

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEETSPRING LAKE PENINSULA
POOL 5, 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, Wisconsin. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: A natural peninsula protecting Spring Lake from high river flows has been breached several times by spring floods. High flows and sediments entering Spring Lake through the breach are degrading the shallow water fish and wildlife habitat in the lake. The fish and wildlife habitat in Spring Lake is of high quality because of the diversity present and the physically protected nature of the area. Prior to the breach in the peninsula, the area was a quiet water area protected from high flows for all but the largest floods. Quiet, protected areas are most valuable for fish and wildlife such as largemouth bass, bluegil, wading birds, muskrat, and dabbling ducks.

PROPOSED PROJECT: The proposed project would close the breach in the peninsula and armor the peninsula to prevent future erosion, using material dredged from Spring Lake to reconstruct the peninsula. Dredging volume is expected to be less than 20,000 cubic yards. The project would be a one-time effort with little or no future maintenance dredging likely.

PROJECT OUTPUTS: The project would stop the continued degradation of 300 acres of valuable backwater fish and wildlife habitat by preventing the entrance of high flows and sediments. The Spring Lake area would be maintained as a protected, shallow backwater wetland with the proper conditions for high productivity of both fish and wildlife. After the material is dredged from Spring Lake, the deeper holes created would provide additional fish habitat.

FINANCIAL DATA: Costs for general design are estimated at \$30,000, and construction costs are estimated at \$250,000. Annual costs for OMRR are estimated at \$3,000. 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, general design and construction costs would be 100 percent Federal. Costs for OMRR would be 75 percent Federal/25 percent non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor would be the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.