East Cove Marsh Creation (CS-88)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2022 **Project Area:** 355 acres
Approved Funds: $2.76 M **Total Est. Cost**: $29.1 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 274 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 31

Location

Region 4, Calcasieu/Sabine Basin, Cameron Parish, East Cove Unit of the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge along the south shore of Calcasieu Lake.

Problems

The marshes within the Cameron Creole Watershed have suffered extensive losses due to subsidence, sea level rise, salinity intrusion and Hurricanes Rita, Ike and, most recently, Hurricane Laura. According to the Calcasieu-Sabine Basin Report (2019), saline and brackish marsh in this area is degraded and impounded causing flood stress to the point of low productivity resulting in greater elevation and land loss, especially during high-energy storm events. Based on analysis conducted by USGS, loss rates in the project extended boundary are estimated to be -1.89% per year for the period 1984 to 2020. This area has therefore been the focus of coastal restoration efforts involving hydrologic restoration, freshwater diversions, terracing and marsh creation.

Restoration Strategy

Approximately 2.8 million cubic yards of sediment will be hydraulically dredged from a borrow area in Calcasieu Lake and placed into two marsh creation areas totaling 355 acres. Target elevations will be designed to support saline marsh and to ensure the marsh is within the optimal inundation range.

Containment dikes will be constructed around the marsh creation areas to achieve target elevations. Once pumping has been completed, the containment dikes will be gapped and/or degraded no later than TY3. Plantings are proposed at 50% of the project area should the area not vegetate naturally by TY3.

Flood stress and storm impacts has severely impacted remnant marshes in and near the project area.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2022.

This project is on Priority Project List 31.

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
(225) 342-4736

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Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

N

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

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

Background Imagery:
2019 NAIP

Map Date: February 10, 2022
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2022-11-0009
Data accurate as of: January 14, 2022