



Goose Pond FWA Moist Soil Enhancement Project Grant Source: **North American Wetlands Conservation Act**

BACKGROUND

Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA) is enrolled in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). The property is a historically significant wetland complex located about two miles south of Linton, Indiana in southwestern Greene County. The restored complex will include about 5,500 acres of swamp (woody), marsh (herbaceous), wet meadow and open water components. The Goose Pond unit is a glacial wetland basin drained by Black Creek, and Brewer Ditch within the White River Drainage Basin. It lies within the Ohio River Ecosystem. This project will restore one of the most significant waterfowl use areas in Indiana due to its size, historic use by wildlife, proximity to federal and state owned natural areas, and location near the Wabash and White Rivers.

Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area will provide critical migrating and wintering waterfowl habitat. Shore birds and other water birds will also make extensive use during migration. The area can be expected to become an important feeding and resting area for herons, egrets, and the Greater Sandhill crane. Significant nesting use by bitterns, and rails along the marsh edges is anticipated. The area will likely attract osprey, and northern harriers are already present. Restoration of some areas of bottomland forest will eventually provide new nesting habitat for neo-tropical migrant birds.

LOCATION

Indiana

ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED

Some of the wetland units are designed to be used as moist soil units. In these units, water levels may be manipulated to favor prolific seed producing annual plants such as barnyard grass and smartweed species. Water control structures and pumps may be utilized in the management of moist soil units.

The specific goals of this project is to maintain a reservoir of water in an existing pond and use that water for prescribed recharge of two moist soil units. The pond already drains into a moist soil unit, but there is no mechanism in place to control the waterflow. By placing a water control structure and upgrading an existing culvert, the project will provide the ability to have controlled recharges on 58 acres of moist soil units. The benefits of doing this will allow the property manager to provide a higher quality habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and amphibians.

OBJECTIVES

Wetland enhancement work:

- 58 acres of palustrine emergent wetlands will be enhanced by installing a water control structure.

PARTNERS

NWTF
Duke Energy
Ducks Unlimited, Inc
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

FUTURE PLANS

Project is just starting.

TIMEFRAME

Project Start Date: August 2007
Project End Date: October 2008