rev. February 2008
Cost figures as of: April 2024

Sweet Lake/ Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-11b)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1996 **Project Area:** 5,796 acres
Approved Funds: $3.92 M **Total Est. Cost:** $3.92 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 247 acres
Status: Completed
Project Type: Shoreline Protection
PPL #: 5

Location

This project is located in Cameron Parish on the northern and northwestern shorelines of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at the intersection of Sweet and Willow Lakes, approximately 3 miles southwest of Sweet Lake, Louisiana. The total project area is 5,796 acres of fresh marsh and open water.

Problems

The northern shoreline of the GIWW has eroded into both Sweet and Willow Lakes. This has resulted in increased turbidity in their waters that reduces the growth of submerged aquatic vegetation due to decreased water clarity. The erosion increases the distance waves can travel (fetch), which contributes to marsh loss caused by wind and wave erosion along the shorelines.

Restoration Strategy

Successful implementation of this project will conserve and restore vegetated wetlands by reestablishing a barrier between Sweet and Willow Lakes and the GIWW.

The features of the project include: installation of a 14,200-foot rock riprap embankment and 28,300 linear feet of vegetative plantings on the southern shoreline of Sweet Lake; installation of a 4,000-foot rock riprap embankment on the southern shoreline of Willow Lake; and construction of terraces in the eroded marsh between the lakes that will be planted with a double row of California bullrush (*Scirpus californicus*).

Progress to Date

The rock bank project feature was completed in January 2000. The installation of terraces and vegetation was completed in 2002.

This project is on Priority Project List 5.

In order to prevent the GIWW from encroaching into the lakes, the thin, eroding shorelines were protected with rock riprap.

In some areas, the shoreline was non-existent, succumbing to the forces of wave erosion. A new barrier consisting of rock was constructed, ensuring a more natural water flow in the project area.

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

Sweet Lake/Willow Lake Hydrologic Restoration (CS-11b)

- Rock Dike
- Vegetative Planting
- Terraces with Vegetative Planting
- Project Boundary

N

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 1 Kilometers

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U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station
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Map ID: 2002-04-124