



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Habitat Restoration: Mississippi River, McGregor Lake, Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin



McGregor Lake (center) in Pool 10 on the Mississippi River, looking north

Contact

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Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program, McGregor Lake is a 200-acre backwater lake in pool 10 of the Mississippi River near Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. It is bordered on the west by islands separating it from the main channel and on the east by a peninsula separating it from the East Channel. The lake lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. It is relatively shallow, with an average depth of 2½ feet. In 1989, about 75 percent of the lake had aquatic vegetation. Since then, aquatic vegetation and depth have decreased because of increased sedimentation and turbidity resulting from erosion of the barrier islands. Overwintering areas and nursery habitat for fish have been lost.

The proposed project would include dredging the lake, restoring or strengthening the barrier islands, and constructing small islands within the lake to reduce wave action. It would provide diversity and productive habitat for fish and protect the lake from main channel flows. It would allow fish movement into and out of the lake

during the winter. Increased aquatic vegetation would provide cover and food for young fish.

Status

Planning of the project is scheduled to start in spring 2013 depending on program funding. A draft definite project report is expected to be completed in 2014.

Authority

The McGregor Lake Habitat Project will be 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 will be planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort of the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and local interests.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs would be 100-percent Federal because the project is on lands managed as a national wildlife refuge. Operation and maintenance costs would be 100-percent Federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost	\$6,500,000
Non-Federal cost	\$0
Total estimated cost	\$6,500,000
Funding allocated through fiscal year 2011	\$0