



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ROCK ISLAND DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PO BOX 2004  
ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS 61204-2004

April 18, 2011

Planning, Programs, and Project  
Management Division

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A Planning Team consisting of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District (District); the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; and the Rock Koshkonong Lake District is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). This EA will address any environmental impacts associated with an Experimental Project through the Lake Koshkonong Planning Assistance to States Authority. The Experimental Project is located in Lake Koshkonong, Stinkers Bay (on the Northeast side), in Jefferson County, Wisconsin (Enclosure 1). The District is requesting your comments regarding the proposed action and its potential to impact any significant natural or manmade resources. Your comments will contribute to the Experimental Project's thorough environmental evaluation.

Currently, the Planning Team is preparing a Comprehensive Plan with a Programmatic EA to document potential environmental impacts associated with a range of Lake Koshkonong Management options and the features associated with those options. Multiple approaches and ideas are being considered to address an underlying need for managing and conserving natural resources on Lake Koshkonong while continuing to provide quality public recreation experiences for present and future generations.

In order to help generate reasonable alternatives for the Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Team decided that the Experimental Project would provide answers on management options through follow up analysis and monitoring. The Experimental Project has two parts: 1) dredging and 2) shoreline protection (breakwater) and nourishment (dredged material placement) (Enclosure 2). This Experimental Project is separate from the larger Comprehensive Plan with a Programmatic EA, which will be coordinated at a later date by the District.

By conducting the experiment, the Planning Team hopes to answer the following questions:

1. At what rate does the dredged cut fill?
2. What type of sediment accumulates in the dredge cut?
3. Will a smaller less visually impacting breakwater keep dredged material behind it?
4. Will dredged material support plant life and/or lead to rebuilding of the littoral zone?
5. Will a small breakwater hold up to the ice and wave action seen on Lake Koshkonong?
6. Will dredged material colonize naturally or will invasive plant species dominate the site?

The dredging aspect of the Experimental Project would be a shallow broad dredge cut (approximately 200' x 200' x 2') in Stinkers Bay (near the North Shore Boat Launch). The dredged material, approximately 2,963 cubic yards, would be placed behind a breakwater. The breakwater would be approximately 5 feet across at the top, 17 feet across at the base and 4 feet tall and 330 feet long (1,037 cubic yards; 1,556 tons.) Stone for the breakwater would be from a local source and meet Corps' standards. Access to the site would be via North Shore Road to Lamp Road (staging) then across private property or, if work occurs in the winter, on ice.

The Planning Team selected the dredged material and breakwater placement site because the dredge cut is within 1 mile of Mud Lake. Mud Lake is a high quality wetland in danger of becoming part of Lake Koshkonong due to the erosion of a small spit of land currently protecting the Mud Lake Wetland Complex (Enclosure 3).

This Experimental Project will not only offer protection to the Mud Lake Wetland Complex, but also supply the Planning Team with information necessary to choose which alternative will be most effective in managing Lake Koshkonong in the future. The District anticipates the Experimental Project would not likely adversely affect any federally- or state-threatened or endangered species. The US Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species website indicates two species listed as either threatened or endangered species for Jefferson County, Wisconsin (Enclosure 4).

Please provide written recommendations, comments, and concerns relative to resources in your area of expertise no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. All written responses will be included in the EA.

The point of contact for this action is Mrs. Wendy Frohlich of our Environmental and Economics Branch. Mrs. Frohlich can be reach at telephone (309) 794-5573; by writing to our address, ATTN: Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division (Frohlich), or by e-mail: [wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil](mailto:wendy.m.frohlich@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Kenneth A. Barr  
Chief, Environmental and Economics Branch

4 Enclosures

## DISTRIBUTION LIST

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DNR South Central Region  
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Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
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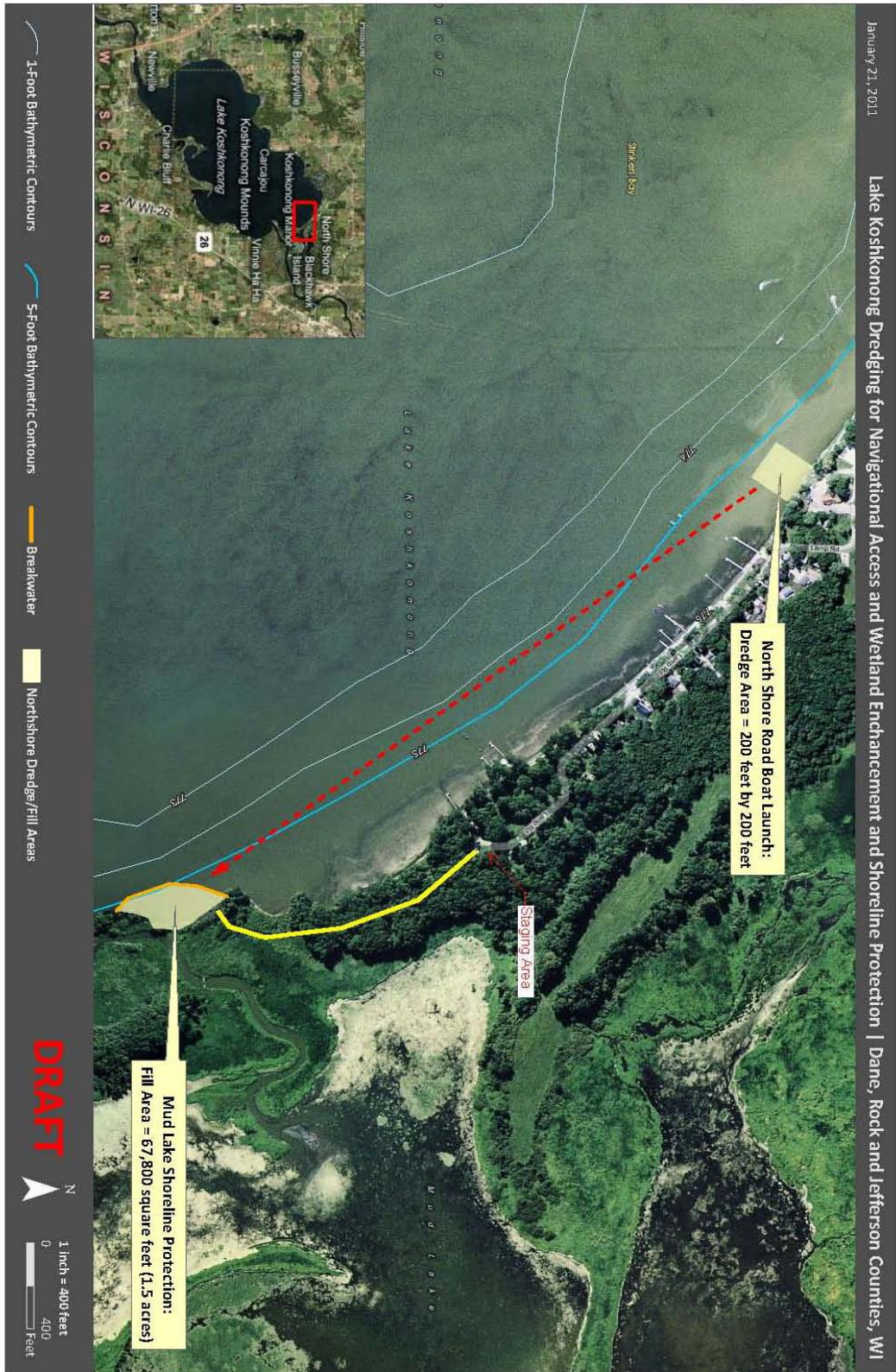
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United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Jefferson, WI 53549

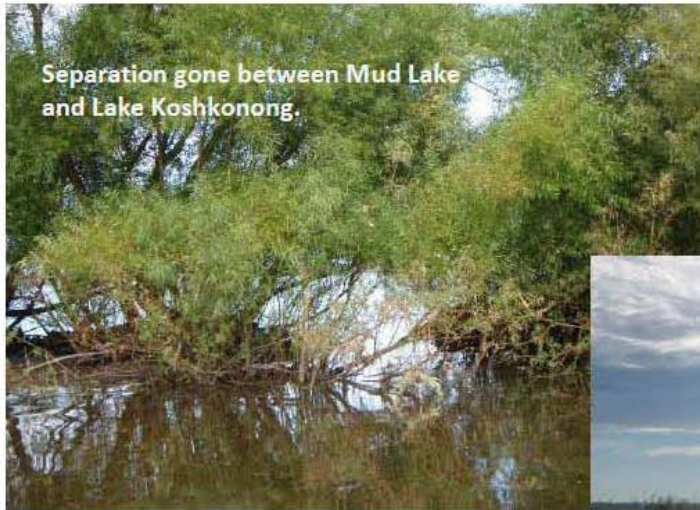
Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation  
Mr. Mark Watkins, Director  
320 S. Main Street  
Jefferson, WI 53549-1713



# Project Feature Locations



## Photographs



**Federally Endangered, Threatened, Proposed, and Candidate Species  
for Jefferson County, Wisconsin**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Habitat</b>
Eastern prairie fringed orchid	<i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Threatened	Wet grasslands
Whooping crane	<i>Grus americanus</i>	Non-essential experimental population	Open wetlands and lakeshores

US Fish and Wildlife Service Website, March, 2011