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Title: Restoring a Complex of Backwater Lakes, Wetlands, and Prairie on the Illinois River

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Abstract:

This paper summarizes the details of a restoration project to restore the Hennepin Lake and Hopper Lake wetlands ecosystems after being drained as part of a levee project in 1912. This project was used as an example of restoration that could possibly be applied to different wetlands in the Illinois River region. Restoration of natural processes to refill the lake beds and specific applications of herbicide to reduce native and exotic weeds prior to restoring upland habitats are explained. Further development includes introducing native prairie seeds and nursery-grown specimens to increase plant diversity.

Details on a study that involves the economic impact potential of this project can be found by [Prato and Hey](#).