US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Conway Lake Habitat Project, Lansing, Iowa

Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program, Conway Lake is a 130-acre isolated backwater lake in Mississippi River Pool 9 located about 3 miles upstream of Lansing, Iowa. Phillipi Lake is a 330-acre backwater lake located southeast of Conway Lake, and Shore Slough is a 100-acre slough lying just downstream of Conway Lake. The areas lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Conway Lake is relatively shallow with abundant aquatic vegetation. Dissolved oxygen depletion is a problem in the lake during both summer and winter. During the winter, excessive water enters Phillipi Lake through openings that are eroding larger, creating unsuitable habitat conditions for overwintering backwater fish. Shore Slough has less than optimal fish habitat conditions as a result of sedimentation and the high flows from Phillipi Lake. Introduction of flow from a small creek is being considered to improve dissolved oxygen levels in Conway Lake. Flow restriction from Middle Slough would improve winter habitat conditions in both Phillipi Lake and Shore Slough. Dredging is being considered for all three water bodies to enhance habitat.

Status

Planning efforts will be resumed in 2008. A draft definite project report is scheduled to be available in 2009.

Planning and general design for the project initially began in 2001, but limited funding has delayed project planning.

Authority

The Conway Lake Habitat Project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program. This program 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 will be planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

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

Federal cost $2,460,000
Non-federal cost $0
Total estimated cost $2,460,000