

Project Location



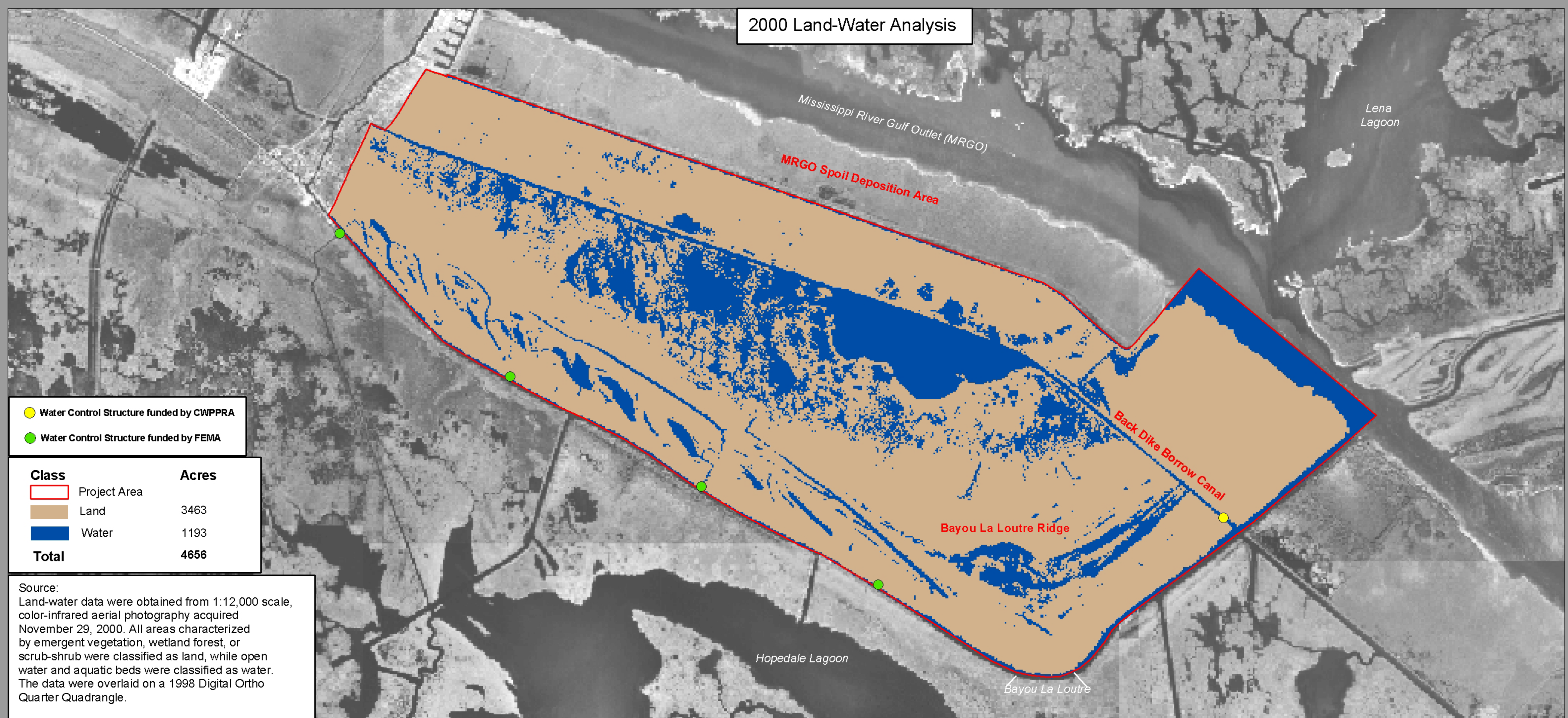
St. Bernard Parish

Project Description:

The Hopedale Hydrologic Restoration Project area is predominately brackish marsh and open water. Wetlands in the project area have been adversely impacted by altered hydrology and semi-impoundment due to construction of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) in the 1950s and LA Hwy 624. Prior to construction of the MRGO, a spoil containment dike, referred to as the "back dike", was built parallel to the main channel location by dredging a borrow canal and placing excavated material along the canal bank nearest the main channel. During excavation of the main channel, the wetlands between the back dike and the main

channel were filled with dredge spoil. As a result, the remaining marsh south of the back dike and north of the historic Bayou la Loutre Ridge was nearly impounded. Land loss within the project area was 34 acres (14 ha.) between the years 1932 and 1956, producing an annual marsh loss rate of 1.4 acres (0.6 ha) per year or 1.1% of the total acreage present in 1932. Between the years 1956 and 1974, which includes the construction period of the MRGO, 213 acres (86 ha.) of marsh were lost, increasing the marsh loss rate to 12 acres (4.6 ha.) per year. The acreage of marsh lost between the years 1974 and 1983 was 57 acres. Only 23 acres of marsh were lost between 1983 and

1990, producing a marsh loss of 0.12% per year. The land loss rate is projected to increase to 0.48% over the next 20 years without this project, because of the anticipated collapse of a water control structure located in the back dike borrow canal where it meets Bayou La Loutre. There are five water control structures planned for this project, with one currently under construction. Four additional proposed water control structures, funded by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are also currently under construction.



Source:
Land-water data were obtained from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared aerial photography acquired November 29, 2000. All areas characterized by emergent vegetation, wetland forest, or scrub-shrub were classified as land, while open water and aquatic beds were classified as water. The data were overlaid on a 1998 Digital Ortho Quarter Quadrangle.

