

Lower Pool 4 - Robinson Lake

HABITAT REHABILITATION & ENHANCEMENT PROJECT



PROJECT SUMMARY ▶

Under the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is studying the feasibility of enhancing and restoring habitats at the Robinson Lake area in Pool 4 of the Mississippi River. The site is in the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge near Wabasha, Minnesota. The project sponsor is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the project is 100% federally funded. The project area consists of open backwater, meandered side channels, main channel border and island formations.

THE PROBLEM ▶

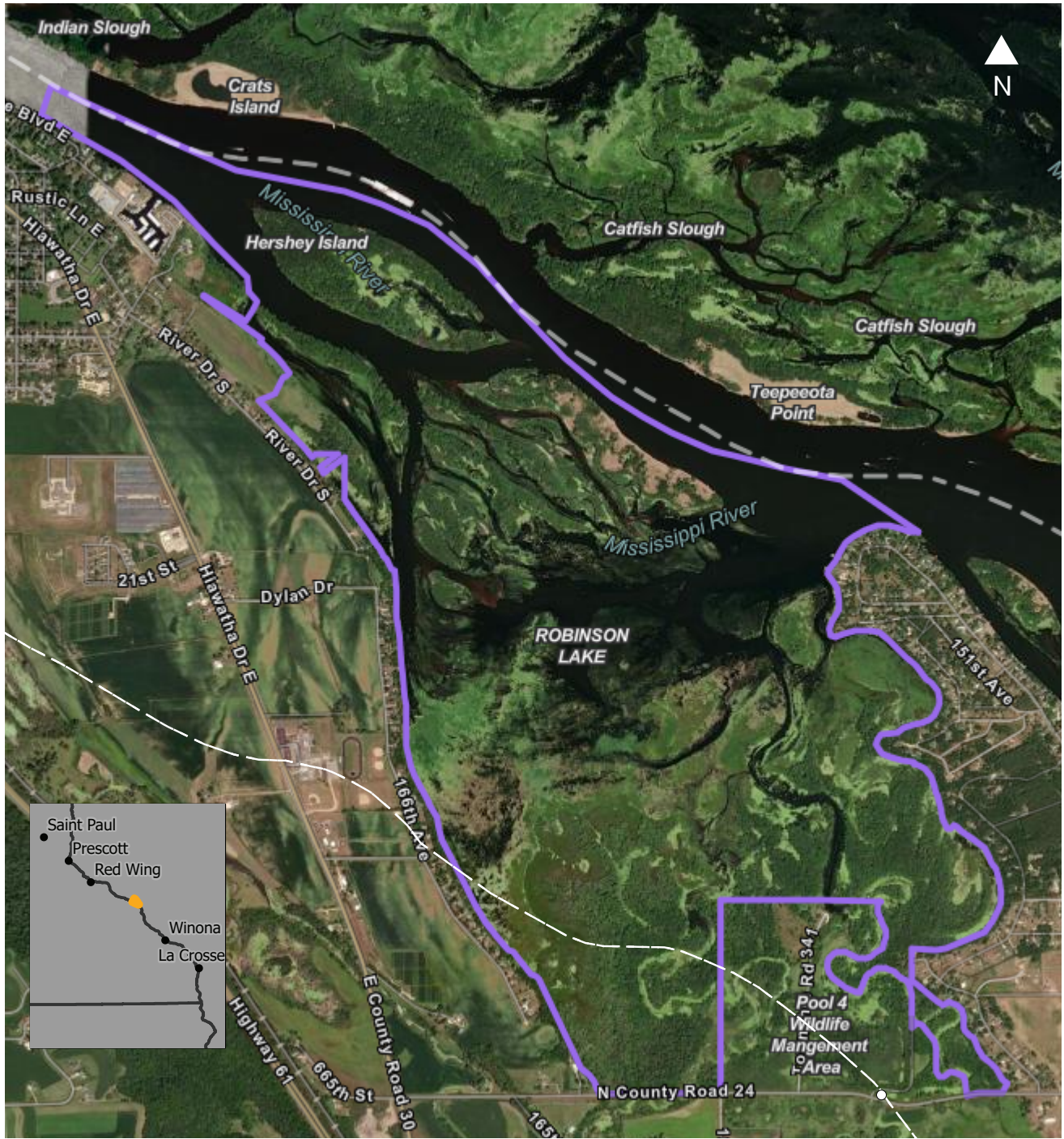
As with much of the Upper Mississippi River, sedimentation of backwater areas is an ongoing issue. The project area is greatly influenced by the input of sand from the Chippewa River that enters Pool 4 around river mile 764, about six miles upstream of the project area. Robinson Lake has lost much of its island complex and bottomland forest to wind and wave erosion.

In the project area, single age floodplain forest habitat is declining and unable to naturally regenerate due to invasive species such as reed canary grass and buckthorn invading the project area. Changes to flow, island loss, and sediment deposition has limited depth diversity used by native fish and mussels throughout the study area.

For Additional Information, please scan!






SITE MAP ▶



Lower Pool 4 HREP - Robinson Lake Study Area

PROJECT OBJECTIVES ▶

-  Maintain a balance of coverage and relative abundance of native emergent, rooted floating leaved, and submersed aquatic vegetation communities.
-  Protect, restore, or create flowing channel habitats and backwater habitats that provide flow conditions and sediment dynamics that will benefit native fish (including migratory species) and mussel populations.
-  Protect, restore, or create naturally regenerating, resilient, and diverse bottomland forest habitat that will benefit migratory and resident birds and other species.



RESTORATION ACTIONS ▶

Possible restoration actions include but are not limited to:

- Island construction
- Forest restoration planting hard mast producing trees
- Timber stand improvement
- Forest floor management to promote natural regeneration
- Dredging for habitat benefits
- Bank stabilization
- Underplanting and crown thinning
- Invasive species management
- Flow modification structures
- Mudflats and emergent wetlands

The construction would utilize fine material sediment from overwintering fish habitat and access dredging.

CONTACT INFORMATION ▶

Ideas from the public to address habitat problems at Robinson Lake are welcome!
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PROJECT PARTNERS ▶



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