Delta Management at Fort St. Philip (BS-11)

Project Status
Approved Date: 2001   Project Area: 1,305 acres
Approved Funds: $2.38 M   Total Est. Cost: $2.73 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 267 acres
Status: Construction Completed
Project Type: Outfall Management/ Sediment Trapping
PPL #: 10

Location
The project is located on the east side of the Mississippi River near the crevasse (a break in the levee) that formed during the 1973 flood at Fort St. Philip in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Problems
Since the crevasse, the area has been in a state of transition. It was once an organic, low-energy system consisting of brackish-saline marsh and was in decline. After the crevasse, it became a deltaic environment dominated by the formation of fresh and intermediate marshes.

GIS analysis indicates that marsh loss has decreased considerably in the project area, and marsh building has begun to occur. Many areas that historically experienced marsh loss were becoming shallower with the introduction of river sediments.

Emergent marsh has been forming throughout the area on the newly accreted mineral soils. Even though this area has experienced a net gain in emergent marsh, this project will enhance the natural marsh-building processes and increase the growth rate of emergent wetlands.

Restoration Strategy
The project included the construction of terraces in open water habitat and the construction of six crevasses to increase marsh-building processes.

The terraces were planted with seashore paspalum (Paspalum vaginatum) and smooth cordgrass (Spartina alterniflora).

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA
(337) 291-3100

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
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