

Pool 8 Islands Phase II Habitat Project, Stoddard, Wis.

Location/Description

Part of the Corps of Engineers' Environmental Management Program, or EMP, the site is an open, lake-like reach of pool 8 on the Wisconsin side of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Stoddard, Wis. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Many of the islands in pool 8 have eroded or disappeared, which has increased wind fetch and associated turbidity in the backwater areas, resulting in a loss of valuable aquatic plant beds that migrating canvasback ducks use for food.

The project consisted of building seven islands with dredged material from the backwaters. The islands total 26 acres and about 11,000 feet long to reduce wave action and are protected with riprap and vegetation to prevent erosion. Topsoil was obtained by dredging about 15 acres of deepwater fish habitat within the project area. Two rock sills allow low flow into the area during the winter. Six rockfill "seed" islands were also constructed to "grow" islands in pool 8. Construction of the islands will maintain existing valuable habitat and provide physical conditions for the reestablishment of aquatic plant beds and deepwater habitat.

Islands and rock sills constructed in pool 8, Stoddard, Wisconsin.



Status

A construction contract was awarded in September 1997. The project was completed and dedicated in September 1999. This project is the second of five proposed phases of island construction in lower Pool 8. The project has been transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for operation and maintenance. Recent fishing surveys indicate high fishing use of the area. The Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers selected this project, combined with Phase I, was selected as one of the Seven Wonders of Engineering for 2002. It also received the Environmental Award of Excellence from the Chief of Engineers in 2004.

Authority

The Pool 8 Islands Phase II 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 1996. 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 \$3,482,000
Non-federal cost \$0
Total cost \$3,482,000