

Ambrough Slough Habitat Project, Pool 10, Wisconsin

Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, Ambrough Slough is a side channel on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in pool 10, about 5 miles upstream of Prairie du Chien, Wis. The slough enters a 2,500-acre backwater complex of lakes and smaller sloughs. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The entire area had experienced a loss of depth from siltation and aquatic plant decomposition. This limited the area of desirable fish habitat. The area is important spawning and rearing habitat for a variety of fish, but this importance was diminishing.

Ambrough Slough area in Pool 10, Mississippi River, Wisconsin



The project involved dredging in several of the backwater lakes to provide adequate depth for fish. Fresh water was introduced into Gremore Lake to provide adequate dissolved oxygen levels by both dredging and use of a culvert. The project directly improves fish habitat in about 585 acres of backwater lakes and provides secondary benefits to additional adjacent backwaters.

Status

Construction of the project took place in three stages and was completed in 2004. Construction of Stage 1 (peninsula and rock lining) began in 2001 and was completed in July 2003. Construction of Stage 2 (dredging deep water habitat in several lakes) was completed in August 2004. Stage 3 construction (fresh water culvert from Ambrough Slough to Gremore Lake) was completed in June 2003. Closeout of the project is underway.

Authority

The Ambrough Slough Habitat Project was implemented under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program. This program was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 and reauthorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1999.

The project was planned and designed as a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Much of this project is 100-percent Federal cost because it is located on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. However, installation of a culvert for fresh water flow is on non-Federal lands. This portion was cost-shared 65-percent Federal/35-percent non-Federal. The non-Federal sponsor was the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Operation and maintenance will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Federal cost \$2,193,000
Non-federal cost \$166,000
Total estimated cost \$2,359,000

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