



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Guttenberg Waterfowl Ponds Habitat Project, Iowa

Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the site is located below lock and dam 10 dike at Guttenberg, Iowa. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.



A group of fish-rearing ponds below the dam was abandoned in 1971. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources proposed to manage the water levels in these ponds as moist soil impoundments for food production for migratory waterfowl. However, the ponds lacked adequate water supply and drainage facilities for water level control.

The project provided for the control of water levels in the three existing ponds, totaling about 35 acres. Water is supplied to the ponds via a gated conduit from the existing dam 10 spillway. Ditching within the ponds provides drainage to an outlet structure for discharge into the spillway channel. An additional water control structure in one of the ponds can provide water to Big Pond Slough for limited water level control in Big Pond. The project will increase vegetation coverage and plant species diversity for food production. The ponds also provide good habitat for wading birds, rails, snipe and passerines. Water level control of Big Pond improves fish management opportunities.



Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1989, and the pond portion of the project was completed in November 1989. The installation of the water supply pipe in the dam 10 spillway was accomplished in spring 1990, making the project fully operational in 1991. However, in 1992, the ponds were modified and upgraded as part of the Bussey Lake habitat project to improve their operation. They were operational again in 1997. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance.

Authority

The Guttenberg Waterfowl Ponds Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System EMP and constructed in accordance with a definite project report dated July 1988. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100-percent Federal because the project is located on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs are 100-percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$327,000
Non-Federal cost \$0
Total cost \$327,000