

BEAVER ISLAND COMPLEX

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Pool 14
Upper Mississippi River Mile
513.0 – 515.5

Clinton County, Iowa
Rock Island District



LOCATION:

The Beaver Island Complex project area is located along the right descending bank of the Upper Mississippi River near Clinton, Iowa. The 270-acre Beaver Island Complex represents 16% of Pool 14 backwater habitat. Project lands are federally owned by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). All the federally owned lands are managed by USFWS as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Savanna District. Upstream portions of the island are privately owned, but are not included in the project area.

RESOURCE PROBLEM:

The complex of backwaters and wetlands has historically provided spawning, nursery, and overwintering habitat for fish and feeding and resting habitat for migratory water birds. Excessive sedimentation has negatively affected the habitat quality and wetland functions of this valuable backwater complex.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Dredge backwaters and connecting sloughs using a combination of hydraulic and/or mechanical dredging.
- * Create nesting islands.
- * Construct berms (using dredged material) to deflect sediment.
- * Plant mast-producing trees on berms.
- * Create isolated wetlands (potholes).
- * Install a manual control structure or high water diversion gate on the upper end of the complex to reduce sediment loading, while introducing oxygen rich water into the complex when needed.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

Dredging backwaters and connecting sloughs would provide critically important overwintering habitat for fish, such as bass, crappie, and bluegill. Isolated wetlands would restore feeding habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds. Mast tree plantings would increase species diversity and improve the existing timber stand. The project would maintain the quality and diversity of habitat in the largest backwater complex in Pool 14.

FINANCIAL DATA:

General design and construction costs are estimated at \$600,000 and \$4,000,000, respectively. A detailed construction cost estimate will be included in the draft Definite Project Report (DPR). Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is the project proponent.

STATUS:

General design of the project has begun. A draft DPR is scheduled for completion in 2007.