



Gulf Shoreline Protection West (ME-43)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2026 **Project Area:** 244 acres
Approved Funds: 2.4M **Total Est. Cost:** 2.4M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 182 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Shoreline Protection
PPL #: 35

Location

Region 4, Mermentau Basin, Cameron Parish, south of Rockefeller State Wildlife Refuge.

Problems

The Gulf shoreline in the vicinity of Rockefeller Refuge has some of the highest shoreline erosion rates found anywhere in Louisiana. Gulf shoreline erosion rates between Josephs Harbor and Price Lake Road, have been estimated to be -45 feet per year (1998 to 2023). After recent hurricanes, erosion rates west of Price Lake Road, were estimated to be 53 feet per year (1998 to 2019). This is equivalent to nearly 11 acres of marsh/shoreline lost per year in the project area. Without protection, the Rockefeller Refuge shoreline will continue to retreat landward, which could have substantial impacts on the refuge (including resident endangered species) as well as the surrounding area. Without stabilizing the Gulf shoreline at Rockefeller Refuge, the shoreline may retreat over 900 ft within a 20-year timespan.

Restoration Strategy

The project goal is to halt Gulf shoreline erosion along a critical 2-mile-long reach where continued erosion will threaten the integrity of Price Lake Road and the watershed within Rockefeller Refuge as well as the recently constructed CWPPRA project ME-20. A total of 217 acres of existing marsh would be protected by the project.

Service goals include the protection of shoreline beaches designated as critical habitat for the threatened piping plover and beaches used by the threatened red knot. The project would also prevent the loss of back beach marshes which is highly likely to be occupied habitat for the recently listed black rail.

The proposed project is similar to the Rockefeller Refuge Gulf Shoreline Stabilization Project (ME-18). The project would construct 10,560 LF of foreshore breakwater with a light-weight aggregate core along the -3.5-ft (NAVD88)



contour (approximately 150-ft offshore). It would extend west from the Rockefeller Shoreline Protection Project ME-37 project and parallel the shoreline with gaps every 1,500-ft. The project feature may trap sediments from the Gulf, which could result in accretion behind the breakwater as has occurred at ME-18.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design on January 15, 2026.

This project is on Priority Project (PPL) 35.

For more information, please contact:



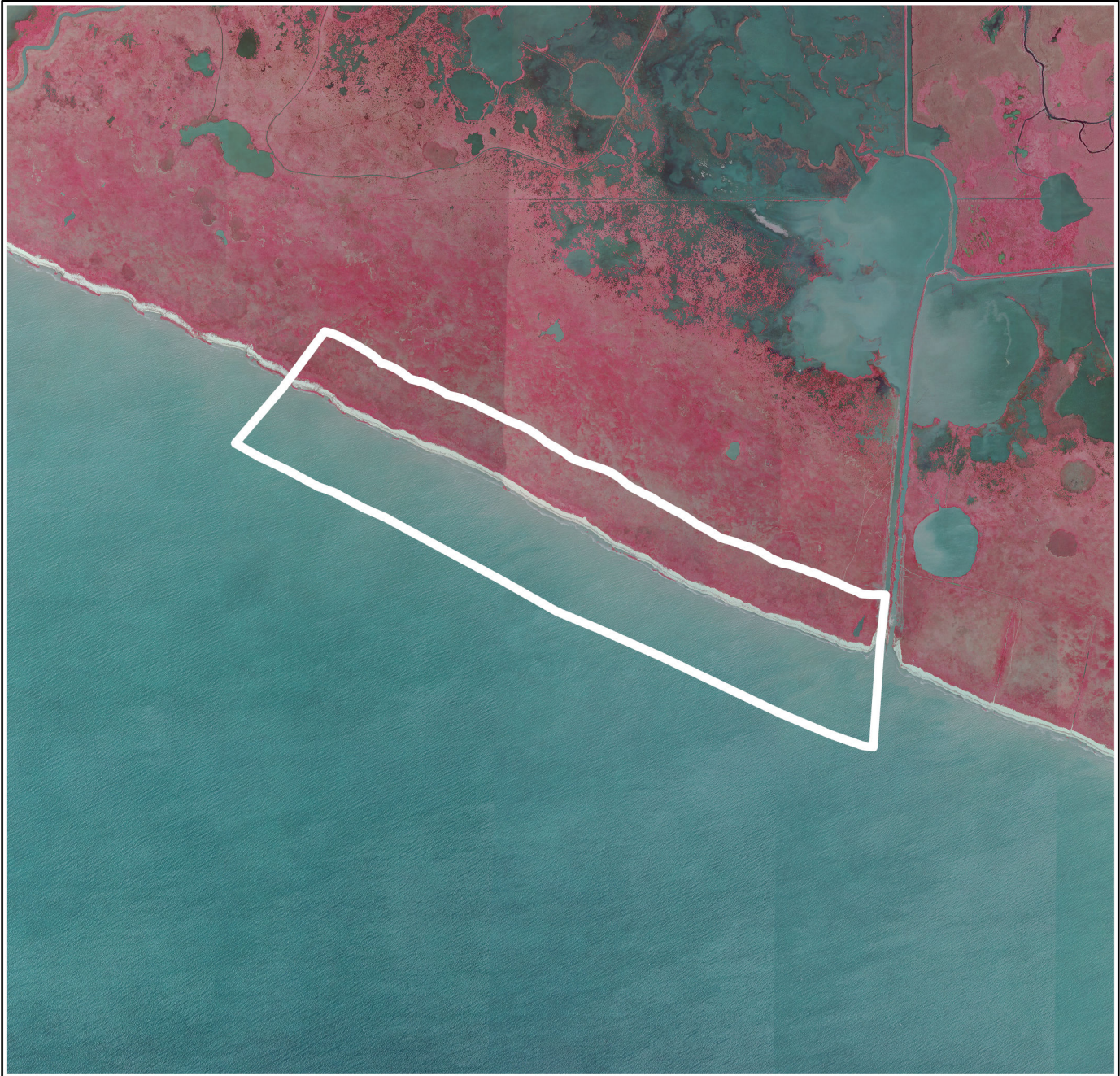
Federal Sponsor:

Natural Resources Conservation Service
 Alexandria, LA
 (318) 473-7751



Local Sponsor:

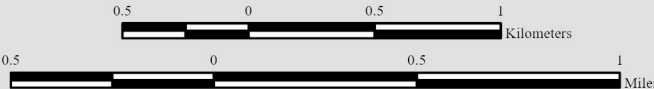
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
 Baton Rouge, LA
 (225) 342-4733



Gulf Shoreline Protection West (PPL 35 Candidate)



 Project Area



Scale: 1:30,000

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
Wetland and Aquatic Research Center
Lafayette, La.

Image Source:
2023 NAIP CIR

Map ID: 2025-11-0015
Map Date: June 23, 2024