



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®

St. Paul District

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Public Affairs

Corps Facts

Headwaters Project Office

Grand Rapids, Minn.

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The Headwaters Lakes Project, located in north central Minnesota, consists of six dams, which control a watershed that covers an area of 4,535 square miles. Originally authorized for the purpose of navigation, the project is now primarily for flood control, pollution abatement, water supply, recreation and natural resource management. In addition to the Headwaters Lakes Project, the staff also manages Red Lake Dam, which controls the water levels on Red Lake and has a watershed that encompasses approximately 6,000 square miles, and four small boat harbors on Lake of the Woods. Key products and services include:

Operation and Maintenance of Corps' Recreation Areas

The Headwaters Lakes Project operates and maintains, with Corps' staff, six recreation areas. All six areas will be fully open this year and will provide all normal amenities. These areas include:

Sandy Lake Dam and Recreation Area, near McGregor, Minn. Approximately 65,000 people visit this site annually. It provides 59 campsites, 54 of which have electrical hook-ups; one picnic shelter; three boat ramps; one beach; four accessible fishing docks; two dump stations; two playgrounds; showers; and other recreation facilities and interpretive programming. Sandy staff host the Big Sandy Water Institute, an annual interpretive event, which attracts more than 1,000 young people each summer.

Cross Lake Dam and Recreation Area is in the heart of the city of Cross Lake, Minn. Approximately 175,000 people visit this site annually. It provides 119 campsites, 85 of which have electrical hook-ups; one picnic shelter; two boat ramps; two beach areas; one accessible fishing dock; two dump stations; two playgrounds; and two shower buildings.

Pokegama Dam and Recreation Area is just west of Grand Rapids, Minn., on Hwy 2. Approximately 111,000 people visit this site annually. It provides 21 campsites, 19 of which have electrical hook-ups; one picnic shelter; one accessible fishing dock; shower facilities; one dump station; one playground and other recreation facilities; and interpretive programming.

Winnibigoshish Dam and Recreation Area, on the east shore of the lake, attracts approximately 52,000 people visit the site annually. It provides 22 campsites, all of which have electric hook-ups; one picnic shelter; one boat ramp; one dump station; and one playground.

Gull Lake Dam and Recreation Area is located approximately 10 miles northwest of Brainerd, Minn. More than 100,000 people visit this site annually. It provides 39 campsites, all of which have electric hook-up; one picnic shelter; one boat ramp; one beach; one accessible fishing dock; one dump station; one playground; shower facilities; and other recreation facilities and interpretive programming.

Leech Lake Dam and Recreation Area is located in Federal Dam, Minn. Approximately 43,000 people visit the site annually. It provides 77 campsites, 73 of which have electric hook-ups; one picnic shelter; two boat ramps; one accessible fishing dock; two playgrounds; shower facilities; and other recreation facilities and interpretive programming.

-More-

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Recreation at Locks and Dams

The recreation function is responsible for planning, developing and implementing the public-use facility plan for six dams. Facilities range from the Sandy Lake Museum to Cross Lake interpretive displays (Lewis and Clark, the early dam tenders and more). Most sites include information kiosks.

Water Control

The Corps maintains water discharge levels for Leech, Winnibigoshish, Pokegama, Cross, Sandy, Gull and Red lake dams. Staff duties consist primarily of dam operation and maintenance but also include dike maintenance and inlet clearing.

Navigation

The four small boat harbors on the Lake of the Woods, located at Angle Inlet, Warroad, Baudette and Zipple Bay, were constructed to promote small boat navigation. Staff duties consist primarily of assessing periodic dredging needs, budgeting and contracting to have the work performed.

Interagency Cooperation

Because the Corps of Engineers does not own the shoreline, coordination with the following agencies is required: the Leech Lake Band, the Red Lake Band, the Mille Lacs Band, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and lake associations on each lake.

Interpretation

Project personnel are responsible for developing and conducting interpretive programs at their facilities, as well as provide community outreach to various groups and audiences.

Emergency Response

Some Headwater's personnel are listed on the St. Paul District's emergency response list for support in areas of flood emergencies, quality assurance, temporary housing and construction.

For more information, please contact:

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