

Indian Slough Habitat Project, Buffalo County, Wis.

Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program, the site is located in a backwater area downstream of Lake Pepin in pool 4 adjacent to Big Lake on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River across from Wabasha, Minn. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Water from the main channel was being carried down Indian Slough, filling upper Big Lake with sediment and degrading fish habitat.



The project involved construction of a partial closure structure in Indian Slough, dredging a 3,000-foot-long by 125-foot-wide channel in Big Lake Bay to create depths greater than 4 feet for overwintering of fish, using the dredged material to revegetate a channel maintenance placement site, constructing two rock riffle-pool areas in the slough and placing log snags along the shoreline of the slough to enhance fish and mussel habitat.

The project preserved 120 acres of aquatic habitat, enhanced 500 acres of Big Lake for fish habitat, created 11 acres of deepwater fish habitat and maintains adequate dissolved oxygen levels in the backwater.

Status

Construction of the project began in 1993 and was completed in June 1994. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance.

Authority

The Indian Slough 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 September 1990. 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 Minnesota 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 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 \$988,000
Non-federal cost \$0
Total cost \$988,000