March 2022

Cost figures as of: February 2023

Port Fourchon Marsh Creation (TE-171)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2022 **Project Area:** 605 acres
Approved Funds: $3.48 M **Total Est. Cost**: $37.0 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 450 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 31

Location

Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, Lafourche Parish

Problems

Historic wetland loss in the project area stems from subsidence, sediment deprivation, and construction of pipeline canals. According to USGS data, nearly 324,000 acres of land were lost between 1932 and 2010 within the basin, which had the highest land loss rate in the state from 1985 to 2004. Wetlands have been replaced by open water where canals are dug, while spoil banks convert them to upland habitat. Bounded by Bayou Lafourche to the east and Timbalier Bay to the west, the project area is also subject to shoreline erosion. Land loss rate is estimated at -1.56%.

Restoration Strategy

The primary goals of this project are to restore degraded wetland habitat and provide increased protection from storm surge and flooding. Specific goals of the project are to create approximately 514 acres and nourish approximately 91 acres of marsh with dredged material from Belle Pass. The project would also evaluate the use of Belle Pass sediment for coastal restoration and demonstrate cost sharing opportunities with local stakeholders. This project helps to further EPA CWPPRA Team goals by improving local community resilience, restoring wetland habitats and protecting critical infrastructure, and supporting stakeholder priorities in synergy with EPA's mission.

The project will create/nourish 605 acres of wetlands by converting open water into marsh and nourishing existing marsh remnants with sediment hydraulically dredged from a borrow source in Belle Pass. Temporary containment dikes will be constructed and gapped within three years of construction to allow greater tidal exchange and estuarine organism access. Restoration in this area would build the area's defenses against hurricanes and flooding.

Site of Port Fourchon Marsh Creation (TE-171) taken during the Wetland Value Assessment in Summer of 2021.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2022.

This project is on Priority Project List 31.

For more information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dallas, TX
(214) 665-6722

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

Port Fourchon Marsh Creation (TE-171)

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

Louisiana

Project Location

N

0.35 0 0.35 0.7 Kilometers

0.3 0 0.3 0.6 Miles

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

Background Imagery:
2019 NAIP

Map Date: April 19, 2022
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