

Mississippi River Bank Stabilization Habitat Project, Minn/Wis/Iowa

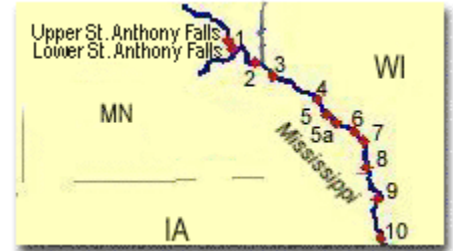
Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, the riverbank erosion sites are located in pools 5 through 10 on the Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa sides of the Mississippi River. All of the sites lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

The primary resource problem is severe erosion occurring at many locations along the river. The loss of landmass and the associated increases in flow and/or sedimentation result in loss and shallowing of aquatic habitat in backwaters, adversely affecting water quality in the backwaters.

The project included the stabilization of about 12,000 feet of riverbank. Out of 55 potential stabilization sites, 12 were selected on the basis of the cost for habitat benefits gained, agency priorities, location, available funds and construction considerations.

Two sites were located in pool 6, one site in pool 7, one site in pool 8, three sites in pool 9, and five sites in pool 10. Rockfill was used to stabilize the sites. Some limited dredging for access was also performed. The project directly reduces erosion, created about 4 acres of rock habitat that is beneficial to fish, benefits about 1,500 acres of aquatic habitat and improves water quality in some backwater areas by reducing or maintaining side channel flows.



Status

Stabilization of the sites was done in stages, beginning in pool 10 in September 1995 and ending in pool 6 in September 1999. Three of the 12 sites were completed with funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Authority

The Mississippi River Bank Stabilization 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 August 1995. 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 Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin 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 all of the sites in the project were 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 \$1,697,000
Non-federal cost \$0
Total cost \$1,697,000