Cameron-Creole Plugs (CS-17)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1991  Project Area: 20,392 acres
Approved Funds: $1.18 M  Total Est. Cost: $2.12 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 865 acres
Status: Completed January 1997
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL #: 1

Location

This project is located approximately 6 miles northeast of Cameron in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. It encompasses 14,471 acres of intermediate-to-brackish marsh dominated by marshhay cordgrass (Spartina patens).

Problems

High rates of marsh loss have resulted from saltwater intrusion from the Gulf of Mexico via the Calcasieu Ship Channel and Calcasieu Lake.

Excessive salt water pooling from hydrologic alterations in the southern end of the project area has caused vegetation death.

Shoreline erosion from wind-driven wave action threatens fragile, broken marsh in the eastern project area.

Restoration Strategy

In 1989, a levee and five water control structures were constructed along the east shore of Calcasieu Lake as part of the Cameron-Creole Watershed Management Project. In the current project (CS-17), two plugs were installed in the Lakeshore Borrow Canal to moderate water circulation and flow, as well as reduce the duration of inundation in the southern project area.

Project effectiveness will be determined by monitoring salinity, water flow, water level, and vegetation in the project area and reference area.

Progress to Date

Based on emergent vegetation surveys, the total percent of vegetative cover was highest in the reference area at 96% in 1996, increasing to 98% in 1997 and to 99% in 2000. Cover in the northern project area increased from 95% in 1996 to 96% in 1997 before decreasing slightly to 92% in 2000. The southern project area experienced a slight decrease in cover from 83% in 1996 to 78% in 1997, followed by a slight increase to 81% in 2000.

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
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736

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