



US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Paul District

Mississippi River Environmental Management Program (Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa)

Location/Description

The Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program has studies and projects in the Upper Mississippi River system north of Cairo, Illinois. The system includes the Illinois River. The program authorized by Congress in 1986 is intended to ensure the coordinated development and enhancement of the Upper Mississippi River system, with primary emphasis on habitat rehabilitation and enhancement projects and long-term resource monitoring.

The habitat project component includes dredging backwater areas and channels, constructing dikes, creating and stabilizing islands, and controlling side channel flows and water levels. In the St. Paul District, the projects are located along the Minnesota River and along the Mississippi River from Guttenberg, Iowa (Lock and Dam 10), to Minneapolis, Minnesota, a distance of 250 river miles.



The long-term resource monitoring component includes monitoring trends and impacts with respect to selected resources, developing products for resource management decisions, and maintaining river information databases. .

Status

In the St. Paul District, construction of 25 projects has been completed – Island 42, Lake Onalaska, Guttenberg Ponds, Blackhawk Park, Pool 8 Islands Phases I and II, Indian Slough, Finger Lakes, Bussey Lake, Lansing Big Lake, Polander Lake, Pool 9 Island, Spring Lake Peninsula, Cold Springs, Peterson Lake, East Channel, Rice Lake, Small Scale Drawdown, Trempealeau NWR, Bank Stabilization, Long Lake, Ambrough Slough, Spring Lake Islands, Pool Slough, and Long Meadow Lake. Construction of Pool 8 Islands Phase III is underway (Stage 1 is completed and Stage 2 is underway). Planning is underway for Harpers Slough and Capoli Slough. Planning of three more projects will begin when funds become available.

Authority

The Environmental Management Program was authorized by the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986 and amended by WRDA 90 and WRDA 92. Section 509, WRDA 99, reauthorized and amended the program to extend it without a termination date and required a report to Congress every 6 years.

To implement the program, a partnership has been formed among the Corps of Engineers; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; U.S. Geological Survey; and the States of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Illinois. The Corps' St. Paul, Rock Island, and St. Louis Districts manage the program within their respective boundaries.

Fiscal

The authorized annual program funding is \$33,520,000. The fiscal year 2008 President's budget amount is \$23.46 million. Project design, construction, and operation and maintenance costs are 100-percent Federal if the project is located on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the responsibility for operation and maintenance of these projects. For other projects, the costs are 65-percent Federal and 35-percent non-Federal, with operation and maintenance costs 100-percent non-Federal.