



Mississippi River Sediment Delivery System - Bayou Dupont (BA-39)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2003 **Project Area:** 474 acres
Approved Funds: \$2.2 M **Total Est. Cost:** \$24.7 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 400 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Dredged Material/Marsh Creation

Location

The project is located adjacent to Bayou Dupont and southeast of Cheniere Traverse Bayou in the vicinity of Ironton in Plaquemines Parish and Lafitte in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana. The general area lies west of Louisiana Highway 23 and just north of the Myrtle Grove Marina within the Barataria Basin.

Problems

Marshes in the project area have degraded to open water with only scattered clumps of vegetation remaining. Marsh degradation has resulted from a combination of lack of natural fresh water and sediment input, subsidence, and the dredging of oil and gas canals.

Restoration Strategy

The proposed project involves dredging sediment from the Mississippi River for marsh creation and pumping it via pipeline into an area of open water and broken marsh west of the flood protection levee. The material will spread over the project area and be contained primarily with natural land features. Some low containment levees may be necessary in limited areas.

The proximity of the project to the Mississippi River presents a prime opportunity to employ a pipeline delivery system that will utilize the renewable sediment resources from the river to restore and create wetlands. Unlike most marsh creation projects that involve borrowing fill material from adjacent shallow water areas within the landscape, this project will utilize river sediment, thus minimizing disruption of the adjacent water and marsh platform. The Bayou Dupont project represents the first example of pipeline transport of sediment from the river to build marsh as a CWPPRA project. Limited, but successful, experience has been gained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through beneficial use of dredged materials. Results from this project should serve to demonstrate the value and efficacy of greater use of pipeline-conveyed river sediments for coastal restoration.

A determination will be made post-construction as to whether planted or natural colonization of native vegetation is best.



This project will help restore the highly degraded marshes of the area.

Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved engineering and design funding at their January 2003 meeting.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, working through the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, is coordinating engineering and design of the project. While this work is ongoing, related technical workshops are being conducted to refine sediment transport and placement issues.

This project is on Priority Project List 12.

For more project information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dallas, TX
(214) 665-6722



Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

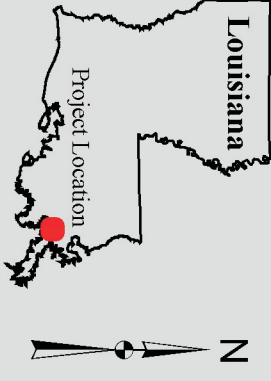
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Sediment Delivery System *

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

* denotes proposed feature



Produced by:
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 U.S. Geological Survey
 National Wetlands Research Center
 Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
 2004 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

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