DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY DIVISION, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 80
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39181-0080

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

CEMVD-PD-SP

29 September 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, Rock Island District, ATTN: CEMVR-PM-M

SUBJECT: Upper Mississippi River Restoration – Environmental Management Program (UMRR-EMP), Steamboat Island Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP), Scott County, Iowa, Fact Sheet

1. Reference memorandum, CEMVR-PM-M, 08 July 2010, subject as above.

2. Subject fact sheet is approved for continued HREP planning (encl 1).

3. The MVD point of contact is Elizabeth Ivy, CEMVD-PD-SP, (601) 634-5310.

Encl

CHARLES B. BARTON
Chief, District Support Team for
St. Louis, Rock Island, and
St. Paul

STEAMBOAT ISLAND
HABITAT REHABILITATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT (HREP)
SCOTT COUNTY, IOWA,
UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION-ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT

FACT SHEET

I. LOCATION

The Steamboat Island Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project (HREP) is located on the right descending bank of the Mississippi River in Pool 14 of the Upper Mississippi River (UMR) within the UMR National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, between RM 503.5 to 505.5, approximately 1 mile above Princeton, Iowa. It is bound by the main channel on the north, east, and south and by Steamboat Slough on the west (figure 1). The Princeton State Wildlife Area is just west of the island.

II. EXISTING RESOURCES

This area includes backwater lakes, sloughs, flowing channels, and remnant islands. Though degraded, this important backwater area supports a diverse population of wildlife including ducks, geese, swans, pelicans, eagles, and muskrats. Figure 2 shows 1989 and 2000 land cover data for the project area.

III. PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION

Historically, Steamboat Island contained a number of small backwater lakes, sloughs, cuts, and flowing side channels. These habitats provided valuable overwintering, spawning, and feeding areas for a variety of fish, especially centrarchids. Migratory birds, including waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds also used the area extensively.

Years of silt deposition has allowed willows and silver maples to colonize the once-aquatic portions of the island, resulting in a degraded wetland complex. In addition, impoundment of the pool and permanently higher water tables have affected the health of floodplain habitat on islands and adjacent floodplain areas. These higher water tables are affecting forest composition and regeneration.
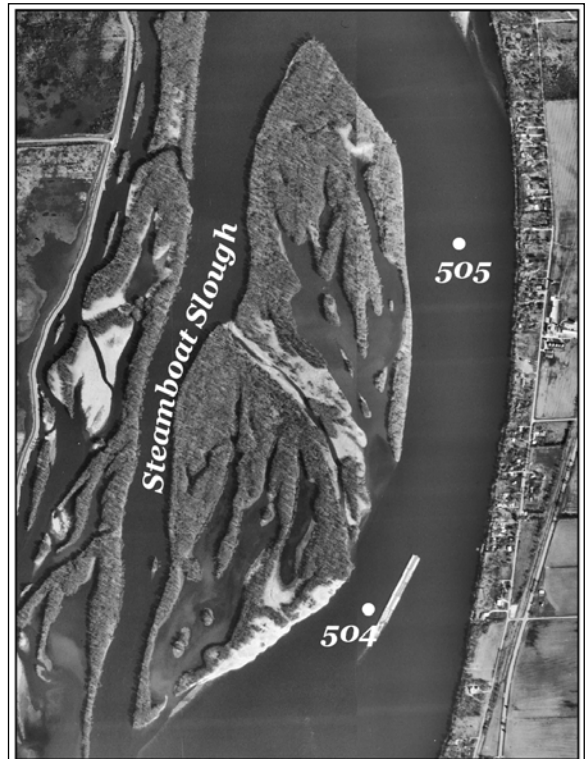
Figure 1. General Project Location

IV. PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Project goals are derived from the Environmental Pool Plans, Pools 11 through 22; the Habitat Needs Assessment; and Reach Planning efforts. These project goals are consistent with the systemic goals adopted by the Environmental Management Program Coordinating Committee and the Navigation Environmental Coordination Committee in January of 2008.

Maintain, Enhance and Create Quality Habitat for all Native and Desirable Plant, Animal and Fish Species

- protect, enhance, and restore aquatic habitat for viable populations of fish, invertebrates, aquatic and semi-aquatic mammals, reptiles, amphibians, waterfowl, shorebirds, etc.

- protect, enhance, and restore floodplain habitat for viable populations of the variety of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, etc.

Maintain, Enhance, Restore, and Emulate Natural River Processes, Structures and Functions for a Sustainable Ecosystem

- stabilize flows throughout the complex

- restore sediment transport and deposition throughout the complex to a more "natural" condition

- manage pool water elevations to emulate more natural seasonal water elevations

- minimize adverse effects of elevated water table on soil moisture conditions

V. PROPOSED PROJECT FEATURES

The proposed project includes backwater dredging to provide critical overwintering habitat for fish such as bass, crappie, yellow perch, and bluegill. The increase in wetland diversity would restore feeding habitat for resident and migratory birds. Dredged material could be used to create topographic diversity on the islands, to provide sediment control, or to maintain, create, or enhance nearby islands. Forest diversity could be accomplished by elevating islands, planting hardwoods, and forest management (figure 3).

The above-proposed features will protect, enhance, and restore quality wetland habitat for all native and desirable plant, wildlife, and fish species. Targeted animals include eagles, mussels, fish, turtles, migrating waterfowl, mammals, and waterbirds. Targeted plants include emergent vegetation such as arrowhead, burreed, and bulrush; submersed vegetation such as wild celery and sago pondweed; and floodplain vegetation such as swamp white oak, and button bush.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION CONSIDERATIONS

Backwater and channel maintenance dredging material could be used for topography enhancements; to provide sediment control; or to maintain, create, or enhance nearby islands.

VII. FINANCIAL DATA

All project lands are federally-owned by the Corps of Engineers and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of the UMR National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The estimated cost for the general planning, design, and construction of the actions noted in Section V is $6 million. Since this project is located on a National Wildlife Refuge, it is 100 percent federally funded. The USFWS is the project sponsor and is responsible for operation and maintenance costs.

VIII. STATUS

The project was submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee on January 12, 2006 and accepted by the River Resources Coordinating Team on January 24, 2006 and reaffirmed in May 2010.

IX. POINTS OF CONTACT

Marvin Hubbell, Program Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, 309-794-5428
Ed Britton, USFWS, Savanna District Manager, 815-273-2732
Mike Griffin, Mississippi River Wildlife Biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-872-5700
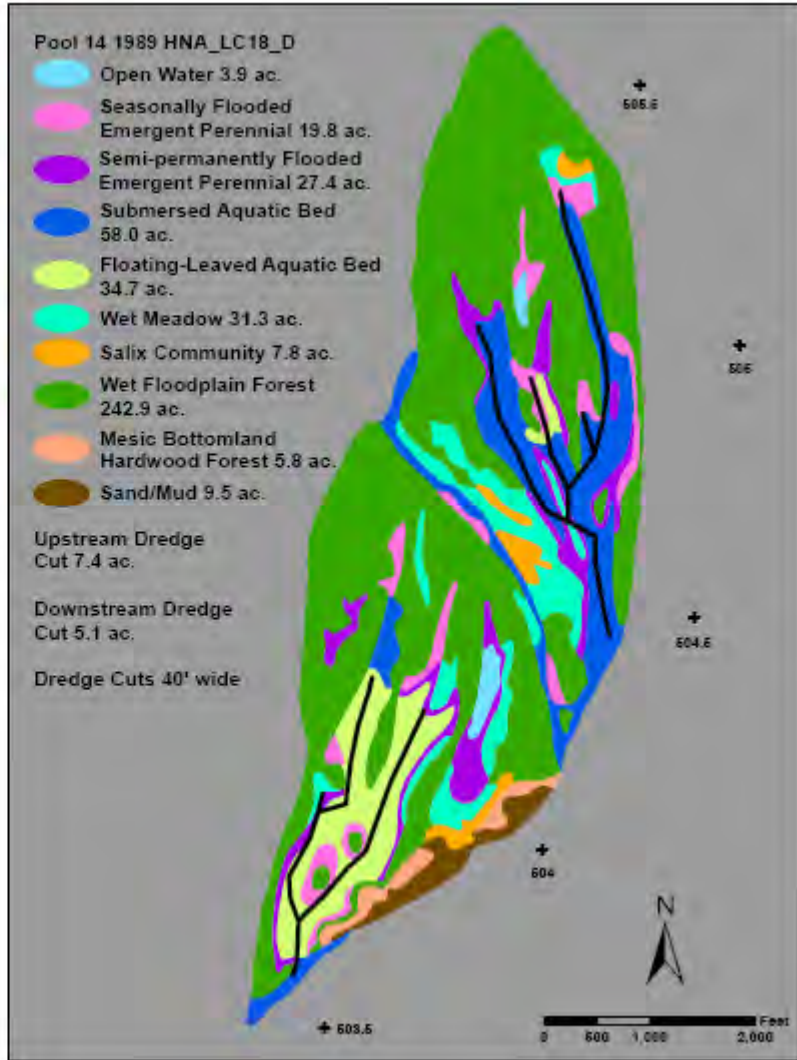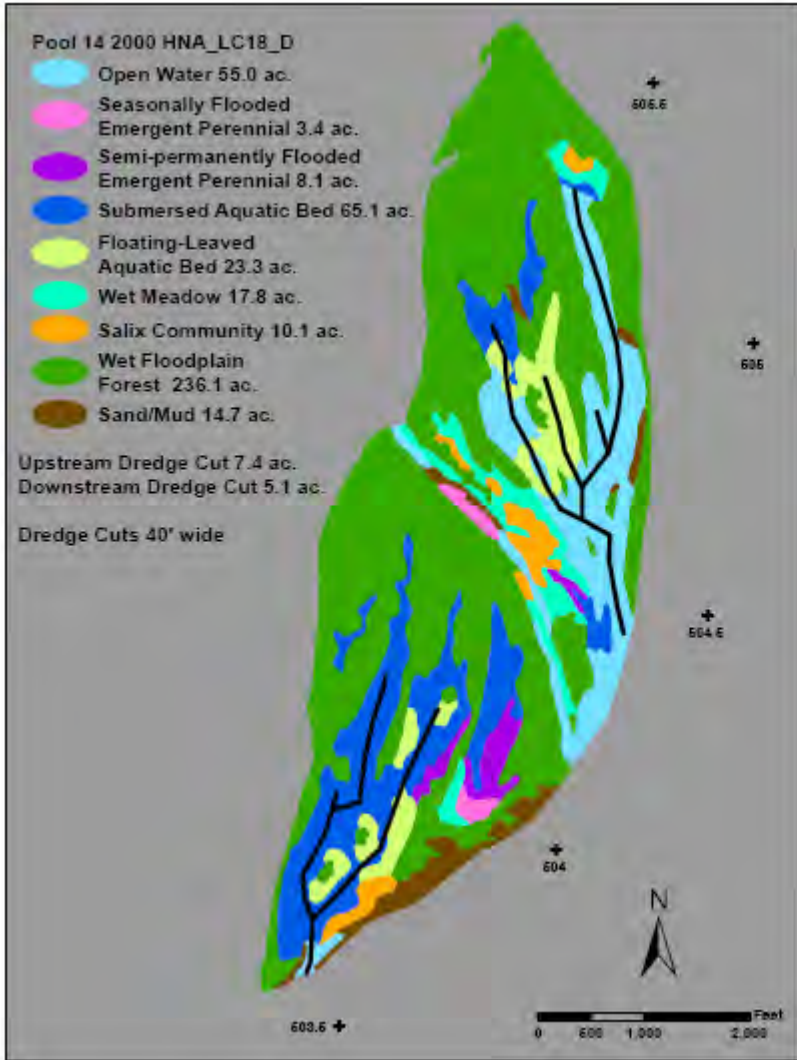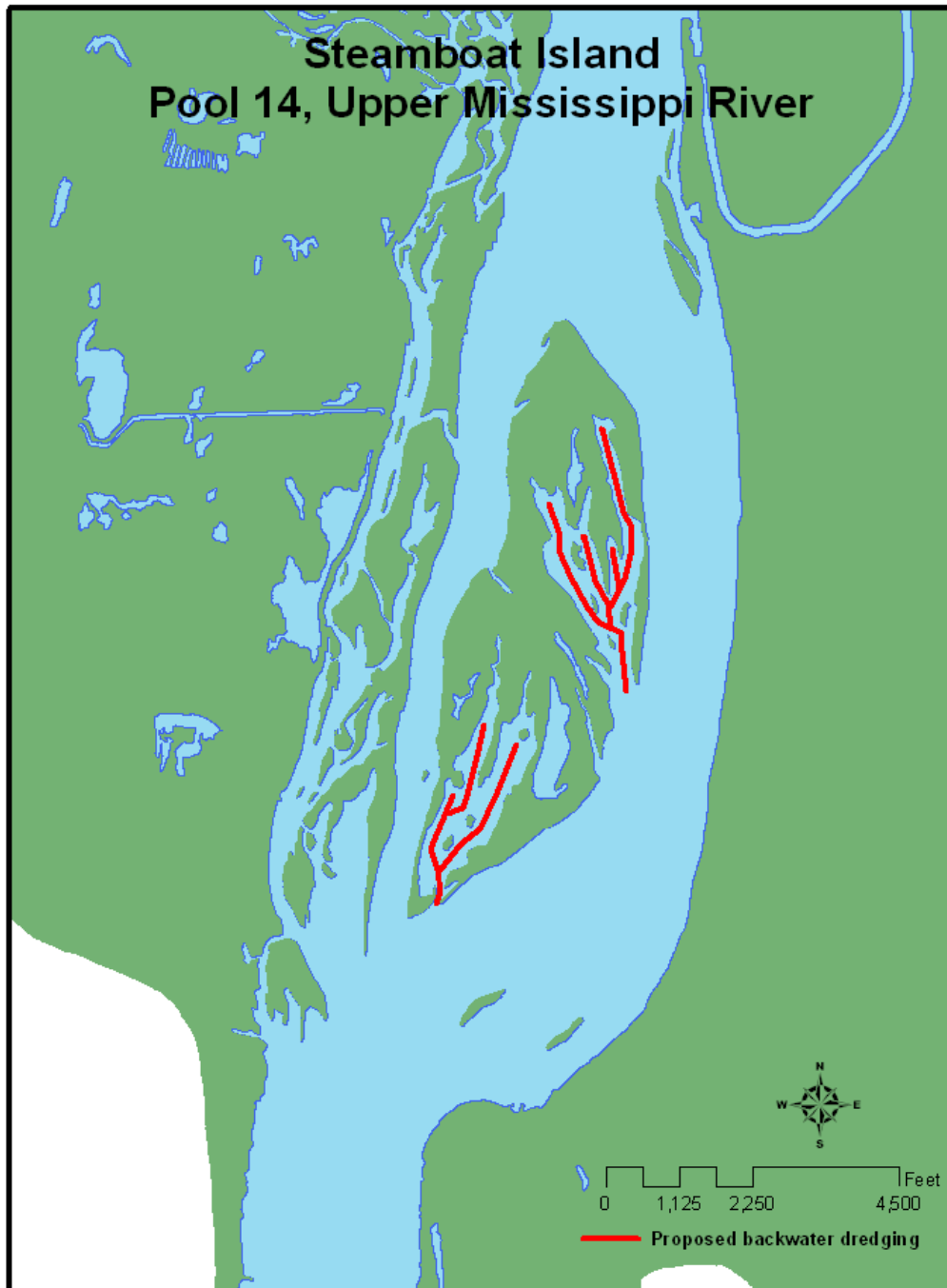
Figure 2. 1989 and 2000 Land Cover Data

Figure 3. Proposed Project Features