October 2003
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Delta Building Diversion North of Fort St. Philip (BS-10)

De-authorized

Project Status

Approved Date: 2001 **Project Area:** 2,254 acres
Approved Funds: $1.17 M **Total Est. Cost:** $1.17 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 501 acres
Status: De-authorized
Project Type: Water Diversion
PPL #: 10

Location

The project is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The wetlands in the area are deteriorating from erosion, subsidence, and insufficient sediment input. Some delta building is occurring in the downstream end of the project area from Mississippi River overbank flow. However, most of the project area is deteriorating from a lack of sediment.

The project area contains all four marsh types: saline, brackish, intermediate, and fresh. Most of the project area is saline marsh and open water. The proximity of open, shallow, estuarine water to the Mississippi River, coupled with the low level of development and infrastructure at this site, presents a rare opportunity to construct a major sediment diversion project for a reasonable construction cost.

Oyster leases in the project area and in nearby Breton Sound may be impacted by the project. Also, oil and gas well canals and pipeline canals may experience increased siltation, causing access problems for companies operating in the area.

Deteriorating wetlands in the Fort St. Philip area.

Restoration Strategy

A series of channel armor gaps will be strategically located and constructed along the east descending bank of the Mississippi in the
vicinity of Fort St. Philip to restore wetlands in the Mississippi River delta. The channel will be constructed mainly through shallow open water and will hydrologically connect to Fort Bayou. Several openings will be made along the diversion channel to direct flows into the shallow water areas. The size of the diversion channel will be designed to allow enough sediment through to create about 624 acres of marsh over the project life. This project will significantly increase sediment input into the benefited wetlands through the diversion of about 2,500-5,000 cubic feet per second of Mississippi River water. The diversion of fresh water and sediments is expected to re-create natural landscape features found throughout the delta to include riverbank ridges, emergent marsh, and mudflats. The project will also reduce the loss of existing marsh in the 2,252-acre project area. In addition, it is expected that the project will enhance the integrity of the delta system through the restoration and protection of these integrated ecosystem components.

Progress to Date

Modeling is in progress to examine the size and location of the proposed diversion channel.

This project is on Priority Project List 10.

For more information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans, LA
(504) 862-1597

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

Delta Building Diversion North of Fort St. Philip (BS-10)

Armored Gap *

Diversion Channel *

Project Boundary

* denotes proposed features

N

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: September 9, 2003
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