
Upper Mississippi River System Environmental Management Program**Fact Sheet****POOL 24 ISLANDS****Mississippi River, Missouri**

Location: The proposed project includes Gilbert, Blackbird, North Fritz and South Fritz Islands. These islands are located in Pike County, Missouri along Mississippi River Pool 24 between River Miles 286 and 299.5. These islands are owned by the Corps, and managed through a cooperative agreement by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDOC).

Resource Problem: A lack of woodland species diversity, and a significant decline in seasonal wetlands abundance and diversity, has adversely affected terrestrial wetland habitat on the islands in Pool 24. In addition, sedimentation in former side channels (chutes) has reduced depth diversity. These factors combine to adversely affect waterfowl, shore birds, furbearers and fisheries resources along this reach of the Mississippi River.

Project: : In general, the project includes: (1) rock closures for sediment/erosion control, (2) dredging chutes and creating deep holes, (3) tree piles placed in deep holes, (4) hard point structures, (5) disposal berms, (6) tree plantings, (7) a water control structure, (8) potholes, and (9) rock protection. More specifically, the project consists of:

Installing a closing structure at the upstream end of accreted chutes located on east side of Gilbert, south part of Blackbird, and the north end of the South Fritz slough to reduce influx of heavy sediments.

Improve fisheries habitat by dredging 5.5 miles of accreted chutes for a width of 50 feet and to a depth of 8' below flat pool (or 6' dredge cut assuming 2' of existing water). An additional 4.5 acres of deep water habitat will be created in these chutes by dredging to approximately 15 feet deep (or a 13 foot sediment cut) for a total of 95,000 CY of dredging. These deep pools will be located at selected locations throughout the side channel areas. Dredged material will be discharged adjacent to the side channels on areas cleared for this purpose, with the dredged material smoothed and established to hard-mast forest. Each deep pool will have habitat structures placed consisting of piles of anchored woody debris.

Create additional fisheries habitat in Gilbert Chute by constructing a series of small chevrons or non-rooted hard points (5 structures) to create depth and flow diversity.

Addition of two rock structures in Gilbert Chute—one is the creation of a “bull-nose” type structure at the head of a small island in the chute to reduce island erosion presently occurring, the second will raise the elevation of an existing closing structure to protect another small island from eroding.

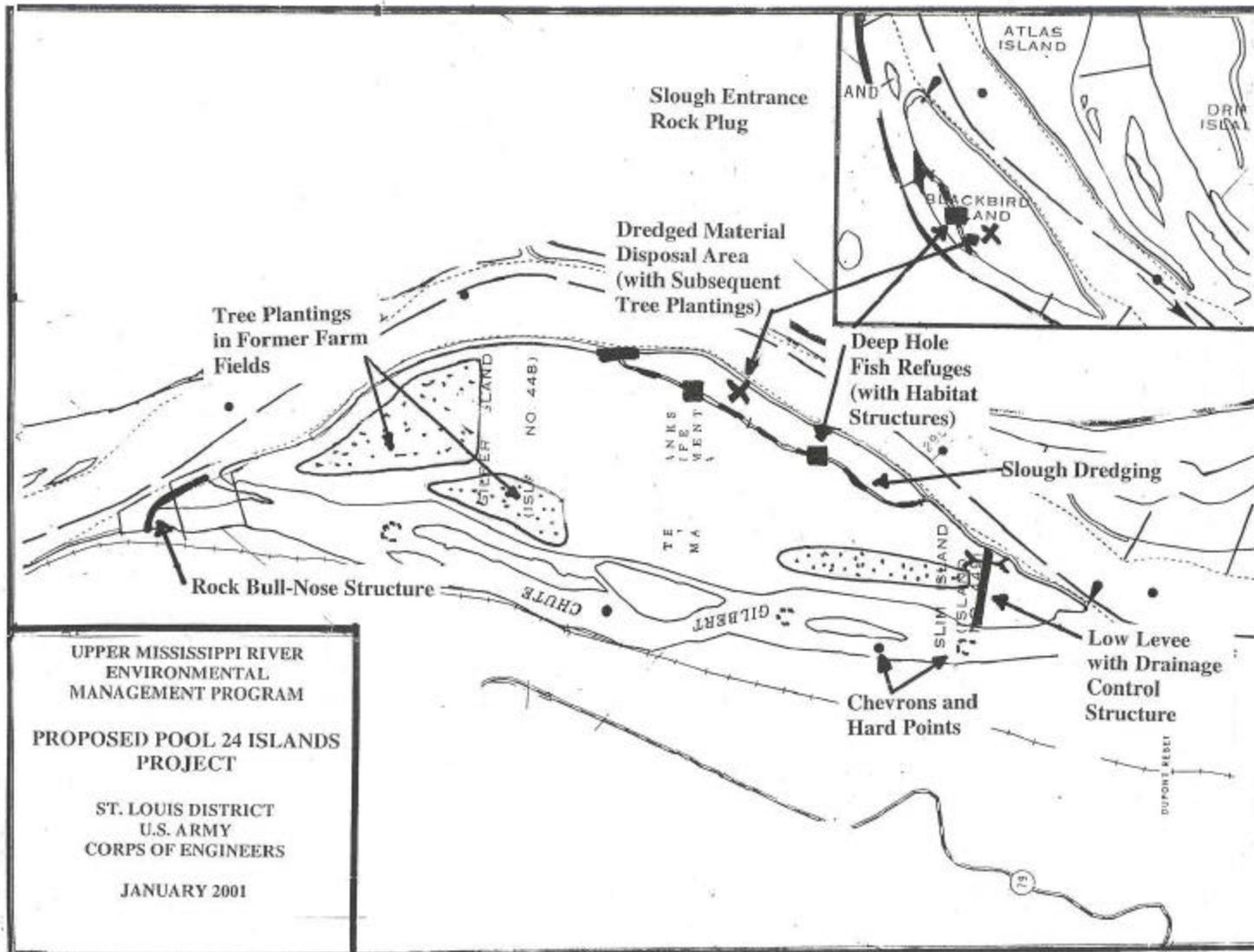
Planting container-grown hard mast trees on approximately 190 acres of abandoned crop fields, dredge spoil sites, and converting another 400 acres of existing timber to hard-mast woodland at yet to be identified locations on all four islands. Elevation of planted sites will be a minimum of 454 NGVD. These tree plantings are to be established on raised berms. In at least three locations on Gilbert Island, mounds of at least one-half acre in size, and constructed a minimum of two feet high (or above elevation 455 NGVD, whichever is higher) will be planted to hard-mast trees.

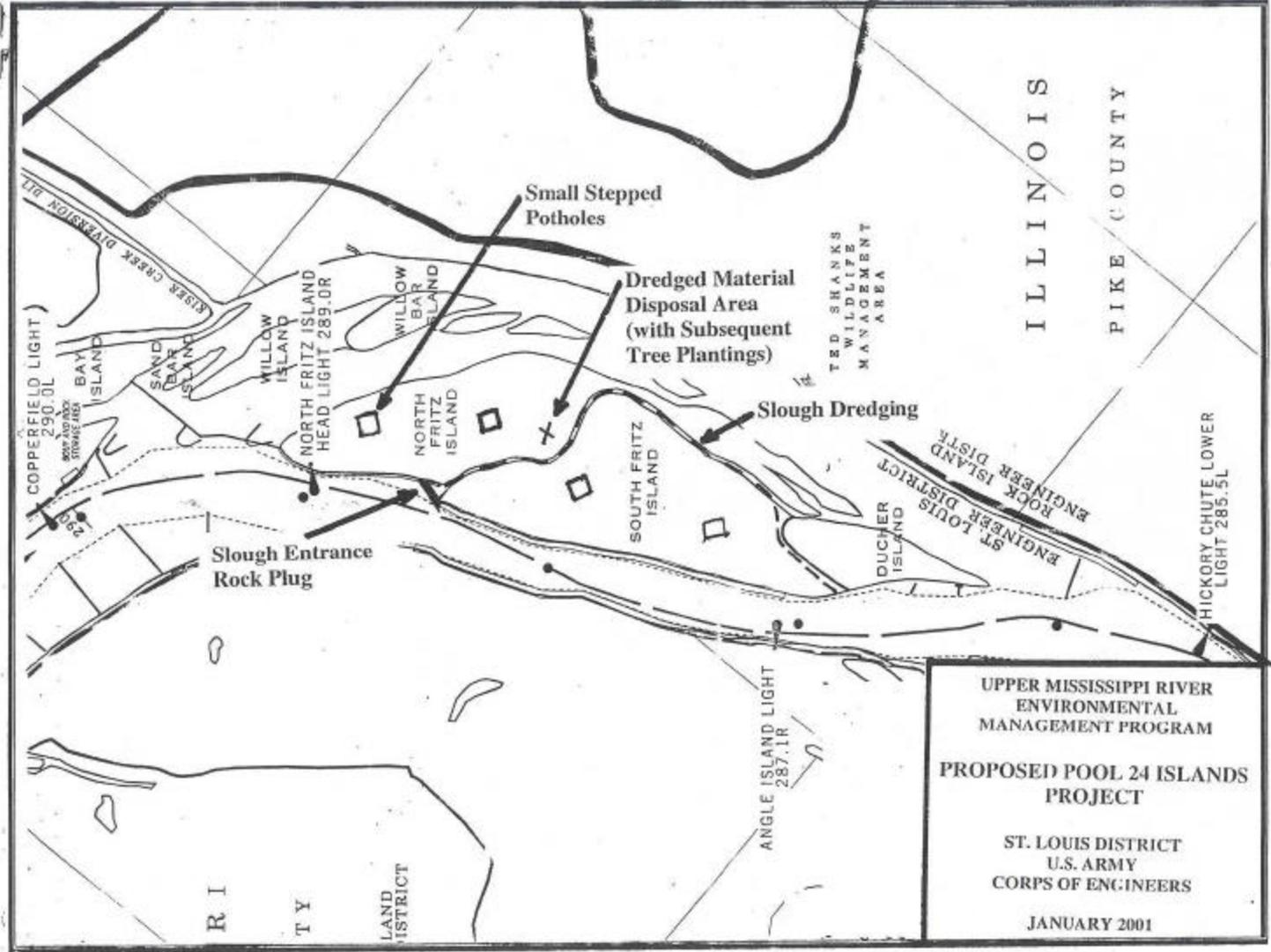
On Gilbert Island, a low profile berm (300 feet long, 3 feet high) with a drainage control structure (36" combination sluice-gate/stop-log structure) to allow opportunistic wetlands flooding adjacent to R.M. 294.5 R.

On North and South Fritz Islands, three to five 0.5 acre potholes each constructed in a contoured "stair step" fashion from shallow to deep water. This configuration would provide increased wetlands habitat diversity. The design is similar to that developed for the Cottonwood EMP project.

Project Outputs: Completion of this project would greatly enhance woodland plant diversity, providing a significant source of high energy food for a host of wildlife species. It would improve spawning, feeding, and overwintering habitat for a myriad of river fishes and aquatic habitat for reptiles and amphibians. It would increase wetland habitat diversity, and reduce detrimental island erosion and sedimentation.

Financial Data: Total estimated base year costs for this project is \$6,866,146 (or \$8,239,375 fully funded). The estimated annual operations and maintenance cost is \$10,000. All of the project features are on Corps owned General Plan lands "managed as a refuge". Accordingly, under the provisions of Section 906 (e) of WRDA 1986, as amended, the projects first costs are 100 percent federal. OMRR costs are the responsibility of the project's sponsor, MDOC.





UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
 ENVIRONMENTAL
 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**PROPOSED POOL 24 ISLANDS
 PROJECT**

 ST. LOUIS DISTRICT
 U.S. ARMY
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS

 JANUARY 2001