

# RICE LAKE

## HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

LaGrange Pool  
Illinois Waterway River Miles  
132.0 - 138.0

Fulton County, Illinois  
Rock Island District



### RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Increased flood and sedimentation levels have resulted in degradation of what has historically acted as excellent mid-migration waterfowl and aquatic habitat. The lack of reliable and flexible water management capability over half of the project area severely limits its effectiveness in providing feeding and resting habitat for the 2.7 million annual waterfowl use days. Habitat degradation also has negatively affected the other migratory and resident species using the facility.

### PROJECT FEATURES:

#### *Phase 1:*

- \* Reestablish the Hate Levee with a riprap over-flow structure to function as the major water control facility for the entire complex;

#### *Phase 2:*

- \* Locate a pumping facility on the Illinois Waterway;
- \* Excavate channels for water supply to management areas;
- \* Install a fish passage structure between Big Lake and the quarry pit;
- \* Construct interior levees for moist soil management; and
- \* Plant mast trees and native grasses on Duck Island.

### PROJECT OUTPUTS:

The project goals are to enhance wetland, aquatic, and floodplain terrestrial habitat. Reestablishing the Hate Levee and installing a pumping facility for Big Lake would increase reliability and flexibility of water level management. Habitat would be improved for waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and other wetland species that utilize the area. Structures for fish passage and escapement would protect aquatic habitat and maintain connectivity with the river. Restoration of native prairie and mast tree species would enhance habitat for numerous floodplain terrestrial species.

### FINANCIAL DATA:

General design costs are estimated at \$473,000, and construction costs are estimated at \$1,930,770 for Phase 1 and \$4,674,000 for Phase 2. In accordance with Section 906(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-662), general design and construction costs would be shared on a 75% Federal 25% non-Federal basis. The non-Federal sponsor, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, will assume all annual operation, maintenance, and repair costs. Estimated Phase 1 O&M is \$500 and Phase 2 is \$14,790.

### STATUS:

A draft Definite Project Report was distributed in September 1997. The Public Review Draft Report is scheduled for distribution in August 2001.