(rev) June 2021
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2004 **Project Area:** 1,384 acres
Approved Funds: $14.4 M **Total Est. Cost**: $14.5 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 436 acres
Status: Construction Completed
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL#: 13

Location

The project is located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain between Fountainebleu State Park and Louisiana Highway 11 and within the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. The project area at Goose Point also includes a portion of the St. Tammany State Wildlife Refuge.

Problems

Interior ponding and, to a lesser extent, shoreline erosion are the major causes of wetland loss in the project area. Loss rates were highest during the period from 1956 to 1978. Those high loss rates were associated with hydrologic alterations which allowed salt water to penetrate the fresher marshes. During the transition to a more brackish plant community, large ponds were formed. A narrow strip of land separates those ponds from Lake Pontchartrain. Although the shoreline erosion rates are relatively low, the shoreline is already breached in several areas, and marsh loss in the interior ponds is expected to increase if the shoreline fails.

Restoration Strategy

The goal of this project is to re-create marsh habitat in the open water behind the shoreline. This new marsh will maintain the lake-rim function along this section of the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain by preventing the formation of breaches into interior ponds.

Sediment will be dredged from Lake Pontchartrain and contained in cells within the interior ponds to create approximately 417 acres of marsh. In addition, 149 acres of degraded marsh will be nourished with dredged material. Marsh will be created to widen the shoreline so that the ponds will not be breached during the course of normal shoreline retreat.

View looking south toward Lake Pontchartrain showing the narrow strip of shoreline between the lake and the interior marsh pond near Point Platte.

Progress to Date

On February 12, 2009, a final inspection of the project site was conducted. The project was completed in 2009 and monitoring activities are ongoing. A maintenance event was conducted in 2020 which included the construction of containment dike gaps and tidal creeks to improve tidal exchange and marsh functionality.

This project is on Priority Project List 13.

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

Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation (PO-33)

- Containment Dike*
- Marsh Creation*
- Marsh Nourishment*
- Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
- St. Tammany Wildlife Management Area
- Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

N

0.5 0 0.5 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 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
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