Delta Building Diversion at Myrtle Grove (BA-33)

Location
The project is located in the Barataria Basin, in Jefferson Parish, Louisiana.

Problems
The project area has undergone substantial loss of wetlands and a significant habitat shift to more saline marshes in the last 50 years. Moderately high wetland loss rates are primarily caused by the high subsidence and altered hydrology associated with navigation and flood control projects, as well as oil and gas activities. Without remediation, it is anticipated that approximately 14,500 acres of wetlands will be lost in the project area over the next 20 years and that wetland types will continue to shift towards more saline habitats.

Restoration Strategy
The project would involve installation of gated box culverts on the west bank of the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Myrtle Grove; dedicated dredging from the Mississippi River to create marsh in the vicinity of Bayou Dupont, the Barataria Bay Waterway, and the Wilkinson Canal; or a combination of these actions. Supporting features might include a conveyance channel with parallel mainline flood control levees and an outflow channel with guide levees. Dredging to create adequate outfall in the headwaters of Bayou Dupont and construction of a pump station may be required.

Progress to Date
Scoping meetings in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 have been held, and alternative plan formulation has been completed. Initial plan analyses are underway.

This project is on Priority Project List 10.

*Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act will fund the $3 million engineering and design phase of the project, while the remaining $141.3 million needed for construction will be sought through other funding mechanisms. This project is currently de-authorized.