

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER SYSTEM - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
FACT SHEET

RICE LAKE COMPLEX HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT - PHASE 1
LA GRANGE POOL, ILLINOIS WATERWAY
FULTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

LOCATION: The Rice Lake Complex is a 5,592 acre series of natural backwater lakes including 3,053 acres purchased by the Illinois Department of Conservation for \$1.3 million in FY 86 and FY 87. It is situated between approximate river miles 132 and 138 on the Illinois Waterway and is located 25 miles south of Peoria, Illinois.

RESOURCE PROBLEM: Increased flood and sedimentation levels have resulted in degradation of what has historically acted as excellent mid-migration waterfowl and aquatic habitat. While levees and water control structures installed by the State to enable water level manipulation have been successful despite ongoing sedimentation, continuing accumulation of silt is diminishing their effectiveness in assuring annual food production for the 2.7 million annual waterfowl use days. Habitat degradation has also negatively affected the other migratory and resident species using the facility.

PROPOSED PROJECT: Phase I of the proposed project, pending planning, engineering, and environmental review, would involve reestablishing the Hate Levee to function as the major water control facility for the entire complex. A pumping facility will be located on the Illinois Waterway. Later phases could include the excavation of discharge channels for water supply to management areas, upgrading of the riverside access road/levee for flood and sediment control, interior levees for moist soil management, island construction in the lakes, and creation of additional mudflats.

PROJECT BENEFITS: The proposed project's primary purpose is habitat improvement for migratory waterfowl. Reestablishing the Hate Levee and installation of the pumping facility will reduce sedimentation and enable manipulation of the water level necessary for moist soil management. Food supply for waterfowl will be more stable due to greater water control capabilities. Later phases could increase the area that is actively managed, further reduce sedimentation, increase habitat diversity, and improve water clarity. Habitat will be improved for herrons, egrets, shorebirds, eagles, cormorants, and other endangered species which utilize the area.

FINANCIAL DATA: The project is on a State of Illinois fish and wildlife management area managed as a national wildlife refuge. The complex is closed to the public to enable waterfowl to rest during portions of the spring and fall migrations. Based on Section 906(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-662), 100 percent Federal funding would be appropriate.

The general design cost of Phase I is estimated to be \$75,000 with total construction costs estimated at \$795,000.