

# Project Factsheet for: Water Level Drawdown for Environmental Restoration (Completed)

Date Last Updated: 09/13/2007 11:04

## Project Location Information

**Location:** Pools 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26

**River Basin(s):** Mississippi

**State(s):** IA, IL

**Congressional District(s):** IA-1, IA-2, IL-11, IL-16, IL-17

## Status

Informational only.

## Description

The Final Feasibility Report and Programmatic EIS for the UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study identified water level management as one of a number of ecosystem management and restoration measures with potential application to UMRS ecosystem goals and objectives. As part of the Navigation Study ecosystem planning efforts, a task group was formed to evaluate the potential for drawdowns and other water level manipulations. The major findings of the group resulted in recommendation to conduct growing season drawdowns at pools 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, and 26.

The primary anticipated benefit of a growing season drawdown is exposure of sediment to facilitate the establishment of emergent perennial or annual wetland plants in shallow aquatic areas as a food source for waterfowl and cover for fish and invertebrates. Consolidation of soft bottom material with a resultant reduction in turbidity is a potential secondary benefit.

Implementation of pool-scale drawdowns would be constrained by the need to maintain commercial navigation and avoid significant impacts to endangered species, historic properties, recreation or other environmental resource.

## Authority

SI - Special Interest -- Past water level drawdowns on Mississippi River Pools (8 and 13) were conducted as experimental efforts with approval requested from MVD to deviate from the authorized operating plan. Specific authorization would be required to modify authorized operating plans to allow recurring growing season drawdowns.

## Project Manager Information

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