



UMRR Program - IL, IA, MO, MN, WI - Lake Odessa Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project, Pools 17-18

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Location

Pools 17 and 18, Upper Mississippi River Miles 434.5-441.5, Louisa County, Iowa.

State(s)

IA

Congressional District(s)

IA-2

Status

A final Feasibility Report was approved for construction in August 2005. The construction contract for Stage I A was awarded in July 2006. Stage I A construction was delayed due to flooding in the spring and summer of 2008. Completion of Stage I A was completed in November 2011. The Stage II A construction contract was awarded in 2008 and was completed in March of 2011. A construction contract was awarded in August of 2009 for Stage 1 B. Construction for this contract was scheduled for completion by the end of 2011, however, high water prevented completion until the spring of 2012. The final construction contract (Stage II B) was awarded in December of 2009 and was completed by the end of 2010. Construction of all construction phases was functionally complete on September 30, 2011. However, portions of the main levee repair required reshaping which was complete as of August 31, 2012. Repair of damages to the site from the 2008 floods were funded utilizing \$5,000,000 provided to the program in a 2008 supplemental appropriation. Additional damages were incurred during 2013 spring flooding. P&S for the construction repairs are complete and the construction contract has been awarded in the amount of \$2.56 million.

Description

Lake Odessa is a 6,788 acre backwater complex located 15 miles south of Muscatine, Iowa, in Louisa County. While Lake Odessa has traditionally had high fall duck and geese populations and significant duck production, the existing water control structures, high amount of seepage due to sandy soil, and overall complex size limit water level management with regard to drawdown, excess water release, and fall reflooding. Breaches of existing levees have resulted in frequent losses of emergent aquatic vegetation used by migratory waterfowl. Sedimentation from frequent levee breaks and overtopping flood events has decreased the extent of deep water aquatic habitat. Fish winterkills and reduced circulation of well-oxygenated water are being experienced. The goals of the proposed project are to restore and protect wetland, terrestrial, and aquatic habitat. The objectives identified to meet these goals were: (1) reduce forest fragmentation; (2) increase bottomland hardwood diversity; (3) enhance migratory bird habitat; (4) restore native grasslands; (5) increase habitat for overwintering fish; (6) provide safe areas for developing fish; (7) protect habitat features; and (8) protect archeological sites. PROJECT FEATURES:

- Restore the existing perimeter levee system that protects the Lake Odessa complex;
- Construct a spillway to control flood events and protect the levee;
- Enhance water management capability at moist soil management areas;
- Dredge deep holes/channels to enhance overwintering habitat for the fishery;



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- Create a fish nursery area;
- Plant 93 acres of mast-producing hardwood trees; and,
- Reestablish a 36 acre native grassland.

Enhancing water level management capability will provide more moist soil habitat, greater vegetation diversity and growth, and reliable food supplies to migratory waterfowl. Fisheries enhancement dredging will create areas of deeper water and/or access to deeper water for overwintering fish. Mast tree planting will improve the quality and quantity of forest habitat by re-introducing mast-producing species to a forest community increasingly dominated by silver maple and cottonwood. Levee restoration will provide reliable flood damage protection, reduce flood damages and levee failures, and protect archeological sites from further erosion. The native grassland planting will increase habitat complexity and provide feeding and nesting opportunities for a wide variety of wildlife. The fish nursery will allow fry to be reared to the fingerling stage in a predator free environment.

Summarized Project Costs

Federal Cost	\$23,893,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0.00
Total Cost	\$23,893,000
Federal Allocations through FY 2016	\$22,908,000
Scheduled Federal Allocation for FY 2017	\$100,000
Balance to Complete	\$885,000

Additional Project Information

The project lands are Federally owned by the Corps of Engineers and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)

FY 2017 Complete construction and develop the operations and maintenance manual.

Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)

FY 2018 Project monitoring of features.

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