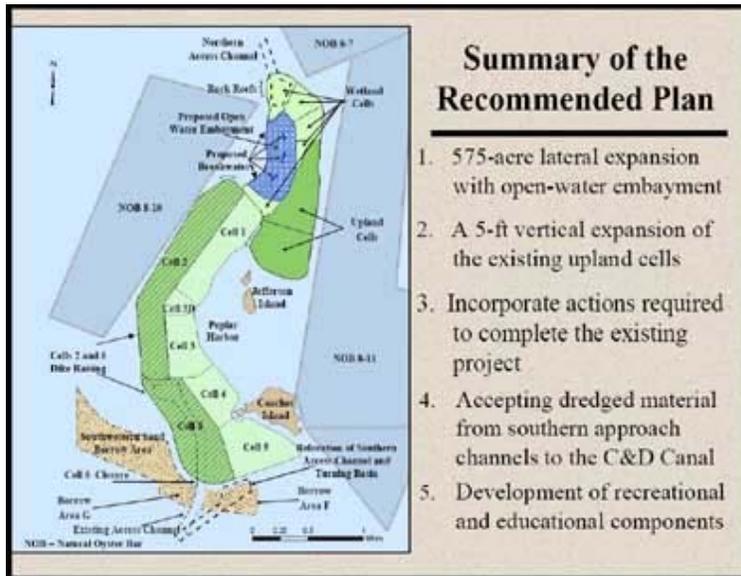


Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project Expansion Chesapeake Bay, Talbot County, Maryland 22 September 2005



Summary of the Recommended Plan

1. 575-acre lateral expansion with open-water embayment
2. A 5-ft vertical expansion of the existing upland cells
3. Incorporate actions required to complete the existing project
4. Accepting dredged material from southern approach channels to the C&D Canal
5. Development of recreational and educational components

Abstract: Land subsidence, rising sea level, and wave action are causing valuable remote island habitats to be lost throughout the Chesapeake Bay. The Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project in Talbot County, Maryland, is located approximately 39 miles south-southeast of the Port of Baltimore. The existing project will beneficially use up to 40 million cubic yards (mcy) of dredged material from the Federal navigation channels serving the Port of Baltimore to ultimately restore 1,140 acres of

remote island habitat in Chesapeake Bay. The recommend plan includes 575-acre expansion into the shallow bay waters to the north and northeast of the existing project and an increase of the elevation of the upland habitats associated with the existing project by about 5 feet. These project modifications would use an additional 28 mcy of dredged material from Federal navigation channels. As the various elements of the restoration project are constructed, existing structures and facilities will be adapted to accommodate passive recreational and/or educational uses compatible with the project's ecosystem restoration purpose and objectives. Recreation and education components of the plan include: boat docking facilities, kiosks with informative signage, self-guided/interpretive nature trails and boardwalks, avian observation areas, picnic areas, and other resting/viewing areas.

The first cost for the project expansion is estimated as \$256.1 million. The Federal Government share of the project first costs would be \$192.1 million and the non-Federal share would be \$64 million. Operations, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement (OMRR&R) costs for the completed project are projected to be less than 2 percent of the total project cost and would be a non-Federal responsibility. The first costs of the recommended recreation facilities are estimated at \$600,000. The Federal Government and the non-Federal sponsor would each share 50 percent of the cost or \$300,000. The OMRR&R cost for the recreation features are estimated at \$5,000 annually and are the responsibility of the non-Federal project sponsor.

The recommended plan is the national ecosystem restoration plan (the NER plan). It is an environmentally sound method for the use of dredged material and provides approximately 165 acres of wetland habitat, 270 acres of upland habitat, and 130 acres of sheltered open water habitat in the most cost-effective manner. These habitats would restore additional remote island habitat, a scarce and rapidly vanishing ecosystem niche within the Chesapeake Bay region that provides a vital connection for avian species between open-water and mainland terrestrial

habitats within the region. The lateral and vertical expansion would also provide additional important foraging habitat for special-status species such as the Federal-listed Bald Eagle, which nests on Coaches Island adjacent to the project; and bird islands in the wetland cells of the lateral expansion would be specifically designed to encourage nesting by State-listed Least Terns. The lateral and vertical expansion of the project would continue the contribution of the existing project to the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program watershed partnership through its habitat and ecosystem recovery and preservation efforts. Recreation features are economically justified, providing average annual benefits of \$133,000, having average annual costs of \$39,000, net annual benefits of \$93,500 and a benefit to cost ratio of 3.4.

Report Documentation: Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- [CWRB Briefing Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- [CWRB Meeting Record](#)
- [Comment Letters](#)
- [Documentation of Review Findings](#)
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report](#)
- [ASA \(CW\) Memo to OMB](#)
- [OMB Clearance](#)
- [Congressional Notification](#)
- [Record of Decision](#)
- Authorization
 - [Section3087 WRDA 2007](#)
 - [Full WRDA Text](#)

Additional Information:

[North Atlantic Division](#)

[Baltimore District](#)

[Poplar Island Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Project](#)

[Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project Expansion Study](#)