

BANNER MARSH

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

**La Grange Pool
Illinois Waterway River Miles
138.0 - 144.0**

**Fulton and Peoria Counties, Illinois
Rock Island District**



RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Historically, the Illinois River Flyway has been one of the most important waterfowl migration routes throughout the United States. The bottomland lakes and marshes provided aquatic food plants and small animals like the fingernail clam that naturally attracted the migrating waterfowl. Banner Marsh has undergone a series of drastic physical changes, from bottomland lake and marsh to leveed agricultural lands and active mining operations, to a reclaimed strip mine. Valuable habitat important to the declining migratory waterfowl population has been lost.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Clear and stabilize existing perimeter levee;
- * Rehabilitate pump station;
- * Reconstruct approximately 144 acres of warm season grassland habitat; and,
- * Grade approximately 106 acres in the littoral zone of low-lying lands to 18 inches below the proposed final water elevation.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

The proposed project will improve habitat for waterfowl, fish, and furbearers. Previous strip-mining activities provide areas with sufficient depth to provide feeding and resting habitat for diving ducks. Such habitat is severely limited in the Illinois River Valley. The project would diversify water depths to the benefit of dabbling ducks. Species such as the bald eagle, great blue heron, river otter, northern pike, walleye, muskie, largemouth and smallmouth bass would benefit from implementation of this project. Islands left during littoral zone grading would create nesting opportunities for waterfowl. Due to the improved ability to manipulate water levels, food production and availability will be optimized.

FINANCIAL DATA:

In accordance with Section 906(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662), general design and construction costs were shared on a 75% Federal/25% non-Federal basis. The total Federal cost was \$5,187,472 with the non-Federal cost share at \$1,569,660. The non-Federal sponsor, the ILDNR, will assume all annual operation, maintenance, and repair costs, estimated at \$49,510.

STATUS:

The Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and 215 Agreement were executed in January 1998. The levee, pump station, and littoral zone grading project features are substantially complete. The warm season grass planting was completed in FY 03, completing all construction. A performance evaluation report was also completed in 2003.