

UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION

HARPER'S SLOUGH ISLANDS

Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project

Location: This Mississippi River habitat project is located in a 2,200-acre Harper's Slough backwater area in Allamakee County, Iowa, and is near Lynxville, Wisconsin. The site lies within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. (See map on back for location.)

Need: Since the creation of Lock and Dam No. 9 in 1937, several of the natural islands in this area eroded and disappeared. Island loss allows more wind and wave action in the backwaters, keeping sediment suspended (turbidity). The suspended sediment in turn makes it difficult for sunlight to penetrate the water and reach aquatic plants. This has resulted in the loss of valuable aquatic plant beds that migrating waterfowl and fish use for food and cover.

Project Description: The Harper's Slough Islands project includes constructing seven islands and three emergent wetlands. The islands will be built using material dredged from the main channel and from within the Harper's Slough area backwaters. To prevent the new islands from eroding, rock will be placed along sections of shoreline and vegetation will be planted. This project will help protect, restore, and/or create nearly 100 acres of islands. The project will also help protect and enhance aquatic vegetation in the Harper's Slough area, and the backwater dredging will create deeper holes for fisheries overwintering habitat. When complete, this project will provide homes, food, and resting places for river wildlife such as migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, turtles, frogs, fish, mussels, beaver, mink, and otter.

Partnership: The Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program is administered and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Iowa and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, and the public.

Construction Activities: This \$11.9 million construction contract was awarded to Newt Marine Service of Dubuque, Iowa in September 2014. The construction began in April 2015, and will continue over the next few years.

Notice: This project is located in the Harper's Slough Closed Area, an area closed to waterfowl hunting. Boaters are also reminded the closed area is a voluntary avoidance area from October 15 through the end of the state waterfowl hunting season.

Points of Contact

Funding Agency

Tom Novak, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District
180 Fifth St. E Ste 700
St. Paul, MN 55101-1678
(651) 290-5524
Tom.Novak@usace.army.mil

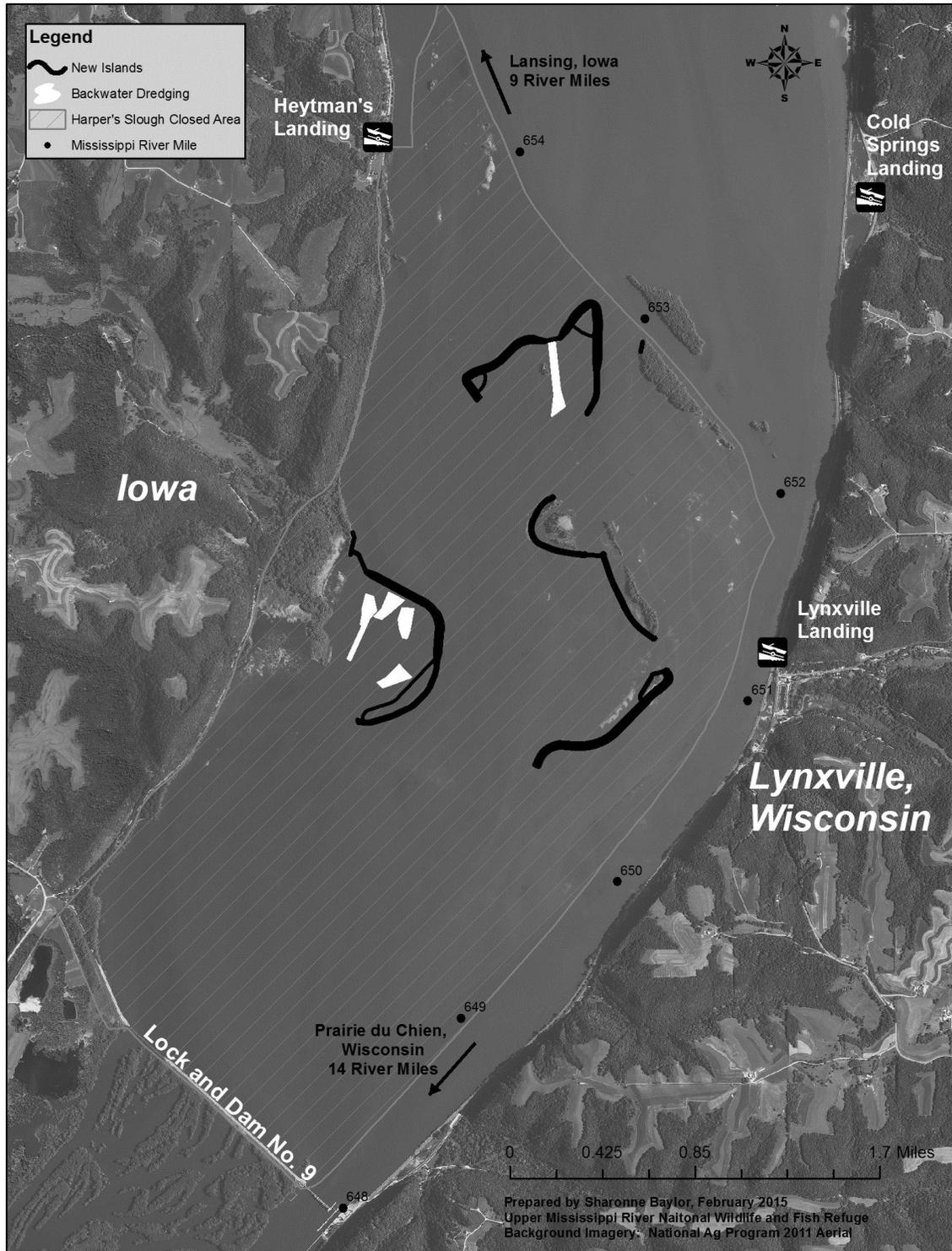
Managing Agency

Rich King, McGregor District Manager
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Upper Mississippi River
National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
470 Cliff Haven Road
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821
608-326-0515
Richard_King@fws.gov



US Army Corps
of Engineers®





For more information on UMRR, one of the oldest large river restoration and data acquisition programs in the world, visit

www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/EnvironmentalProtectionandRestoration/UpperMississippiRiverRestoration.aspx

For more Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge information, visit

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/upper_mississippi_river/