Project Status
Approved Date: 2004  Project Area: 10,551 acres *
Approved Funds: $14.3 M  Total Est. Cost: $14.3 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 261 acres
Status: Completed
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 8

Location
Region 4, Cameron Parish, The project is located on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, west of Highway 27, in large open water areas northeast of Brown’s Lake.

Problems
The project area is experiencing marsh degradation due to saltwater intrusion and freshwater loss. This has resulted in the conversion of vegetated intermediate marsh to large shallow open water areas. Salinity migrates into the region from the Calcasieu River. Southeast winds push saline waters into the project area through canals and bayous. Wind driven waves cause further loss of the remaining marsh fringe.

Restoration Strategy
A permanent dredged material disposal pipeline, measuring 3.57 miles in length, will be constructed in Cycle II. The pipeline will commence near Mile 13.2 of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel and terminate at the northeastern corner of the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Much of the right of way required for the pipeline was previously impacted by the construction of a temporary pipeline used during the construction of Cycle I. The pipeline is to be used for future marsh creation projects in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance dredging of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel.

* Acreage is the total for all 5 cycles.

Cost figures as of: April 2020

Progress to Date
The Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation Project was originally approved as part of the Project Priority List 8 in 1999. The project was later broken into 5 cycles. In 2004, additional funds for engineering and design and construction were approved for Cycle II. The pipeline is constructed and will be available for use during the 2011 maintenance dredging of the Calcasieu River Ship Channel.

This project is on Priority Project List 8.

For more information, please contact:

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

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
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