

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEETAMBROUGH SLOUGH
POOL 10, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WISCONSIN

LOCATION: Ambrough Slough is a side channel on the Wisconsin side of the main Mississippi River channel in pool 10, about 5 miles upstream of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The slough enters a 2,500-acre backwater complex comprised of 6 backwater lakes and numerous smaller sloughs. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: An extensive area of each of the backwater lakes is presently heavily vegetated with aquatic plants. The entire area has experienced a loss of depth from siltation and aquatic plant decomposition/deposition. The lack of depth and dense vegetation and the associated oxygen sags and winter freeze outs are limiting desirable fishery habitat. Ambrough Slough carries sediment into the backwater where the flow is constricted because of debris and bank erosion. The area is important spawning and rearing habitat for several species of fish, but provides little fishery habitat when water levels recede and flow is diminished.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project would include rehabilitation and improvement of an existing closing structure at the head of Ambrough Slough and bank stabilization and channel improvement along the slough. Control structures would be constructed at the upstream end of Voth's and Big Missouri Lakes. Dredging about 150,000 cubic yards from the two lakes to remove accumulated sediments would increase the area and duration of habitat available for various fish species. A closing structure on an additional side channel (Black Slough) may also be included to improve water quality in the backwater complex.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project would increase and maintain water flow through Ambrough Slough to improve conveyance of oxygenated water to the 2,500-acre backwater complex. This would decrease the magnitude of summer dissolved oxygen swings and lessen the occurrence of deficiencies during the summer. Erosion of the channel banks would be reduced and the slough would have more habitat diversity. Dredging would increase the amount of deep water winter habitat by about 15 acres for centrarchids where presently there is little or none.

FINANCIAL DATA: The general design phase of the project is estimated to be \$180,000 and construction costs are estimated at \$1,900,000. Annual costs for OM&R are estimated at \$3,500. Because the project would be located on lands of the National Fish and Wildlife Refuge System and "managed as a national wildlife refuge" within the meaning of Section 906(e) of the 1986 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), general design and construction costs would be 100-percent Federal. The project lands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Therefore, in accordance with Section 107(b) of the WRDA 1992, all costs for OM&R would be the responsibility of the USFWS.