

Spring Lake Wildlife Area, Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project, Pool 13

Rock Island District

Pool 13, Upper Mississippi River Miles 532.5 - 536.0, Carroll County, Illinois

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Upper and Lower Spring Lakes formerly were highly productive and heavily used sources of aquatic vegetation for migratory waterfowl. Due to breaching of the Lower Lake dike, sedimentation from river flows was degrading the aquatic habitat. Inadequate water level control capabilities and associated encroachment of woody plants and undesirable perennials were negatively affecting production of food resources preferred by migratory waterfowl in the Upper Lake. Peak waterfowl use days have decreased from 113,000 to 30,000 or less.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- 7.1 miles of existing perimeter levee improved;
- Upper Lake subdivided into three independent management cells by constructing 7,200 feet of low elevation levees, excavating feeder channels, modifying the existing cross dike, and installing a 5,600-gpm 2-way pump station and three stop log structures; - Two water control structures installed in the Lower Lake levee; and,
- A 108-acre hemimarsch developed in the Lower Lake [6,100 feet of low elevation levee, a 1,000-gpm well, and one stop log structure].

PROJECT OUTPUTS: Project implementation is increasing the overall availability and quality of migratory bird and fish habitat at this location. Improved water level control in the Upper Lake has increased annual moist soil plant production to the benefit of dabbling ducks. Improved marsh habitat management capabilities in the Upper and Lower Lakes are providing valuable outputs to migratory waterfowl and other wetland dwelling species. The ability to distribute oxygenated water throughout the Lower Lake, while minimizing sediment access, is maintaining and enhancing this site's overall habitat value.

FINANCIAL DATA: General design costs were \$1,305,910, and construction costs were \$5,175,188.

STATUS: Construction of all project features is complete. Formal dedication of the project was held on July 16, 1999. Construction was completed in FY03.