Big Lake Project

A Flood Damage Reduction and Natural Resource Enhancement Project for the City of Herman and 5 Mile Creek Watershed

Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Project Benefits:
- Local Flood Reduction
- Improve Water Quality
- Habitat Enhancement

Drainage Area:
10.3 sq.mi.

Proposed Storage:
1,650 Acre-Feet
(3.0 Inches Runoff)

Cost:
- Total Cost: $650,000
- State (60%): $390,000
- Non-State (40%): $260,000

Partners:
- 5 Mile Creek PT
- BdSWD
- RRWMB
- State of MN

Project Proposer: **Bois de Sioux Watershed District**
5 Mile Creek Project Team

Description/Location:
Big Lake is located 1 mile northeast of the City of Herman in Grant County. The project includes an improvement of the existing outlet leading from Big Lake to the City of Herman which will allow better control of both water levels and outflows. Under normal spring operations, the project will have 1,650 acre feet of flood storage of which 1,300 acre feet is gated. The existing lake provides 550 acre feet of storage, all of which is ungated. This improvement will provide better flood damage reduction and protection for the City of Herman, GCD #8, and other downstream drains.

Problem Description:
- **Flooding:** Local – City of Herman, GCD #8, Five Mile Creek, farmland, farmsteads, and road washouts all occur frequently with the most serious flooding occurring in the spring; Regional – Lake Traverse, Bois de Sioux River, Red River of the North.
- **Natural Resources:** Poor water quality, poor wildlife habitat due to loss of submergent and emergent vegetation & lack of management alternatives.

Project Benefits:
- **Flood Damage Reduction (Primary Objective):** Provides 1,650 acre feet of flood storage, 1,300 of which is gated. Project Stores 3.0 inches of runoff.
- **Water Quality:** By having the ability to manipulate water levels, this basin can be managed for the establishment of submergent and emergent vegetation growth by controlling the rough fish populations and improving water clarity.
- **Habitat Enhancement:** By encouraging aquatic plant growth (shallow lake management operation), the basin will be attractive to waterfowl, shorebird and other species.