November 2020

Cost figures as of: February 2023

Phoenix Marsh Creation - East Increment (BS-42)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2020 **Project Area:** 366 acres
Approved Funds: $3.39 M **Total Est. Cost**: $41.6 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 268 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 29

Location

The project is located in Region 2, Breton Basin, Plaquemines Parish.

Problems

Two major causes of wetland loss for this area are sediment deprivation and storm damage. Altered hydrology and oil/gas development have exacerbated this loss. Much of the fresh and intermediate marsh that once existed earlier in this century has either converted to more saline habitats or has become open water as a result of oil/gas canals, subsidence, and a lack of sediment deposition. The 1984 to 2019 USGS land change rate is -0.78% per year.

Restoration Strategy

The project goal is to restore 392 acres of marsh in the open water areas between Bayou la Croix and River aux Chênes through the placement of dredged material via hydraulic dredging. This project will work syngeristically with projects to the east by creating continuity with the Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West) Project (BS-38) and the Mid Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation and Terracing Project (BS-32). This proposed first increment would extend the reach of the Breton Landbridge and is part of an overall, long-range, restoration goal to create/nourish 1,000 to 2,000 acres of intermediate marsh across 5 miles of the Breton Sound Basin from River aux Chênes to the Mississippi River.

Sediment will be hydraulically dredged from the Mississippi River. The dredged riverine sediments will be pumped via pipeline into two semi-confined disposal areas. Where feasible, existing marsh will be used as containment instead of containment dikes.

Degraded marsh in coastal Louisiana.

Vegetative plantings are not proposed in the marsh creation areas, and containment dikes will be gapped no later than year three post construction.

Service goals include restoration/protection of habitat for threatened and endangered species and other at-risk species. This project would restore habitat potentially utilized by the black rail, which is proposed for listing as a threatened species. The project could also benefit other species of concern including the saltmarsh topminnow and seaside sparrow.

Progress to Date

The project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2020.

The project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 29.

For more information, please contact:

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

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

Phoenix Marsh Creation-East Increment (BS-42)

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Coastal and Oceans Restoration Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2018 NAIP

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