



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

Kansas City District

Wood Duck Marsh Restoration Project

Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act, 1986
Local Sponsor: Appanoose County



Location & Description: The project is located adjacent to Rathbun Lake at the mouth of Buck Creek in Appanoose County, Iowa. Appanoose County has indicated their interest in sponsoring this cost shared project. There would be approximately 15 acres of emergent wetland, with approximately 135 acres of surrounding uplands and timber area associated with the project. Because the project is located along county road J5-T, it is highly visible to the public and would provide additional benefits to visitors at Rathbun Lake such as wildlife viewing, bird watching, wetland education opportunities, and aesthetics.

Problem & Need: The existing conditions within the project area include a pass-through system whereby flows from Buck Creek are channeled to Rathbun Lake via two culverts through county road J5-T. This flow-through culvert system also allows floodwaters from Rathbun Lake to back into the project area during higher pool levels. As a result, the area does not function as a wetland during low flow periods as Buck Creek is channeled into the lake. The proposed project will modify the existing culvert structures and adapt them to control flows from Buck Creek to provide the requisite hydrology necessary for the site to function as an emergent wetland. The project would also serve to reduce sediment load currently coming directly into the Lake from Buck Creek by acting as a sediment trap and a filter that would improve water quality.

Proposed Activities for FY08: Initiate and complete the planning and design analysis (PDA) phase.

Issues and Other Information: This project would complement an overall watershed planning and water quality improvement process currently ongoing in the Rathbun Lake area through several initiatives and partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies.

