

Project Factsheet for: Ventura Marsh at Clear Lake

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Project Location Information

Location: Clear Lake, a 3,625-acre natural lake, is located near the town of Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, in north central Iowa, and has a drainage area of approximately 8,450 acres. Clear Lake drains into the Winnebago River.

State(s): IA

Congressional District(s): IA-4

Status

Approved and funded for feasibility study.

Description

Ventura Marsh is an aging wetland system. The stable high water level has caused portions of it to accelerate to and stabilize in the open marsh stage. Rough fish activity in the marsh decreases the marsh water quality and reduces the vegetation coverage. The marsh's habitat potential is not being reached. The aquatic bird and furbearer usage of the marsh is limited by the lack of vegetation and poor water quality.

Systemically, the marsh is limiting the habitat value of Clear Lake. Water quality of the lake is diminished because the marsh does not act as a natural filtering system for the water entering lake. The marsh is used by rough fish, specifically carp, for recruitment. As a result, the quality of the Clear Lake fishery is decreased. The success of the Clear Lake restoration efforts depends on solving these problems.

There are opportunities to increase the waterfowl usage of the marsh and provide better conditions for furbearers. Opportunities exist to change the hydrology of the marsh, increase water quality related to habitat to promote vegetation growth and slow the natural transition to an open marsh.

The project sponsor is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Summarized Financial Data

Estimated Federal Cost	\$1,740,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$877,000
Total Estimated Cost	\$2,617,000
Allocations through FY 2005	\$113,000
Allocations for FY 2006	\$164,000
Budget Request for FY 2007	\$139,000
Balance to Complete after FY 2007	TBD

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY 2006: Continuation of the feasibility study.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY 2007: Feasibility phase completion and design phase initiation.

Authority

CA - Continuing Authorities - Section 206 --

Project Manager Information

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