April 2018

Cost figures as of: February 2023

Sabine Marsh Creation Cycles 6 & 7 (CS-81)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2018 **Project Area:** 929 acres
Approved Funds: $3.82 M **Total Est. Cost**: $27.9 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 900 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 27

Location

This project is located in Region 4, Cameron Parish. It is within the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge, west of Highway 27, in large open waters areas north and northwest of Brown's Lake.

Problems

Initial marsh losses have been attributed to storm induced high saline water events during the 1950s and 1960s. Those events have resulted in the conversion of vegetated intermediate marsh to large areas of shallow brackish water. More recently, loss of marsh habitat in this area has been attributed to wind driven waves eroding marshes surrounding the large open water areas.

Restoration Strategy

The goal of this project is to beneficially use material dredged from the Calcasieu River Ship Channel during one of the Corps' routine maintenance dredging events to create marsh within one of the project's marsh creation cells. These marsh creation cells are large open water areas that are positioned to slow saltwater intrusion and to reduce the wind induced erosion.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service goals include the creation of habitat or improvement of habitat for rare species, species of concern, and threatened and endangered species. The creation of brackish intertidal marsh habitat would be beneficial to several species that are currently on the species of concern list. These include, but are not limited to Least Bittern, Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Louisiana Eyed Silkmoth, and Saltwater Topminnow.

This project consists of the creation of 900 acres of marsh and nourishment of 29 acres of marsh using material dredged (approximately 4 million cubic yards) from the Calcasieu River Ship Channel in 2 cycles. The marsh creation would utilize the 3.57 mile permanent pipeline that extends from the Calcasieu River Ship Channel to the Sabine NWR. The dredged material will be contained by earthen dikes. Lower level earthen overflow weirs will be constructed to assist in the dewatering of each marsh creation disposal area and to create shallow fringe marsh. The dredged slurry will be placed between elevations +4.0' and +4.5' MLG (consistent with the completed Cycles 1-5). Marsh will be created both within and outside of the Sabine NWR.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design on February 9th, 2018.

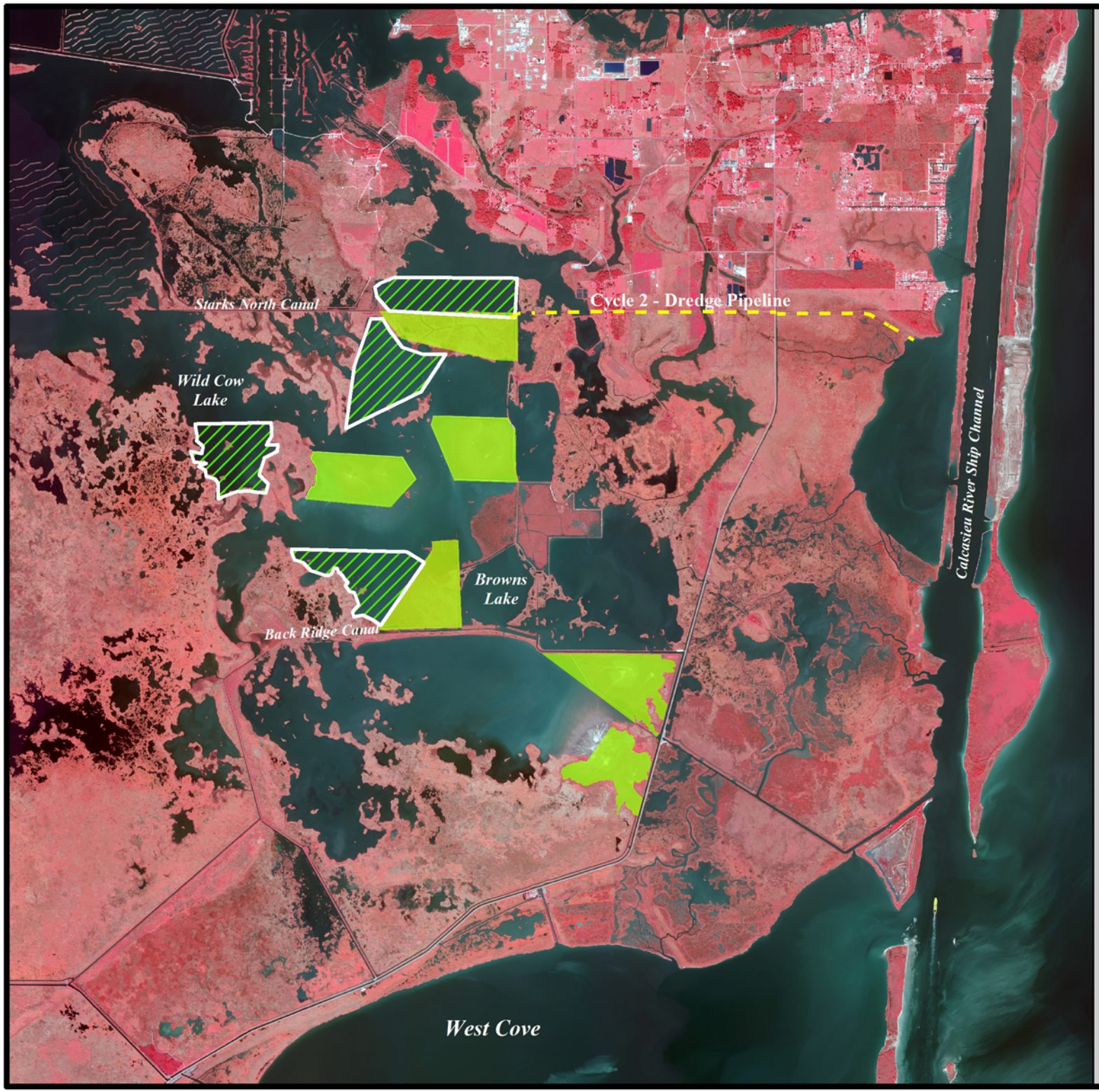
This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 27.

For more 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) 342-4733

Sabine Refuge Marsh Creation, Cycles 6 and 7 (CS-81)



CS-28 Pipeline Corridor

Marsh Creation *

CS-28 Marsh Creation Cycle

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.5 0 0.5 1 Kilometers

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Coastal and Oceanic Restoration Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2015 DOQQ

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