Project Status

Approved Date: 2002  
Project Area: Coastwide  
Approved Funds: $41.8 M  
Total Est. Cost: $68.0 M  
Net Benefit After 20 Years: N/A  
Status: Implementation  
Project Type: Herbivory Control  
PPL #: 11

Location

This project is located throughout the coastal zone of Louisiana. The program area includes all basins and coastal parishes located south of Interstates 10 and 12.

Problems

Prior to implementation of the Coastwide Nutria Control Program in 2002, fur trapping activity had declined drastically for over 10 years because of weak market demand and low prices. In coastal Louisiana, this decline has resulted in overpopulation of nutria and serious damage to coastal wetlands from nutria herbivory. Annual aerial surveys from 1993 to 2001 have indicated that approximately 100,000 acres have been impacted coastwide.

Restoration Strategy

This project's objective is to significantly reduce the damage nutria herbivory causes to coastal wetlands.

The Coastwide Nutria Control Program is designed to remove about 400,000 nutria annually. The control program consists of an incentive payment program to encourage nutria harvesting. The program is implemented by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Alexandria, LA  
(318) 473-7816

Local Sponsor:  
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 342-4736

Nutria harvest locations are recorded in an effort to compare harvest levels and occurrence of herbivory damage.