Project Status
Approved Date: 2017  Project Area: 33,262 acres
Approved Funds: $0.93 M  Total Est. Cost: $3.80 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 26 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Invasives Control
PPL #: 26

Location
Coastwide

Problems
The invasive plant, giant Salvinia, was first observed in Chenier Plain marshes in 2009. Since then it has spread throughout most of the Louisiana Chenier Plain marshes. This plant can stack up above the water surface to as much as 6 to 12 inches. Under such conditions, oxygen exchange is greatly reduced, and decay of shaded Salvinia can easily cause anoxic conditions in affected areas. As a result, habitat quality of badly infested areas is severely degraded, and may affect many species typical of fresh marshes, including many species of management concern (alligator snapping turtle, mottled duck [including critical brood rearing habitat], wintering migratory waterfowl, black rail, king rail, little blue heron, whooping crane, and peregrine falcon.

Restoration Strategy
LSU Ag. Center has a pond in Jeanerette which is capable of producing weevil-infested Salvinia, but LSU does not have funding to operate a weevil production facility there. Costs associated with this project consist primarily of supplies and one part-time position to operate the pond, coordinate public weevil harvests, keep records of release locations, monitor Salvinia problem areas, assist landowners in conducting weevil releases, relay infested Salvinia to new locations, and conduct public outreach to promote the program.

Progress to Date
This project was approved for Phase I, Phase II, and Operation in January 2017.

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 26.

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

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