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**Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program****Fact Sheet****PIASA/EAGLE'S NEST ISLANDS RESTORATION AND WETLAND DEVELOPMENT****Pool 26, Mississippi River, Illinois**

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Location: Piasa and Eagle's Nest Islands are located in Mississippi River, Pool 26, between River Miles 208 and 211. Both islands are on the Illinois side of the main channel. The affected property is owned by the Corps, and is managed through a cooperative agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Resource Problem: The north end of the side channel, along the east bank of Piasa Island, is filling in at the north end. When the pool is on tilt, access to the side channel is only practical from the south, and there is no access into the island's drier interior wetlands.

Project: The project consists of: (1) a side channel closure dike, (2) a trail dike, (3) a series of wing dikes, and (4) interior wetlands dredging.

The project includes a rock dike (4,800 feet long) extending from the middle east side shoreline of Eagle's Nest Island, to a point 300 yards south of the northern tip of Piasa Island, along that island's west bank. The dikes would tie-in to Piasa Island downstream of the entrance to the island's old interior channel. Dike diverted river flows would help to reestablish an interior channel. Initially the depth of the interior channel would be restored via dredging. The project would be designed to utilize river forces in a manner that would negate the need for repeat dredging during the project's life.

In addition, an 1,800 foot rock trail dike would extend southward from the southwest corner of Eagle's Nest Island. Also, three 1,000 foot long wing dikes would be placed off the west bank of the river to concentrate flows into the Piasa Island side channel.

Project Outputs: The placement of the dike from Eagle's Nest to Piasa Island would direct more flow into the island's side channel. With the addition of the wing dikes extending from the east bank of the river, there would be an increased concentration of flow into the side channel. Scour holes would develop at the tip of the wing dikes, and would serve to maintain the access to the side channel from the north. This would restore and maintain the side channel habitat through the island. Initially, dredging would be employed to reduce the interior's sediments accumulation.

Between the two islands, there is a large shallow flat. The placement of the dike should accelerate deposition in this area. Past experience has shown that during high flow events the overtopping of the dike would create a plunge pool behind the dike. Associated with this pool the water would scour an escape channel back to the river channel. The dike extending south of the south tip of Eagle's Nest Island would cause deposition to occur to east of the dike. A scour hole could be expected to develop on the tip of the dike. As deposition causes the area behind the dike to accrete the hinge point management of pool 26 would periodically expose these areas. The de-watering will allow the germination of moist soil and other wetland plants creating herbaceous wetland habitat.

Financial Data: Total estimated base year costs for this project is \$ \$1,730,282 (or \$2,076,338 fully funded). The estimated annual operations and maintenance cost is \$18,000. All of the project features are on Corps owned General Plan lands. Accordingly, under the provisions of Section 906 (e) of WRDA 1986, as amended, the projects first costs are 100 percent Federal and the OMRR costs are the responsibility of the project's sponsor, IDNR.

