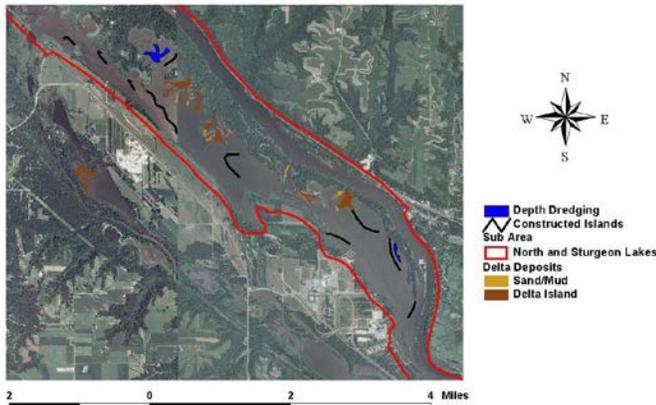




US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Habitat Restoration: North and Sturgeon Lakes, Pool 3, Mississippi River, Minnesota



North and Sturgeon Lakes, Pool 3,
Upper Mississippi River

Contact

Thomas Novak, Project Manager
(651) 290-5524 (651) 290-5258 (fax)
tom.novak@usace.army.mil

Location/Description

North and Sturgeon Lakes are large backwater complexes located in Pool 3 of the Upper Mississippi River, west of the navigation channel. The project area includes a marshy area at the upstream end and encompasses Sharp Muskrat Lake as well. Both lakes today are shallow and subject to frequent wind and wave action that keeps sediments suspended and limits aquatic plant growth. Historically, these two lakes had an extensive marshy fringe and considerable submersed aquatic plant beds.

Major habitat concerns for North and Sturgeon Lakes are sedimentation, island dissection, vegetation loss, and reduced depth for over-wintering fish. A significant loss of emergent and submersed aquatic vegetation has occurred throughout North and Sturgeon Lakes. Flood effects, wave generated erosion, and resuspension of fine sediments caused by continual inundation have reduced the fish and wildlife value of these areas, which once provided outstanding waterfowl hunting and winter fishing close to the Twin Cities, Minnesota.

The project goals include (1) maintain/enhance/create more natural sediment transport and deposition,

(2) decrease suspended solid concentrations, and (3) reduce wind fetch.

Proposed Project

The project involves constructing a series of small islands (approximately seven within North Lake and five within Sturgeon Lake) to reduce wind and wave generated erosion. Island construction would use substrates within North and Sturgeon Lakes to enhance bathymetric diversity and reduce resuspension of fine sediments. Island construction and backwater dredging would improve conditions for growth of aquatic vegetation and promote increases in depth by concentrating flows to promote scour. In addition, a water level management drawdown (between 9 and 18 inches) is proposed to consolidate sediments.

Status

Project planning started in fall 2012. A draft definite project report is expected to be completed in 2013.

Authority

This 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 a cooperative effort of the State of Minnesota, Prairie Island Indian Community, other interested organizations, and the public.

Fiscal

The project would be located entirely on State or tribal lands, and so would require a non-Federal cost share of 35 percent. The non-Federal cost share would be provided by the State of Minnesota and/or other non-Federal partners.

Federal cost	\$5,200,000
Non-Federal cost	\$2,800,000
Total estimated cost	\$8,000,000
Funding to date	\$50,000