June 2021
Cost figures as of: February 2023

West Fourchon Marsh Creation & Nourishment (TE-134)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2015 **Project Area:** 614 acres
Approved Funds: $29.5 M **Total Est. Cost**: $30.4 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 304 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 24

Location

The project is located approximately 0.2 mile west of Port Fourchon in Region 3, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The primary causes of land loss in the project area are oil and gas canals, subsidence, and sediment deprivation, which have resulted in an estimated rate of -0.69% per year based on hyper-temporal analysis conducted by USGS for the extended project boundary for the years 1984 to 2018. Bounded by Bayou Lafourche to the east and Timbalier Bay to the west of the project area is also subject to shoreline erosion.

Smooth cordgrass marsh and black mangroves at the site of the West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Nourishment project.

Restoration Strategy

This project would create 295 acres and nourish 242 acres of open water, emergent saline smooth cordgrass marsh, and black mangrove habitat using material dredged from the Gulf of Mexico, southwest of the project area. Earthen containment dikes will be constructed along the project boundaries to contain the material. Contaiment dikes will be degraded or gapped by TY3 to allow access for estuarine organisms. Funding will be set aside for the creation of tidal creeks if needed. This project, along with TE-23 West Belle Pass Headland Restoration and TE-52 West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, will help stabilize the edge of the marshes and protect Port Fourchon from the west. The initial construction elevation is +2.0 feet NAVD 88 GEOID12A. After settlement, even with subsidence and sea level rise, the created marsh is expected to remain in the optimal inundation range over the 20-year project life.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2015. The 30% design review meeting was held on July 10, 2018 and the 95% design review meeting was held on October 24, 2018. The project was approved for Phase 2 construction in January 2020.

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 24.

For more 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
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West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Marsh Nourishment (TE-134)

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2016 Digitial Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: September 21, 2018
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2018-11-0032
Data accurate as of: August 29, 2018