rev. June 2006
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Vegetative Plantings of a Dredged Material Disposal Site on Grand Terre Island (BA-28)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1998 **Project Area:** 297 acres
Approved Funds: $0.34 M **Total Est. Cost:** $0.34 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 127 acres
Status: Completed July 2001
Project Type: Vegetative Planting
PPL #: 7

Location

The project is located on west Grand Terre Island at the mouth of the Barataria Bay Waterway, east of Grand Isle in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

West Grand Terre Island is rapidly eroding at both the beach front and back bay wetlands. The 1996 and 1998 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dredged disposal areas on the island were almost completely devoid of vegetation. Breaks in the retention dikes have occurred, allowing tidal movement into and out of the dredge material disposal site. Although continued tidal action is important and should be encouraged, erosion of the enclosed wetland platform could become severe if a substantial wetland base is not developed.

Restoration Strategy

The objectives of this project are to stabilize the dredged material platform to maintain the integrity of the island. Project features included the installation of vegetation utilizing hand planted nursery grown selected plant species in May 2001. Vegetation including 35,000 vegetative plugs of smooth cordgrass and 600 tube containers of black mangrove planted near the rock containment dike on the Barataria Bay side of the project area. Additional plantings on the foredune outside of the disposal area included 3,100 four inch containers each of marshhay cordgrass, bitter panicum, and gulf cordgrass. Project measures also included the removal of feral herbivores (approximately 20 goats and 70 cows) from the island to prevent overgrazing and impacts to native and planted vegetation.

Progress to Date

Vegetative plantings were completed in spring 2001. The project is currently being monitored.

The project is listed on Priority Project List 7.

Approximately 40 acres of dune were created by this project that provided added protection to Grand Terre and helped contain the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' beneficial use of dredged sediment site. Both projects have significantly added to the longevity of this barrier island.

Approximately 680 acres have benefitted from this project, which included dune creation and native vegetative plantings along the dune and Corps' beneficial use site.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 389-0508

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736

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Vegetative Plantings

Project Boundary

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.3 0 0.3 Kilometers

0.3 0 0.3 Miles

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restroation Field Station

Background Imagery:
2004 Digital Othrophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: June 7, 2006
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