



# UMRR-EMP - IL, IA, MO, MN, WI - Pool 12 Overwintering Habitat Rehabilitation & Enhancement Project

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## Location

Pool 12, Upper Mississippi River Mile 564.0 - 573.0, Jo Daviess County, Illinois

## State(s)

IL

## Congressional District(s)

IL-16

## Status

The final Definite Project Report was approved for all four stages of construction. Stage I (Sunfish Lake) is currently under construction. P&S for Stage II (Stone Lake) are underway.

## Description

The Pool 12 Overwintering project area is located along the left descending bank of the Upper Mississippi River approximately 10 miles south of Dubuque, Iowa, in Jo Daviess County, Illinois. The project lies generally between the Mississippi River's main channel and the railroad tracks that parallel the river's east bank. The project lands are Federally owned by the Corps of Engineers and are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Savanna Division. Presently, overwintering habitat for fish and backwater habitat for both waterfowl and fish are very limited in Pool 12. Sedimentation of backwater lakes and sloughs has reduced the value of historic overwintering areas. The Iowa Department of Natural Resources has documented that the overwintering habitat in Pool 12 has become a limiting factor for survival of riverine fish. The goals of the project are to restore and protect aquatic habitat and to improve topographic diversity and associated floodplain forest communities. The objectives identified to meet these goals are (1) Increase the amount of deep water habitat in the backwater lakes complex of Pool 12 as measured by acres to provide pool-wide overwintering habitat for fish. Target depth is 6 to 8 feet; (2) Increase depth diversity in backwater lakes complex of Pool 12 as measured by acres to provide year round habitat for fish; (3) Increase sustainability of aquatic habitat in the backwater lakes complex of Pool 12 as measured by acres by decreasing the sedimentation in the complex; and (4) Increase areal coverage in acres of forest stands with hard mast-producing trees as a dominant or component species in floodplain forest areas surrounding the backwater lakes of Pool 12. PROJECT FEATURES:

- Deepen backwater lakes and sloughs using mechanical dredging.
- Construct land and aquatic berms to deflect sediment and increase project sustainability using dredged material.
- Plant hard mast trees on land berms

Construction would occur at; Sunfish Lake, Stone Lake, Kehough Slough, and Tippy Lake. Dredging the identified lakes and sloughs would provide critical overwintering habitat for fish, such as bass, crappie, and bluegill. The dredging would also restore backwater habitat for resident and migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and wading birds. The mast tree plantings will increase species diversity and improve the existing timber stand.

## Summarized Project Costs

Updated on 2015-Feb-02

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Estimated construction costs are \$17.5 million. Estimated total project costs are \$20.6 million.

Federal Cost	\$20,600,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$0
Total Cost	\$20,600,000
FY14 Allocation	\$8,035,000
Scheduled Federal Allocation for FY 2015	\$6,125,000
Balance to Complete	\$6,440,000

### **Additional Project Information**

The USFWS is the non-Federal project sponsor. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Iowa Department of Natural Resources are project proponents. Annual costs for operation, maintenance, and repair will be the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### **Major Work Item (This Fiscal Year)**

**FY 2014** Continuation of construction on Sunfish Lake (Stage I), initiation of P&S for Stone Lake (Stage II), continue cooperative pre-project monitoring effort with the State of Iowa and the USGS to document the current status of the fish population. This will be used to evaluate the biological response of the project once it is completed. Pre- and post-project monitoring will be applied using active adaptive management principal to inform the placement and design of future HREPs.

### **Major Work Item (Next Fiscal Year)**

**FY 2015** Initiate Stage II construction of Stone Lake, continuation of the cooperative pre-project and during-construction monitoring program, initiate P&S for Kehough Slough (Stage III) construction.

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