

26 May 1987

FACT SHEET

LANSING BIG LAKE  
POOL 9, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, IOWA

LOCATION: Lansing Big Lake is a 3,000-acre backwater lake located on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River in pool 9, approximately 3 miles above Lansing, Iowa. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Sediments are entering Big Lake through several side channels at the upper end of the lake. These sediments are increasing turbidity and slowly filling the lake, significantly degrading the excellent fish and wildlife habitat value of the lake.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project would place closure structures with controls on at least two of the major sediment-transporting side channels entering Big Lake (Big Slough and Little/Big Slough). During high flood flows, the closure structures would be overtopped and floodwaters would flow freely. As waters recede, the water control structures would be closed to keep sediment-laden water out of the backwaters. During normal flows, the structures would be opened and the cleaner water would be diverted into the backwater area.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project would retard the effects of sedimentation on Big Lake and protect up to 7,000 acres of valuable backwater fish and wildlife habitat in Big Lake and adjacent areas from accelerated degradation. It would also decrease turbidity, which would enhance fish and wildlife habitat through the establishment of emergent aquatic plants. Project benefits would be quantified during preparation of the definite project report.

FINANCIAL DATA: The General Design phase of the project is estimated to be \$90,000 and construction costs are estimated at \$1,000,000. Average annual operation and maintenance costs are estimated at \$5,000. Funding would be 100-percent Federal because the project is located on the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.