



# South Lake De Cade Freshwater Introduction (TE-39)

## Project Status

**Approved Date:** 2000      **Project Area:** 1,685 acres

**Approved Funds:** \$3 M      **Total Est. Cost:** \$5 M

**Net Benefit After 20 Years:** 202 acres

**Status:** Completed

**Project Type:** Freshwater Diversion and  
Shoreline Protection

**PPL #:** 9

## Location

The project is located in Terrebonne Parish, approximately 15 miles southwest of Houma, Louisiana.

## Problems

The project area is experiencing marsh deterioration due to subsidence, rapid tidal exchange, and human-induced hydrologic changes that result in increased salinities. Saltwater intrusion has caused a shift in marsh type and a conversion of over 30 percent of emergent vegetation to open water habitat. Shoreline erosion along the south embankment of Lake De Cade threatens to breach the hydrologic barrier between the lake and interior marshes.

## Restoration Strategy

Proposed project components include installing three control structures along the south rim of the lake and enlarging Lapeyrouse Canal to allow the controlled diversion of Atchafalaya River water, nutrients, and sediments south into project area marshes. Outfall management structures are planned in the marsh interior to provide better distribution of river water. In addition, approximately 1.6 miles of foreshore rock dike is planned to protect the critical areas of the south lake shoreline from breaching.



Lapeyrouse Canal will function as one of three freshwater introduction sites along the south rim of Lake De Cade after obstructions are removed and the canal reinforced.

## Progress to Date

After initial engineering investigation, the project was divided into two construction units. Construction unit one consisted of the shoreline protection only and was completed in July 2011. Construction unit two consisting of the freshwater introduction component was further investigated and due to uncertainty of benefits was not constructed, and therefore, the project is considered completed.

This project is on Priority Project List 9.

*For more information, please contact:*



**Federal Sponsor:**  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Alexandria, LA  
(318) 473-7756

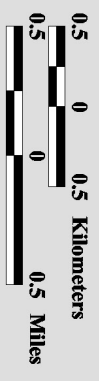
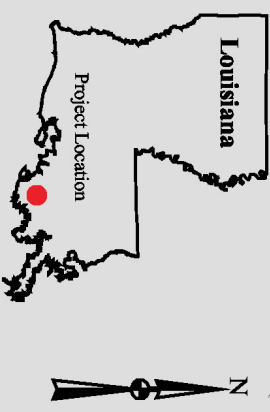


**Local Sponsor:**  
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 342-4736



# South Lake De Cade Freshwater Introduction (TE-39)

- Construction Unit 1
  - Shoreline Protection \*
  - Construction Unit 2
  - Freshwater Introduction \*
  - Plug \*
  - Weir \*
  - Containment Dike \*
  - Dredge Channel \*
  - Project Boundary
- \* denotes proposed features



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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