June 2004 (rev.)
Cost figures as of: April 2024

Chandeleur Islands Marsh Restoration (PO-27)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2000 **Project Area:** 504 acres
Approved Funds: $0.83 M **Total Est. Cost:** $0.83 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 220 acres
Status: Completed July 2001
Project Type: Barrier Island Restoration
PPL #: 9

Location

The Chandeleur Islands are a barrier island chain located in easternmost St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana. The islands are bounded by the Gulf of Mexico to the north, south, and east, and Chandeleur and Breton Sounds to the west. The 44.7 mile long barrier island chain is located about 70 miles east of New Orleans within the Breton National Wildlife Refuge.

Problems

Breaches in this barrier island chain caused by Hurricane Georges in 1998 makes the island susceptible to increased shoreline erosion. The storm reduced the area of the islands by 40%. In order to prevent further loss of this barrier island chain and retain some of the sediment in the washover channels, revegetation must be undertaken immediately.

Restoration Strategy

The purpose of this project is to provide stabilization to 364 acres of unvegetated washover deposits on 22 overwash fan sites through smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) plantings. These plantings should complement the natural colonization that often occurs on these overwash deposits. Increased percent cover of vegetation on these deposits should allow for the maintenance and accretion of back barrier marshes through sediment trapping.

Aerial view of the Chandeleur Islands.

The plantings of smooth cordgrass shown above are thriving.

Progress to Date

Phase 1 construction of the project was completed in July 2001 and consisted of a total of 80,730 plants installed at 10 overwash sites. A total of 35,100 linear feet of shoreline was planted. As a result of limited remaining planting areas, both project sponsors have elected to conclude the project at this time.

This project is listed on Priority Project List 9.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 389-0508

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736

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Vegetative Planting Sites

Project Boundary

USGS science for a changing world

4 0 4 Miles

4 0 4 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
2002 Thematic Mapper Imagery

Map Date: May 12, 2003
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