Good Lake
Waterfowl Production Area

The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and the Red Lake Watershed District established this impoundment in 1993 to control downstream flooding along the Red Lake River. Since then, this impoundment has become an important area for migrating and resident waterfowl, marsh birds, and many other species of wildlife. Currently, the dike system floods 2,000 acres during normal pool conditions and about 5,000 acres during periods of high runoff. With generous support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs—Circle of Flight Program, the Legislative Committee on Minnesota’s Resources, and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources has completed five years of habitat restorations and enhancements to further improve the impoundment and adjacent uplands for migrating and resident waterfowl and improve user access and use of the area.

The benefits derived from these and future management activities will likely have an enormous impact on local wildlife populations, particularly waterfowl. With two national wildlife refuges (Agassiz NWR and Tamarac NWR) and a wildlife management area (Thief Lake WMA) located within 70 miles of the impoundment, and given its position along a major waterfowl migration route, the Good Lake area is a valuable asset to waterfowl, marsh bird, and shorebird populations, and the management efforts aimed towards them. Resident wildlife, like bear, moose, elk, deer, and wolves, have also benefited from project activities and evidence of their presence in the Good Lake area has increased. It is hoped that this area will continue to provide valuable opportunities for wildlife and also to the people who utilize this impoundment for their enjoyment.

Interpretive panel produced by the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Legislative Committee on Minnesota’s Resources, the Red Lake Department of Natural Resources, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Although once in danger of extinction, the population of geese (Canada geese) has recovered due to a combination of improved habitat, the availability of food, and the efforts of biologists stationed near the site.