Phoenix Marsh Creation - West Increment (BS-44)

March 2021
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Project Status

Approved Date: 2021 **Project Area:** 356 acres
Approved Funds: $1.05 M **Total Est. Cost:** $41.2 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 258 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 30

Location

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

Problems

Within the project vicinity, marsh loss has occurred as the result of oil/gas canals, subsidence, and a lack of sediment deposition. The USGS land change rate (1984 to 2019) is -0.65% per year. Hurricane Katrina caused the majority of wetland loss in the project area. Wind erosion and saltwater intrusion have resulted in loss of marsh vegetation and wetland soils, and altered hydrology and oil/gas development have exacerbated this loss.

Restoration Strategy

The primary goal of the project is to restore marsh habitat in the open water areas between River aux Chênes and Bayou Garelle through the placement of dredged material via hydraulic dredging. The project would create continuity with the Phoenix Marsh Creation–East Increment Project (BS-42) and would work synergistically with the Breton Landbridge Marsh Creation (West) Project (BS-38). Both projects are located to the east and along the alignment of the Breton Sound Basin Landbridge. The specific goal is to hydraulically dredge riverine sediments from the Mississippi River and pump the sediments via pipeline to create 323 acres of marsh and nourish an additional 88 acres of marsh. 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, a threatened species. The project could also benefit other species of concern including the saltmarsh topminnow and seaside sparrow.

Aerial photo of degraded marsh in the Phoenix Marsh Creation - West Increment project area.

Sediment will be hydraulically dredged from the Mississippi River and pumped via pipeline to create 323 acres of marsh and nourish an additional 88 acres of marsh. The target construction elevation is +2.0 feet NAVD88 which, after dewatering and consolidation of dredged sediments, should produce elevations conducive to the establishment of emergent marsh. Full perimeter containment is proposed. During Phase 1, opportunities to use existing marsh as containment would be investigated. Containment dikes will be gapped at the end of construction or by TY3.

Progress to Date

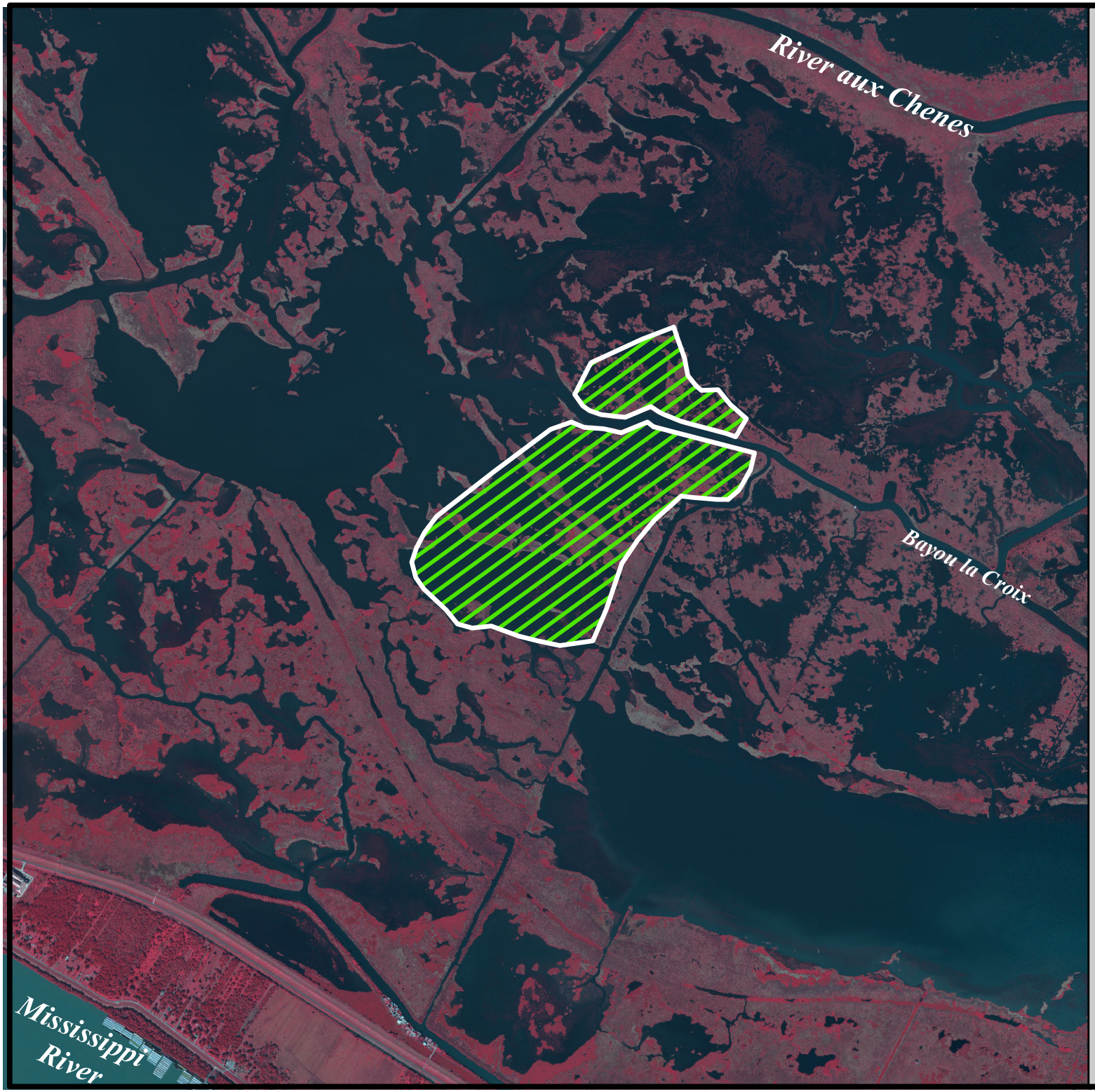
This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2021.

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 30.

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) 342-4733



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Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

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 Restoration and Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2018 NAIP

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