

Potters Marsh, Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, Pool 13

Rock Island District

Pool 13, Upper Mississippi River Miles 522.5 - 526.0, Carroll and Whiteside Counties, Illinois

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Construction of Lock and Dam 13 raised the river level, creating a permanent backwater slough between what is now an island and the Illinois mainland bank. To provide access to the Corps of Engineers (Corps) Thomson Causeway Recreation Area, the Corps raised an existing causeway near the upstream end of the slough. The causeway has culverts that are large enough to pass high flow levels carrying large amounts of sediment. Siltation in the slough had reached a critical point. Submergent vegetation totally clogged most of the slough, drastically reducing the fisheries habitat. Additionally, siltation had filled in much of the historically productive waterfowl marshes at this location.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- Dredge 24,100 lineal feet (394,000 cubic yards) for fishery enhancement;
- Dredge 2,100 lineal feet above and a deep hole below the causeway (49,000 cubic yards) to serve as a sediment trap;
- Drill one well with submergible pump;
- Construct a confined placement site (CPS);
- Improve and extend an existing road to the CPS;
- Establish a 32.5 acre marshland on the CPS surface, which includes a stoplog structure and a 7 acre grassland area; and,
- Create 18 isolated potholes for waterfowl use.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: Backwater hydraulic dredging has restored and created deep water slough habitat for overwintering fish. Creation of a sediment trap has kept the upper end of the slough and causeway flow tubes from silting in completely. Construction of a managed marshland on the CPS provides a migratory bird feeding resting area. Pothole excavation has made additional secluded open water available for waterfowl. Implementation of the project, as designed, has improved the quality and effective lifetime of this valuable wetland-upland complex.

FINANCIAL DATA: General design costs were \$643,000, and construction costs were \$2,364,000. Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair are estimated at \$6,100 and will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the non-Federal project sponsor.

STATUS: Project construction was completed in July 1996. Post-construction Performance Evaluation Reports were completed in November 1998 and in 2003.