

News Release

*National Wildlife
Refuge System*



Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge

La Crosse District
555 Lester Avenue
Onalaska, WI 54650

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maintenance Work Underway at Long Lake

A maintenance project is underway to remove sediment at two locations in Long Lake. The lake is a semi-isolated backwater of the Mississippi River located in upper Navigation Pool 7, about 1.5 miles downstream of Lock and Dam 6 at Trempealeau, Wisc. The lake is also part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

This project addresses the maintenance of a diversion channel that moves water through the lake, and the removal of a sandbar in the lake that formed during the 2001 flood. About 100 cubic yards of material are expected to be dredged from the diversion channel and another 2,100 cubic yards from the lake. The material, mostly sand, will be trucked to the approved placement site near Lock and Dam 6.

The diversion channel and water control structure were constructed in 2000 as part of the "Long Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project" funded through the Environmental Management Program (EMP). The spring 2001 flood severely damaged the channel and structure and deposited sediment in the upper end of Long Lake in the form of two sandbars. Project reconstruction was completed in 2002-2003 and included the removal of the larger sandbar in the lake. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the operation and maintenance of this completed EMP project.

Work began last week and is expected to be completed in early September.

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Boaters will have access to the lake from the nearby boat landing during the construction period, but should use caution in and around construction activities. Also, motorists driving Lake Road in the vicinity of the project should be aware of heavy equipment operating along the road and increased truck traffic as sand is hauled to the placement site.

The project is being completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Maintenance and Repair Section based in Fountain City, Wisc.

Funding for this \$65,000 project was provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

For more information, contact the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge office in Onalaska, Wisc. The office is located at 555 Lester Avenue and office hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The telephone number is (608) 783-8405.

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The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the most visited refuge in the United States. The refuge extends 261 miles along the Upper Mississippi River from Wabasha, Minn. to Rock Island, Ill., protecting and preserving habitat for migratory birds, fish, and a variety of other wildlife. This 240,000 acre refuge was established in 1924.