

# Cold Springs Habitat Project, Crawford County, Wis.

## Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, the site is a 35-acre backwater area located on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in pool 9 at the mouth of Kettle Creek, about 5 miles upstream of lock and dam 9. It is situated between the Highway 35 embankment and a railroad embankment. A railroad bridge connects the backwater with the river. Kettle Creek enters near the midpoint of the backwater. A public boat landing is located on a peninsula bordering the north side of the creek. This peninsula and channel divide the backwater into two lobes. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.



Cold Springs supports an excellent fishery. The primary habitat deficiencies were low dissolved oxygen levels in winter, forcing fish to migrate from the backwater area. Sedimentation had also decreased deepwater habitat, preventing fish from escaping the area.

The project involved the construction of a weir (a small dam with a controlled opening) across Kettle Creek where it enters the backwater. This stoplog structure permits creek water to be diverted into the south lobe during the winter. A 4-foot-deep channel was dredged through a shallow area in the north lobe to permit fish access to areas with adequate dissolved oxygen levels. The project provides adequate winter dissolved oxygen in most of the south lobe and ensures that fish have access to areas with sufficient dissolved oxygen.

## Status

A construction contract was awarded in August 1993 and completed in June 1994. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance.

## Authority

The Cold Springs Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program and constructed in accordance with a definite project report dated May 1991. The Environmental Management 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 part of a cooperative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Wisconsin and Iowa Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local interests.

## Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent federal because the project is located on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost \$463,000  
Non-federal cost \$0  
Total cost \$463,000