

11 March 1988

FACT SHEET

ISLAND 42 BACKWATER RESTORATION AND
WATERFOWL NESTING ENHANCEMENT
POOL 5, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, MINNESOTA

LOCATION: The site is located on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River channel, approximately 20 miles northwest of Winona, Minnesota. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Backwater sloughs at Island 42 did not receive adequate water flows from the Mississippi River at normal pool levels. This resulted in stagnation and dissolved oxygen depletion in these waters during late summer and winter. A major limiting factor for ground-nesting waterfowl in the Mississippi River corridor is the lack of adequate nesting cover. Flooding of the islands during the nesting season precluded successful completion of nesting.

PROJECT: The project provides water flows to a semi-isolated backwater area via an 80-foot long culvert and a 900-foot long by 50-foot wide channel which alleviates low dissolved oxygen problems in the backwater. In addition, approximately 36,000 cubic yards of material was dredged from about 7 acres of the backwater area, deepening it from about 2 feet to a 5-foot depth. The dredged material was placed in an old dredged material disposal site and will be revegetated to provide waterfowl nesting cover.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project will provide sufficient fresh flows to the backwaters to alleviate the dissolved oxygen problems. The activities improved 95 acres of fish habitat. It is estimated that production of sportfish in the improved areas will increase by 50 to 75 pounds per acre. Approximately 2 acres of waterfowl nesting habitat was established above normal floodwater levels.

FINANCIAL DATA: Funds totaling \$262,000 were allocated through FY 1987 to complete the general design phase and construction of the project. Funding was 100-percent Federal because the project is located on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

STATUS: Construction of the project was completed in June of 1987. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has assumed the operation and maintenance responsibilities of the project.