

# Work Task E14: Imperial Demonstration Ponds

<b>Partners:</b>	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<b>Contact:</b>	Nathan Lenon, LC-8457
<b>Purpose:</b>	Redesign and expand the site to improve functionality and provide additional backwater acreage.
<b>Conservation Measures:</b>	CLRA1, BONY2, RASU2, LEBI1, BLRA1
<b>Long-term Goal(s):</b>	Habitat creation, maintenance of existing backwaters
<b>Location:</b>	Reach 5
<b>FY2006 Estimate:</b>	\$595,000 for environmental compliance, surveying, exploratory drilling, project management, and minor earthwork.
<b>FY2007 Estimate:</b>	\$3,000,000 for construction costs and project management.
<b>FY2008 Estimate:</b>	\$300,000 for backwater evaluation, non-native fish removal, and monitoring.
<b>Project Description:</b>	<p>The Imperial Native Fish Habitat, also referred to as the DU2 Ponds, was originally constructed to provide a mixture of habitat types, including isolated backwaters, marsh, and riparian.</p> <p>Due to competing needs of riparian and backwater habitats, water management (as originally designed) was not possible; therefore the decision was made to designate the entire site for native fish.</p>

An interdisciplinary workshop was conducted in May of 2005, during which a draft design, with the potential for an additional 50 acres of backwater was completed for retrofitting and expanding the site. The new site design addresses the deficiencies of the previous design, while providing approximately 47 additional acres of backwater habitat. The actual physical contours of the ponds and their shorelines are expected to provide a higher quality, and physically diverse fisheries habitat. While the site is planned specifically for native fish, the spatial pattern of emergent vegetation incorporated into the design has been shown (in other demonstration sites) to provide valuable benefits to a variety of marsh birds, including western least bittern. A study plan is available.