

# Project Factsheet for: Pool 12 Overwintering Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project- UMRS-EMP

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## Project Location Information

**Location:** Pool 12, Upper Mississippi River Mile 564.0 - 573.0, Jo Daviess County, Illinois  
**River Basin(s):** Mississippi  
**State(s):** IL  
**Congressional District(s):** IL-16

## Status

General design of the project has been initiated. The Final DPR is scheduled for completion in 2009.

## Description

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.

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 riverine fish.

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 riverine 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.
- Plant mast trees on sediment deflection berms and dredged material placement sites.

Construction would occur in two phases: (1) Stone Lake, Fishtrap Lake, and Sunfish Lake; and (2) Tippy Lake, Kehough Slough, and Noname Lake. 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.

## Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost (General Design)	\$800,000
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Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

Completion of the DPR.

Initiated a cooperative pre-project monitoring effort with the State of Iowa and the USGS to document the current status of the fish population. This will be used to evaluate the biological response of the project once it is completed.

## Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

Continuation of the cooperative pre-project monitoring program.

Agency

CG - Construction General --

### **Additional Information**

Estimated total project cost and construction costs will be included in the draft Definite Project Report (DPR). The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is the non-Federal project sponsor.

### **Project Manager Information**

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