Cameron-Creole Freshwater Introduction (CS-49)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2009  Project Area: 22,510 acres
Approved Funds: $21.1 M  Total Est. Cost: $26.7 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 218 acres
Status: Planning and Design
Project Type: Freshwater Diversion
PPL #: 18

Location

The project area is located on the east side of Calcasieu Lake and west of Gibbstown Bridge and Highway 27.

Problems

Virtually all of the project area marshes have experienced increased tidal exchange, saltwater intrusion, and reduced freshwater retention resulting from hydrologic changes associated with the Calcasieu Ship Channel and the GIWW. In addition, thousands of acres of marsh were damaged by Hurricane Rita and again, more recently, by Hurricane Ike. Because of man-made alterations to the hydrology, it is unlikely that those marshes will recover without comprehensive restoration efforts. The Cameron-Creole Watershed Project has successfully reduced salinities and increased marsh productivity. However, the area remains disconnected from freshwater, sediments, and nutrients available from the GIWW.

Restoration Strategy

The freshwater introduction project would restore the function, value, and sustainability to approximately 22,510 acres of marsh and open water by improving hydrologic conditions via freshwater input and increasing organic productivity.

Progress to Date

Project is currently in the Planning and Design Phase. Project Team has completed all surveying, geotechnical investigations, and modeling requirements and the project has been designed to 95% and ready for construction. The planting portion of the project is completed. Phase II funding for the project features will be requested at the January 2018 Task Force meeting.

This project is on Priority Project List 18.

Hurricane damaged marsh in the project area to be benefitted by the proposed features.

For more information, please contact:

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

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
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Cost figures as of: November 2019