

# Pool Slough Habitat Project, New Albin, Iowa

## Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, Pool Slough is a backwater area on the west side of the Mississippi River at the Iowa-Minnesota border in Pool 9 at New Albin, Iowa. The site is in Iowa on lands owned by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.



The Upper Mississippi River is a major migration route for waterfowl during the spring and fall, providing feeding and resting habitat for birds that populate the continent. Generally, the amount of high quality feeding and resting habitat has declined because of sedimentation and reduced aquatic plant growth in backwater areas. The Pool Slough area had the water resources and topography conducive to waterfowl food production and to development of a migratory waterfowl feeding and resting area.

The project involved constructing a low dike to create a 52-acre moist soil unit and the installation of a control structure to regulate the water level in the pond. A portable pump will be used to fill the pond in the fall by pumping from Pool Slough. The project will produce an annual food source for migratory waterfowl.



## Status

A portable pump was acquired in May 2007 to make the project operational by allowing the diked area to be filled with water from Pool Slough in preparation for the fall waterfowl migration of 2007. The dike construction began in March 2006 and was completed in August 2006 by Veit & Company of Rogers, Minn. Project implementation required a non-federal sponsor. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources assumed that responsibility, and a project cooperation agreement was executed in September 2004. The definite project report recommending construction of the project was completed in July 2003.

## Authority

The Pool Slough Habitat Project was planned 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 part of a cooperative effort of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources and local interests.

## Fiscal

Project design and construction costs for the project were shared 65-percent federal/35-percent non-federal. Operation and maintenance costs will be 100-percent non-federal. The non-Federal sponsor is the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Federal cost \$429,000  
Non-federal cost \$231,000  
Total estimated cost \$660,000