

# Peterson Lake Habitat Project, Wabasha, Minnesota

## Location/Description

Peterson Lake is a 500-acre backwater lake located on the Minnesota side of the Mississippi River navigation channel in pool 4, immediately above lock and dam 4. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Peterson Lake has good water quality, water depths, and submerged aquatic plant growth. However, sedimentation was becoming a problem that would result in a significant loss of aquatic habitat. Flows entering the lake created substandard winter habitat conditions for fish because of high velocities and low water temperatures.

The project included construction of closure structures across 10 side channel openings to reduce sediment input to the lake and reduce current velocities in the upper portion of the lake, extending the lake's ecological life. The closures created a 100-acre area that will provide fish a winter refuge from current velocities and cold water.

Six islands were stabilized to maintain the habitat values they provide, and two fish access channels were dredged to connect deepwater areas.

Peterson Lake upstream of Lock and Dam 4 on the Mississippi River



## Status

A construction contract awarded in June 1995 was substantially completed in November 1995. Replacement of closures that washed out during a high water event was completed in September 1996. The project was transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance in September 1997.

## Authority

The Peterson Lake 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 March 1994. 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Wisconsin and Minnesota Departments of Natural Resources, 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 \$1,179,000

Non-federal cost \$0

Total cost \$1,179,000