Grand Liard Marsh and Ridge Restoration (BA-68)

Project Status
Approved Date: 2009    Project Area: 484 acres
Approved Funds: $34.5 M    Total Est. Cost: $34.6 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 370 acres
Status: Completed
Project Type: Marsh Creation and Ridge Restoration
PPL #: 18

Location
The project is located in Region 2, within the Barataria Basin portion of Plaquemines Parish. The project is specifically located within the Bastian Bay and Grand Liard mapping units, near the vicinity of Triumph.

Problems
The Bastian Bay and Grand Liard mapping units were historically structured by a series of north-south bayous and associated ridges. Over the preceding decades the majority of these bayou ridges and the marshes flanking them have disappeared. The Grand Liard ridge is the most prominent remaining ridge, and separates the open bays of the Bastian Bay and Grand Liard mapping units. Past land loss projections indicate a loss rate of -3.3%/yr; and also suggest that the remaining bayou bank wetlands would completely convert to open water by 2050 without the project.

Restoration Strategy
The project restored both structural and habitat functions of Grand Liard Bayou and flanking marshes. The project created and nourished 450 acres of marsh and restored 15,484 linear feet of ridge on the east bank of Bayou Grand Liard. Portions of the created marsh will be planted with smooth cordgrass, and the ridge will be planted with appropriate woody vegetation. Containment dikes will be gapped to encourage establishment of natural marsh hydrology and support fisheries.

Progress to Date
The project was approved for Phase 1 funding (engineering and design) at the January 2009 Task Force meeting and was selected for Phase II funding (construction) at the February 2012 Task Force meeting. Construction commenced in July 2014 and was completed in August 2015. Portions of the marsh will be planted with vegetation in the spring of 2018. The constructed ridge will be planted with woody vegetation in the future.

This project is on Priority Project List 18.