

# **Pool 12 Overwintering, Habitat Rehabilitation And Enhancement Project, Pool 12**

*Rock Island District*

**Pool 12, Upper Mississippi River Mile 564.0 – 573.0, Jo Daviess County, Illinois**

**LOCATION:** The Pool 12 Overwintering project area is located along the left descending bank of the Upper Mississippi River approximately 10 miles south of Dubuque, Iowa, in Jo Daviess County, Illinois. The project lies generally between the Mississippi River's main channel and the railroad tracks that parallel the river's east bank. The project lands are Federally owned by the Corps of Engineers and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Savanna Division.

**RESOURCE PROBLEM:** Presently, overwintering habitat for fish and backwater habitat for both waterfowl and fish are very limited in Pool 12. Sedimentation of backwater lakes and sloughs has reduced the value of historic overwintering areas. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has documented that the overwintering habitat in Pool 12 has become a limiting factor for survival of largemouth bass.

The goals of the project are to restore and protect aquatic habitat and to improve topographic diversity and associated floodplain forest communities. The objectives identified to meet these goals are to reduce resuspension of sediments, create areas with depth diversity, reduce sedimentation in backwaters, create off-channel deep-water areas to provide overwintering and year-round habitat for pan fish and associated species and create higher elevation areas relative to the surrounding floodplain of supporting mast producing trees.

## **PROJECT FEATURES:**

- Deepen backwater lakes and sloughs using hydraulic and mechanical dredging.
- Constructed in two phases: (1) Stone Lake, Fishtrap Lake, and Sunfish Lake and (2) Tippy Lake, Kehough Slough, and Noname Lake.
- Plant mast trees on sediment deflection berms and dredged material placement sites.

**PROJECT OUTPUTS:** Dredging the identified lakes and sloughs would provide critical overwintering habitat for fish, such as bass, crappie, and bluegill. The dredging would also restore backwater habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds. The mast tree plantings will increase species diversity and improve the existing timber stand.

**FINANCIAL DATA:** General design costs are estimated at \$800,000. Estimated total project cost and construction costs will be included in the draft Definite Project Report (DPR). Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the non-Federal project sponsor.