Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge
Hydrologic Restoration, Phase 2 (PO-18)

Location
The project is located in Orleans Parish, approximately 10 miles north of Chalmette, Louisiana. It is situated between Lake Pontchartrain and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The project encompasses approximately 5,475 acres of fresh marsh and open water.

Problems
The construction of U.S. Interstate 10, a railroad line, and hurricane protection levees left the historically brackish marsh hydrologically isolated. In addition to this isolation, poor drainage subjected the area to periods of prolonged flooding, resulting in land loss.

Restoration Strategy
Pumps were installed in the project area to lower water levels during the growing season so that vegetative growth would be promoted.

Progress to Date
Initial problems with the pumps were corrected, and the project was accepted at a final inspection conducted May 28, 1997. Project effectiveness was evaluated by monitoring water levels and vegetative growth in both the project and reference areas over spring-summer and fall-winter periods.

A vegetation survey in 1997 indicated dry conditions conducive to marsh plant growth. These conditions, however, were probably the result of drought rather than project efforts. Water levels were naturally low and pumps were only used once in the spring-summer period.

Target water levels were achieved approximately 32% of the time in the spring-summer period and 48% in the fall-winter. Water levels were below the target range much of the time because of the low water levels associated with the drought. This project is on Priority Project List 2.

For more project information, please contact:

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Local Sponsor:
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