

POOL 11 ISLANDS

HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Pool 11
Upper Mississippi River Miles
583.0 - 592.0

Grant County, Wisconsin, and
Dubuque County, Iowa
Rock Island District



RESOURCE PROBLEM:

Following inundation in 1937, there has been a dramatic decrease in the island landmass in this area. This decrease has led to the loss of both terrestrial and aquatic habitats, protected littoral zones associated with the islands, and protected deep water habitats.

PROJECT FEATURES:

- * Construct islands across the channel from Mud Lake and also in Sunfish Lake;
- * Construct low level dikes at Mud and Sunfish Lakes to provide oxygenated water for fish; and
- * Dredge the backwaters in Mud Lake and Sunfish Lake.

PROJECT OUTPUTS:

Island construction will benefit both migratory waterfowl and the fishery by increasing bathymetric diversity, encouraging aquatic vegetation growth in shadow areas, providing nesting habitat, and reducing wind fetch and resuspension of sediments. Backwater dredging will increase habitat diversity and create off-channel fishery and overwintering habitat.

FINANCIAL DATA:

General design and construction costs are estimated at \$8,559,000. Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair are estimated at \$10,000, and will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources are the non-Federal project sponsors. Because the project is on all federal lands, project costs will be 100% federal.

STATUS:

The Definite Project Report was approved in May 2002. The mid-river islands component of this project is deferred based on the results of the biological assessment. It has been determined that construction of the island component may affect an endangered species (Higgins' eye pearly mussels). Further bathymetric survey and mussel sampling may allow island creation in the future. Stage I - Sunfish Lake construction contract was awarded July 26, 2002, and is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2004. Stage II - Mud Lake is scheduled for award in the fall of 2004 with construction start in 2005.