

Good Lake Waterfowl Production Area



Although moose numbers have remained low throughout the state of Minnesota, this cow and calf were seen regularly in the area during the spring of 2003.



The reintroduction of trumpeter swans throughout the Midwest has brought about a need for large areas of habitat along migration routes as staging and nesting areas for these birds.



Work aimed at increasing use of the impoundment by resident and migrating waterfowl has also greatly benefited many other wildlife species including white-tailed deer.



Many wildflowers such as this wild iris have greatly benefited from the availability of habitat opened by project activities.

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.



Native strain wild rice was established in the impoundment through extensive seeding efforts in 2001, 2002, and 2005.

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.



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This mink was caught feeding on minnows below the outlet during the winter and spring of 2004.



Evidence of wolves in the Good Lake area has increased since the project was initiated in 2001.



Secretive marsh birds such as these American bittern chicks can be found throughout the impoundment.



Although once in danger of extinction, the population of giant Canada goose has rebounded due to areas like Good Lake that provide nesting cover and food for resident and migrating flocks.