



US Army Corps of Engineers  
St. Paul District

## Pool Slough Habitat Project, New Albin, Iowa

### Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program (EMP), Pool Slough is a backwater area on the west side of the Mississippi River at the Iowa-Minnesota border in pool 9 at New Albin, Iowa. The site is in Iowa on lands owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The Upper Mississippi River is a major migration route for waterfowl during the spring and fall, providing feeding and resting habitat for birds that populate the continent. Generally, the amount of high quality feeding and resting habitat has declined because of sedimentation and reduced aquatic plant growth in backwater areas. The Pool Slough area has the water resources and topography conducive to waterfowl food production and to development of a migratory waterfowl feeding and resting area.



The proposed project would involve constructing low dikes to create a 52-acre moist soil unit and installing a control structure to regulate the water level in the pond. Pumping from Pool Slough would fill the pond in the fall. The project would produce an annual food source for migratory waterfowl.



### Status

General design for the project began in 1995. Changes in flow patterns at the site and the 2001 flood caused a delay in finalizing the final definite project report. The final report was completed in July 2003. The project cooperation agreement was executed in September 2004. Problems with contract bids in 2004 and 2005 have delayed award of a construction contract. A construction contract is scheduled to be awarded in 2006, pending resolution of bid problems.

### Authority

The Pool Slough Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System EMP. 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs for the project would be shared 65-percent Federal/35-percent non-Federal. Operation and maintenance costs would be 100-percent non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Federal cost \$410,000

Non-Federal cost \$221,000

Total estimated cost \$631,000