Aerial view looking north depicting the marsh created within the Bayou LaBranche project area. Lake Pontchartrain is in the foreground, U.S. Interstate 10 can be seen running east to west near the top, and the emergent marsh (open water prior to 1994) is the large, vegetated area in the center.

**Location**
The project is bounded by U.S. Interstate 10 to the south and Lake Pontchartrain to the north. It is approximately 3 miles northeast of Norco, Louisiana, in St. Charles Parish.

**Problems**
Construction of Interstate 10 (with its associated construction access canals), the Illinois Central Railroad, and an abandoned agricultural development resulted in altered hydrology and increased salinity.

The primary cause of wetland loss in the area was the failure of agricultural impoundments and subsequent flooding.

An unnamed hurricane in 1915 and Hurricane Betsy (1965) caused salt water to overflow the banks of Lake Pontchartrain and flow unchecked through canals. This overflow resulted in excessive salt water in the project area marsh and a subsequent loss of intermediate marsh vegetation.

**Restoration Strategy**
The project's goal was to create an area of 70% land and 30% water within 5 years of construction. Depositing 2.7 million cubic yards of sediments dredged from Lake Pontchartrain within an earthen containment berm created new, emergent marsh in what had formerly been an open water area.

Project effectiveness was evaluated by monitoring emerging wetland vegetation growth, water quality, and both the elevation and compaction rates of the deposited sediment.