rev. February 2008
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04a)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1993 **Project Area:** 54,076 acres
Approved Funds: $8.63 M **Total Est. Cost:** $17.4 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 2,602 acres
Status: Completed July 1998
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL #: 3

Location

This project is located about 6 miles northeast of Cameron, Louisiana, in Cameron Parish. It is bordered on the west by the eastern shore of Calcasieu Lake, on the north by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and to the east and south by Louisiana Highway 27. It encompasses approximately 54,076 acres of fresh-to-saline marsh and open water.

Problems

Saltwater intrusion and increased tidal activity from the Calcasieu Ship Channel have caused marsh loss within the project area.

Restoration Strategy

The Cameron-Creole Watershed Management Project, a Natural Resources Conservation Service project completed in 1974, consists of five large control structures and a 19-mile levee along the eastern rim of Calcasieu Lake. The project has reduced salinities and increased marsh productivity; however, funding for maintenance of the project was not included in the original construction costs.

The current project, Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04a), involves establishment of a fund to provide for the maintenance of the Cameron-Creole Watershed for the next 20 years. Funds set aside for the maintenance work total approximately $4 million.

Almost 1,500 acres of wetlands will be created or restored, and an additional 1,071 acres will be protected.

Progress to Date

The first three contracts updating the operating mechanisms are complete. The project provides for maintenance on an as-needed basis. Hurricane Rita repairs are ongoing.

This project is on Priority Project List 3.

Structures such as this one help regulate the amount of salt water that enters the marsh, improving the health of wetland vegetation.

The salty environment of the project area leads to severe corrosion of unprotected pipes, fittings, and valves. This corrosion can eventually leave the water control structures inoperable.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7756

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

Cameron-Creole Maintenance (CS-04a)

Weir

Levee

Project Boundary

USGS science for a changing world

N

2 0 2 Miles

2 0 2 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery 2000

Map Date: August 1, 2002
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