June 2021
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation (BA-125)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2012 **Project Area:** 798 acres
Approved Funds: $32.6 M **Total Est. Cost**: $33.6 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 432 acres
Status: Construction
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 21

Location

This project is located in Region 2, Barataria Basin, Jefferson Parish, northwest of Turtle Bay.

Problems

Historic wetland loss in the area stems from shoreline erosion along Turtle Bay and interior marsh loss from subsidence, sediment deprivation, and construction of oil and gas canals. Based on the hyper-temporal analysis conducted by USGS for the extended project boundary, loss rates in the area are estimated to be -0.83% per year for the period 1984 to 2015.

Restoration Strategy

The primary goal is to re-create marsh habitat in the open water areas and nourish existing marsh within the project area. The specific goal of the project is to create approximately 700 acres of marsh with dredged material from Turtle Bay or Little Lake. The total project area is 798 acres, but the entire area will not be filled with dredged material.

The proposed project would create approximately 484 acres and nourish approximately 216 acres. Existing canal spoil banks, emergent marsh, and limited segments of containment dikes will be used to guide the distribution of the dredged material in the western fill area. Complete perimeter containment dikes will be utilized for the eastern fill area. Containment dikes will be gapped to reestablish hydrologic connectivity with adjacent wetlands.

In 2020, the Task Force approved a project expansion consisting of 315 acres of marsh creation and nourishment and 2,600 linear feet of bank protection along the Harvey Cut. The project with expansion will create/nourish 771 acres of marsh using dredged material from Turtle Bay.

A view of the western fill area from south to north. The project will fill the open water and nourish the existing marsh north of the oil/gas canal. The solid marsh areas in the background were created as part of the BA-36 Dedicated Dredging on the Barataria Basin Landbridge Project.

The project will work synergistically with several existing and planned projects on the Barataria Basin Landbridge, an important landscape feature across the central Barataria Basin.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I on January 19, 2012. Phase II Construction was approved on January 12, 2017. A construction contract was awarded to Coastal Dredging, Inc. Project construction began in April 2019. In 2020, the Task Force approved a 315-acre expansion to the project. Construction is still underway and is expected to be completed in May 2021.

This project is on Priority Project List 21.

For more information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA
(337) 291-3100

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
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Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

BA-36/BA-36(EB) Project

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2012 DOQQ Photography

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