June 2021
Cost figures as of: February 2023

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

Project Status

Approved Date: 1992 **Project Area:** 5,475 acres
Approved Funds: $1.69 M **Total Est. Cost**: $1.69 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 1,280 acres
Status: Completed May 1997
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL#: 2

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.

The pumps were inoperable for several years following Hurricane Katrina due to levee improvements and pump replacement. The Task Force granted a 6-year extension to the project life. The project will expire in 2023.

The pumps are rarely used to manage the impoundment. The FWS is able to manage the impoundment via gravity drainage.

This project is on Priority Project List 2.

Aerial view of the Bayou Sauvage project's northwestern area.

A Bayou Sauvage pump station, facing west into the management area.

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) 342-4736

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Pump

Project Boundary

N

0.5 0 0.5 1 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 1 Kilometers

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: July 1, 2002
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