

Project Factsheet for: Lake Odessa Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project, Pools 17-18 - UMRS-EMP

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Project Location Information

Location: Lake Odessa is a 6,788 acre backwater complex located 15 miles south of Muscatine, Iowa, in Louisa County.

River Basin(s): Mississippi

State(s): IA

Congressional District(s): IA-2

Status

A final Definite Project Report (DPR) was approved for construction in August 2005. The construction contract for Stage I was awarded in July 2006. Stage I construction is anticipated to be completed in December 2007. The Stage II construction contract is expected to be awarded in August or September of 2007.

Description

While Lake Odessa has traditionally had high fall duck and geese populations and significant duck production, the existing water control structures, high amount of seepage due to sandy soil, and overall complex size limit water level management with regard to drawdown, excess water release, and fall reflooding. Breaches of existing levees have resulted in frequent losses of emergent aquatic vegetation used by migratory waterfowl. Sedimentation from frequent levee breaks and overtopping flood events has decreased the extent of deep water aquatic habitat. Fish winterkills and reduced circulation of well-oxygenated water are being experienced.

The goals of the proposed project are to restore and protect wetland, terrestrial, and aquatic habitat. The objectives identified to meet these goals were: (1) reduce forest fragmentation; (2) increase bottomland hardwood diversity; (3) enhance migratory bird habitat; (4) restore native grasslands; (5) increase habitat for overwintering fish; (6) provide safe areas for developing fish; (7) protect habitat features; and (8) protect archeological sites.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- Restore the existing perimeter levee system that protects the Lake Odessa complex;
- Construct a spillway to control flood events and protect the levee;
- Enhance water management capability at moist soil management areas;
- Dredge deep holes/channels to enhance overwintering habitat for the fishery;
- Create a fish nursery area;
- Plant 93 acres of mast-producing hardwood trees; and,
- Reestablish a 36 acre of native grasslands.

Enhancing water level management capability will provide more moist soil habitat, greater vegetation diversity and growth, and reliable food supplies to migratory waterfowl. Fisheries enhancement dredging will create areas of deeper water and/or access to deeper water for overwintering fish. Mast tree planting will improve the quality and quantity of forest habitat by re-introducing mast-producing species to a forest community increasingly dominated by silver maple and cottonwood. Levee restoration will provide reliable flood damage protection, reduce flood damages and levee failures, and protect archeological sites from further erosion. The native grassland planting will increase habitat complexity and provide feeding and nesting opportunities for a wide variety of wildlife. The fish nursery will allow fry to be reared to the fingerling stage in a predator free environment.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	\$14,818,648
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$14,818,648

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

Completion of the Stage I and Stage II A construction contracts and award of the Stage II B construction contract.

Authority

CG - Construction General --

Additional Information

The project lands are Federally owned by the Corps of Engineers and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Project Manager Information

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