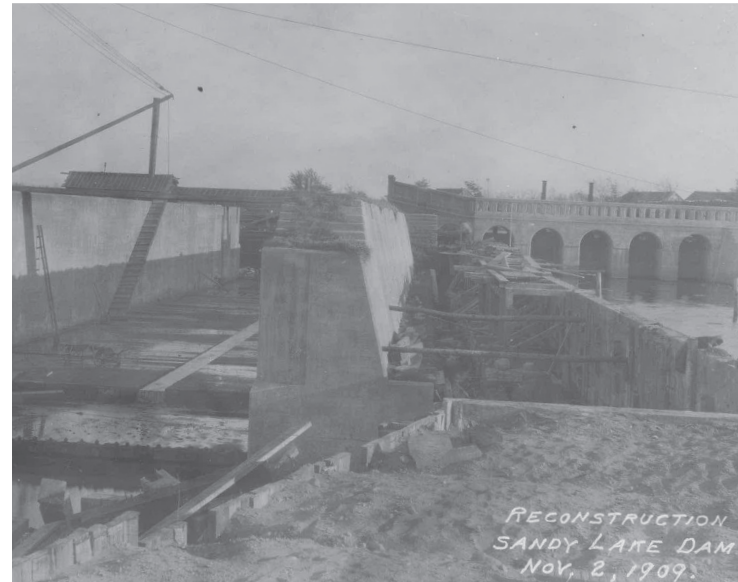


Headwaters Reservoirs



- To increase flows on the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct six dams in the Headwaters between 1880 and 1907. The dams included Winnibigoshish (1883-1884), Leech Lake (1884), Pokegama Falls (1884), Pine River (1886), Sandy Lake (1895) and Gull Lake (1912).
- In its 1895 annual report, the Corps of Engineers reported that releasing the water from the Headwaters reservoirs had successfully raised the water level in the Twin Cities by 12 to 18 inches, helping navigation interests and the Minneapolis millers.
- This reservoir system served its purpose well until the 1930s, when construction of the locks and dams below Minneapolis was completed and demand for supplemental water flow was greatly reduced.
- Today, the dams and reservoirs provide limited flood control, produce a natural environment for fish and wildlife and are a key link in the recreational and economic life of the area.
- The Corps of Engineers began providing official recreational facilities at these sites in 1964.



For more information visit www.mvp.usace.army.mil/150