowa and is owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: The Upper Mississippi River is a major migration route for waterfowl during the spring and fall, and plays a major role in providing feeding and resting habitat for birds that populate the continent. There has been a general decline in the amount of high quality feeding and resting habitat on the Upper Mississippi River because of the loss of backwaters due to sedimentation and the reduction of aquatic plant growth in open water areas. It is critical to provide food and resting habitat for migratory waterfowl on the Upper Mississippi River because of its significance as a migration route. The Pool Slough project area has the water resources and topography conducive to waterfowl food production and to the development of excellent habitat for migratory waterfowl feeding and resting.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The project area provides an excellent opportunity to develop about 65 acres of moist soil units and 25 acres of wetlands on Refuge lands and develop a 115-acre wetland complex on Iowa DNR lands. The proposed moist soil units would involve constructing low dikes and installing water control structures to regulate water levels for waterfowl food production and feeding and resting habitat. Suitable material for dike construction is expected to be available from the project site. The wetland development would include excavating some sloughs and potholes. Excavated material would be sidecast and seeded to provide nesting cover for waterfowl.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project would produce a food source of at least 150,000 pounds of seed annually for migratory waterfowl, resulting in about 850,000 duck use-days. The additional development of about 50 acres of wetlands would provide a diverse complex of interspersed land/water habitats beneficial to waterfowl, aquatic furbearers, wading birds, and other wildlife.

FINANCIAL DATA: Total costs for general design are estimated at \$100,000 and construction costs are estimated at \$735,000. Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair (OM&R) are estimated at \$4,000. Because the moist soil units and part of the wetland complex 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 associated with these lands would be 100-percent Federal. These project lands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and, in accordance with Section 107(b) of the WRDA 1992, all costs for OM&R would be the responsibility of the USFWS. The costs of the portions of the project that are located on state lands would be shared 75-percent Federal/25-percent non-Federal. The non-Federal costs are estimated to be \$115,000. The non-Federal sponsor would be the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.