CENCS-PD-WR 8 October 1993

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEET

SPRING LAKE ISLANDS
POOL 5, UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WISCONSIN

LOCATION: Spring Lake is a 300-acre backwater area located on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in pool 5, approximately 1 mile below Buffalo City, Wisconsin. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Natural islands along the west side of Spring Lake have eroded and many have disappeared since the creation of pool 5. Previously, these islands protected Spring Lake from the direct effects of the main Mississippi River channel area and served to reduce wind fetch and the associated wave action. This is degrading the shallow water fish and wildlife habitat in the lake because of higher turbidity levels and undesirable conditions for the establishment of aquatic plant beds. The fish and wildlife habitat in Spring Lake has been of high quality because of the diversity present and the physically protected nature of the area. Quiet, protected areas are most valuable for fish and wildlife such as largemouth bass, bluegil, wading birds, muskrat, and dabbling ducks. Aquatic plant beds provide a valuable food source for fish and migrating birds.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project would rebuild or create barrier islands along the west side of Spring Lake to prevent further degradation of the fish and wildlife habitat in the lake. It is proposed to build the islands with material dredged from the vicinity or the main channel. Dredging volume is expected to be about 110,000 cubic yards, depending on the number and configuration of the islands. The project would require no future maintenance dredging.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project would stop the continued degradation of about 200 acres of valuable backwater fish and wildlife habitat by permitting Spring Lake to be maintained as a protected, shallow backwater wetland with the proper conditions for high productivity of both fish and wildlife. More than two-thirds of the lake would be directly affected by the project. If suitable material can be dredged from Spring Lake for island fill, it would also create deeper areas to provide additional fish habitat.

FINANCIAL DATA: Costs for general design are estimated at $100,000 and construction costs are estimated at $1,800,000. 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 OMRR would be the responsibility of the USFWS.