Dedicated Dredging on the Barataria Basin Landbridge (BA-36)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2002
Project Area: 1,245 acres
Net Benefit After 20 Years (CWPPRA): 605 acres
Net Benefit After 20 Years (CIAP and State): 422 acres
Project Type: Marsh Creation
Status: Complete
PPL #: 11

Location

The project is located in the Barataria Basin within Jefferson Parish, 7 miles southwest of Lafitte. It is located at the southern end of Bayous Perot and Rigolettes on both sides of the Harvey Cut. The approved CWPPRA project footprint of 1,246 acres was expanded to a total of 2,789 acres as a result of additional project funds and excess material.

Problems

The upper portion of the Barataria Basin is largely a freshwater-dominated system of natural levee ridges, swamps, and fresh marsh. Marine and tidal processes (along with barrier islands, saline and brackish marshes, tidal channels, large bays, and lakes) dominate the lower portion of the basin. Historically, a small, meandering Bayou Perot and the longer and narrower Bayou Dupont, Bayou Barataria, and Bayou Villars channels provided limited hydrologic connection between the upper and lower basin. However, those hydrologic connections are much greater today because of the Barataria Bay Waterway, Bayou Segnette Waterway, and the Harvey Cut. In addition, substantial erosion and interior marsh loss between the enlarged Perot and Rigolettes bayous have also contributed to the problem.

The project area has been experiencing annual land loss rates of roughly 2.5% in recent years, mostly due to interior marsh deterioration and wind and wave induced erosion.

Restoration Strategy

This project has filled open water areas to create new marsh, and nourished existing marsh by using hydraulic dredged material. Containment dikes were constructed from in-situ material around the original CWPPRA project footprint. Placement outside of the CWPPRA footprint was done with limited confinement using existing spoilbanks and marsh. Containment dikes were used only in strategic locations such as small bayous and openings in the marsh. The source of material was two borrow sites in Bayou Rigolettes and one borrow site in Bayou Perot.

Progress to Date

Three sources of construction funding have been combined for this project. The State of Louisiana's Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) contributed $17.5 million, the CWPPRA program contributed $15.0 million, and $2.4 million of the State of Louisiana's Surplus Funds were utilized. The project was selected for Phase I (engineering and design) funding at the January 2002 Breaux Act Task Force meeting as part of Priority Project List 11. Design was completed in 2004. The CWPPRA Task Force approved construction funding in February 2007, and construction commenced in October 2008. The project was completed in late March 2010.

This project is on Priority Project List 11.