

Project Factsheet for: Lake Odessa Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project, Pools 17-18 - UMRS-EMP

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Project Location Information

Location: Pools 17 and 18, Upper Mississippi River Miles 434.5-441.5, Louisa County, Iowa.
River Basin(s): Mississippi
State(s): IA
Congressional District(s): IA-2

Status

A final Definite Project Report (DPR) was approved for construction in August 2005. The construction contract for Stage I A was awarded in July 2006. Stage I A construction was delayed due to flooding in the spring and summer of 2008. Completion of Stage I A is now scheduled for completion in November 2009. The Stage II A construction contract was awarded in 2008 and is scheduled for completion in mid March of 2009.

Damages to the site will be repaired utilizing \$7,000,000 provided in a 2008 supplemental appropriation. These repairs will be completed through a Stage I B contract scheduled for award in July 2009.

Description

Lake Odessa is a 6,788 acre backwater complex located 15 miles south of Muscatine, Iowa, in Louisa County. While Lake Odessa has traditionally had high fall duck and geese populations and significant duck production, the existing water control structures, high amount of seepage due to sandy soil, and overall complex size limit water level management with regard to drawdown, excess water release, and fall reflooding. Breaches of existing levees have resulted in frequent losses of emergent aquatic vegetation used by migratory waterfowl. Sedimentation from frequent levee breaks and overtopping flood events has decreased the extent of deep water aquatic habitat. Fish winterkills and reduced circulation of well-oxygenated water are being experienced.

The goals of the proposed project are to restore and protect wetland, terrestrial, and aquatic habitat. The objectives identified to meet these goals were: (1) reduce forest fragmentation; (2) increase bottomland hardwood diversity; (3) enhance migratory bird habitat; (4) restore native grasslands; (5) increase habitat for overwintering fish; (6) provide safe areas for developing fish; (7) protect habitat features; and (8) protect archeological sites.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- Restore the existing perimeter levee system that protects the Lake Odessa complex;
- Construct a spillway to control flood events and protect the levee;
- Enhance water management capability at moist soil management areas;
- Dredge deep holes/channels to enhance overwintering habitat for the fishery;
- Create a fish nursery area;
- Plant 93 acres of mast-producing hardwood trees; and,
- Reestablish a 36 acre native grassland.

Enhancing water level management capability will provide more moist soil habitat, greater vegetation diversity and growth, and reliable food supplies to migratory waterfowl. Fisheries enhancement dredging will create areas of deeper water and/or access to deeper water for overwintering fish. Mast tree planting will improve the quality and quantity of forest habitat by re-introducing mast-producing species to a forest community increasingly dominated by silver maple and cottonwood. Levee restoration will provide reliable flood damage protection, reduce flood damages and levee failures, and protect archeological sites from further erosion. The native grassland planting will increase habitat complexity and provide feeding and nesting opportunities for a wide variety of wildlife. The fish nursery will allow fry to be reared to the fingerling stage in a predator free environment.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	\$14,818,648
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$14,818,648

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

Completion of construction contract II A. Development of Plans and Specifications for Stage I B and II B. Award of construction contracts for Stage I B and II B.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

Completeion of the Stage I A construction contract. And, work on the Stage I B and II B construction contracts.

Authority

CG - Construction General --

Additional Information

The project lands are Federally owned by the Corps of Engineers and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Project Manager Information

Name: Marvin E. Hubbell

Phone: (309)794-5428

E-mail: Marvin.E.Hubbell@usace.army.mil