



US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Habitat Restoration: Mississippi River, Conway Lake, Lansing, Iowa



Conway Lake (upper left) in Big Lake area in Pool 9, Mississippi River, looking north.

Contact

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

Location/Description

The Conway Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project is located in Pool 9 of the Upper Mississippi River, immediately upstream of Lansing, Iowa. The Conway Lake study area includes Conway Lake, Phillipi Lake, Shore Slough, Zoll Lake, as well as the adjacent island and slough habitat. The entire study area is approximately 1,170 acres in size and lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

Conway Lake is relatively shallow with abundant aquatic vegetation. Dissolved oxygen depletion is a problem in the lake in summer and in winter. During the winter, excessive water enters Phillipi Lake through openings that are eroding, creating unsuitable habitat conditions for overwintering backwater fish. Shore Slough has less than optimal fish habitat conditions as a result of sedimentation and the high flows from Phillipi Lake. Introduction of flow from a small creek is being considered to improve dissolved oxygen levels in Conway Lake.

Flow restriction from Middle Slough would improve winter habitat conditions in Phillipi Lake, Shore Slough and Zoll Lake. Dredging is being considered for all three water bodies to enhance habitat.

Status

A problem appraisal report was completed fall 2014. Planning continues on feasible alternatives which will focus on maintaining and enhancing fish habitat and floodplain forest. A preliminary draft feasibility study was completed in spring 2016 and the final feasibility study will be completed in December 2016. Plans and specifications and an award of the first construction contract could occur in FY17.

Authority

The Conway Lake Habitat Restoration project is being planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River Restoration 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 is being 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 Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources and local interests.

Fiscal

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

Total estimated cost	\$12 million
Funding allocated to date:	\$500,000