



Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation (BA-0302)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2026

Project Area: 278

Approved Funds: 3M

Total Est. Cost: 36.5M

Net Benefit After 20 Years: 163 acres

Status: Engineering and Design

Project Type: Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation

PPL #: 35

Location

Region 2, Barataria Basin, Lafourche Parish, south of Little Lake along the Bayou L'Ours Ridge

Problems

Bayou L'Ours was historically a distributary channel of Bayou Lafourche. The natural levees of this bayou created the L'Ours subbasin, which has been breached by access and pipeline canals. The breaches have increased tidal exchange, reduced freshwater retention, and increased salinities in the marshes within the upper subbasin. Hurricane Ida, a Category 4 storm, made landfall in 2021 over Louisiana. It is estimated that the Barataria Basin lost a net of 260 square kilometers (69,190 acres) of marsh equivalent to about 32 years of marsh loss without hurricanes mostly (56%) within intermediate marshes (Mariotti et al. 2026).

Restoration Strategy

The project goal is to restore 13,811 linear feet (LF) of ridge habitat along the Bayou L'Ours Ridge. An estimated 264 acres of marsh will be restored north of the ridge to an elevation supporting marsh habitat at the optimal inundation range for the longest period within the project life.

This solution would restore the northern reach of the Bayou L'Ours ridge and restore marsh to the north to add additional protection to the ridge and adjacent infrastructure. The ridge will serve as containment for the marsh restoration feature. Temporary containment dikes will be constructed around the remaining marsh creation areas and gapped within three years of construction to allow greater tidal exchange and estuarine organism access. Borrow for the marsh creation area is currently proposed from Little Lake. Vegetative plantings are proposed along the ridge during construction.



A remnant ridge and marsh fringe along Bayou L'Ours and associated canals is all that remains from the passage of Hurricane Ida. Restoration and protection of this landbridge is needed to protect the upper subbasin and prevent higher salinities and increased tidal exchange from impacting areas to the north.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 15, 2026.

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 35.

For more information, please contact:



Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7756



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



Bayou L'Ours Ridge Restoration and Marsh Creation



-  Marsh Creation
-  Ridge

Note: All features are proposed.



Scale: 1:20,000



Map Prepared By:
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 2013 NAIP CTR

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