# Reno Bottoms | HABITAT REHABILITATION & ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

## PROJECT SUMMARY ▶

Under the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, the Army Corps of Engineers is studying the feasibility of enhancing and restoring habitats at at the Reno Bottoms area in Pool 9 of the Mississippi River. Reno Bottoms is located in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The project sponsor is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The study is 100% federally funded.

## THE PROBLEM ▶

Over the last century, the quality and extent of the unique forest and aquatic habitat of the Reno Bottoms project area has reduced. Human caused changes in hydrology, land use, and climate have increased water levels within the project area. The forest has been impacted by the presence of invasive plants and animals, plant disease, deer browsing and beaver activity. Without action, the Reno site area will continue to degrade. As shown in the illustration on the top right, the quality of forest and aquatic habitat will decrease. Invasive grasses would expand into forests, limiting opportunities for smaller trees to grow and reducing habitat value. Additional loss of wetland habitat would adversely affect migrating waterbirds and songbirds who require the floodplain forest to stop and rest.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES ▶

**1** Protect, restore, or create resilient, and diverse bottomland forests.

**2** Protect, restore, or create resilient, and diverse backwater and flowing water habitats that will benefit native fish and mussel habitats.

## PROJECT VIDEO ▶

http://www.youtube.com/usacemvppao

## PROJECT PARTNERS ▶

US Army Corps of Engineers ® St. Paul District

Upper Mississippi River Restoration

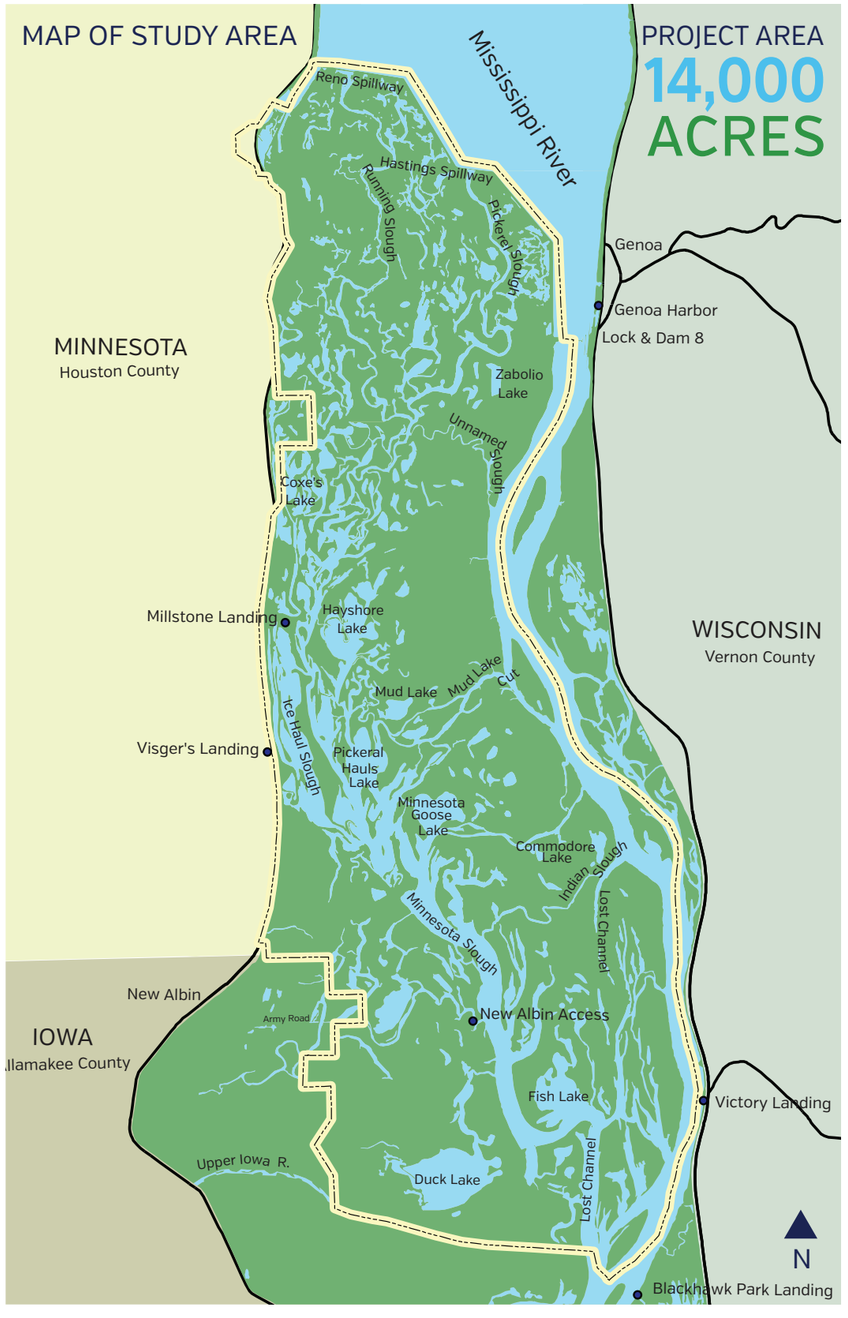
USGS science for a changing world

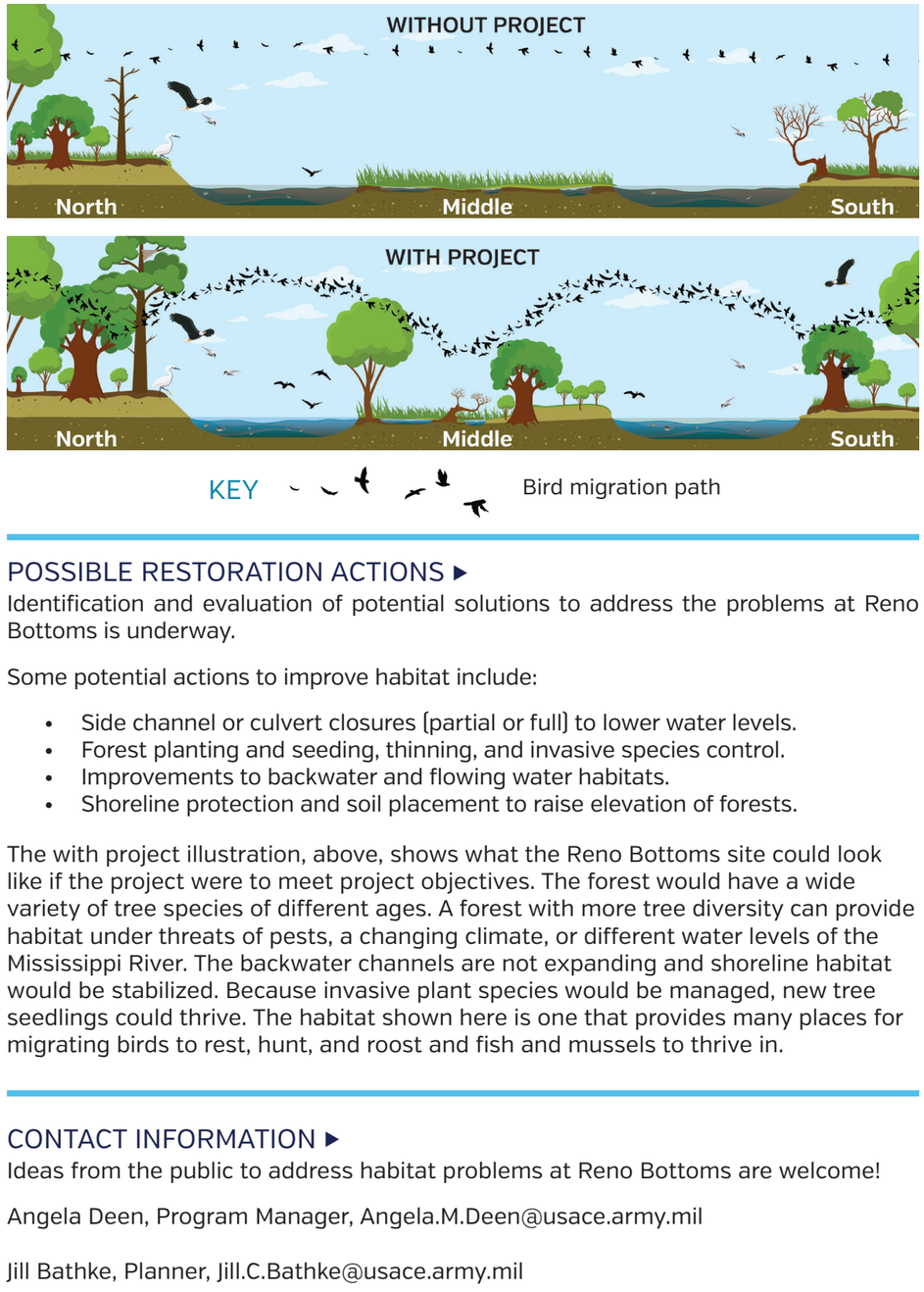
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources

DNR




## POSSIBLE RESTORATION ACTIONS ▶

Identification and evaluation of potential solutions to address the problems at Reno Bottoms is underway.

Some potential actions to improve habitat include:

- Side channel or culvert closures (partial or full) to lower water levels.
- Forest planting and seeding, thinning, and invasive species control.
- Improvements to backwater and flowing water habitats.
- Shoreline protection and soil placement to raise elevation of forests.

The with project illustration, above, shows what the Reno Bottoms site could look like if the project were to meet project objectives. The forest would have a wide variety of tree species of different ages. A forest with more tree diversity can provide habitat under threats of pests, a changing climate, or different water levels of the Mississippi River. The backwater channels are not expanding and shoreline habitat would be stabilized. Because invasive plant species would be managed, new tree seedlings could thrive. The habitat shown here is one that provides many places for migrating birds to rest, hunt, and roost and fish and mussels to thrive in.

## CONTACT INFORMATION ▶

Ideas from the public to address habitat problems at Reno Bottoms are welcome!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