October 2002
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Vegetative Plantings, Falgout Canal Demonstration (TE-17)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1991 **Project Area:** N/A
Approved Funds: $0.20 M **Total Est. Cost:** $0.20 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: N/A
Status: Completed Dec. 1996
Project Type: Demonstration: Vegetative Planting and Shoreline Protection
PPL #: 1

Location

Approximately 50 acres in size, the project is southeast of Theriot, Louisiana, in Terrebonne Parish. It is located on the northern bank of the Falgout Canal between Bayou du Large and the Houma Navigation Canal.

Problems

Construction of the Houma Navigation Canal in 1964 created a direct connection from the Falgout Canal to the Gulf of Mexico. This connection increased water level variability, salinity, and boat traffic in the interior canals and marshes.

The levee bordering Falgout Canal has experienced severe erosion at an estimated average rate of 3 feet per year since its construction.

Restoration Strategy

Smooth cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) was planted along 1,500 linear feet of the northern bank of Falgout Canal to prevent the canal shoreline from breaching and exposing adjacent interior marshes to saltwater intrusion, increased water exchange, and erosion from boat wakes.

Six types of wave damping structures were constructed along a 1,450-foot stretch of the northern bank of Falgout Canal to protect the vegetative planting from boat wake erosion. The six structure types were monitored to evaluate their relative effectiveness.

Progress to Date

The Comprehensive Monitoring Report of June 2000 reported that none of the vegetative plantings survived the period of study. Likewise, although the structures remained in place, subsequent shoreline erosion rates were not reduced. Monitoring has ceased, and the Comprehensive Monitoring Report was accepted by the sponsoring agencies as the closeout report. This project is on Priority Project List 1.

One of the six types of wave-damping structures tested for their ability to protect the canal's shoreline.

Another one of the six designs tested in the shoreline protection study.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7816

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

Falgout Canal Planting Demonstration (TE-17)

Shoreline Protection

Project Boundary

N

250 0 250 500 Feet

100 0 100 Meters

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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