March 2008 (rev)
Cost figures as of: February 2023

South Lake De Cade Freshwater Introduction (TE-39)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2000 **Project Area:** 1,685 acres
Approved Funds: $3.43 M **Total Est. Cost:** $4.90 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 202 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
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

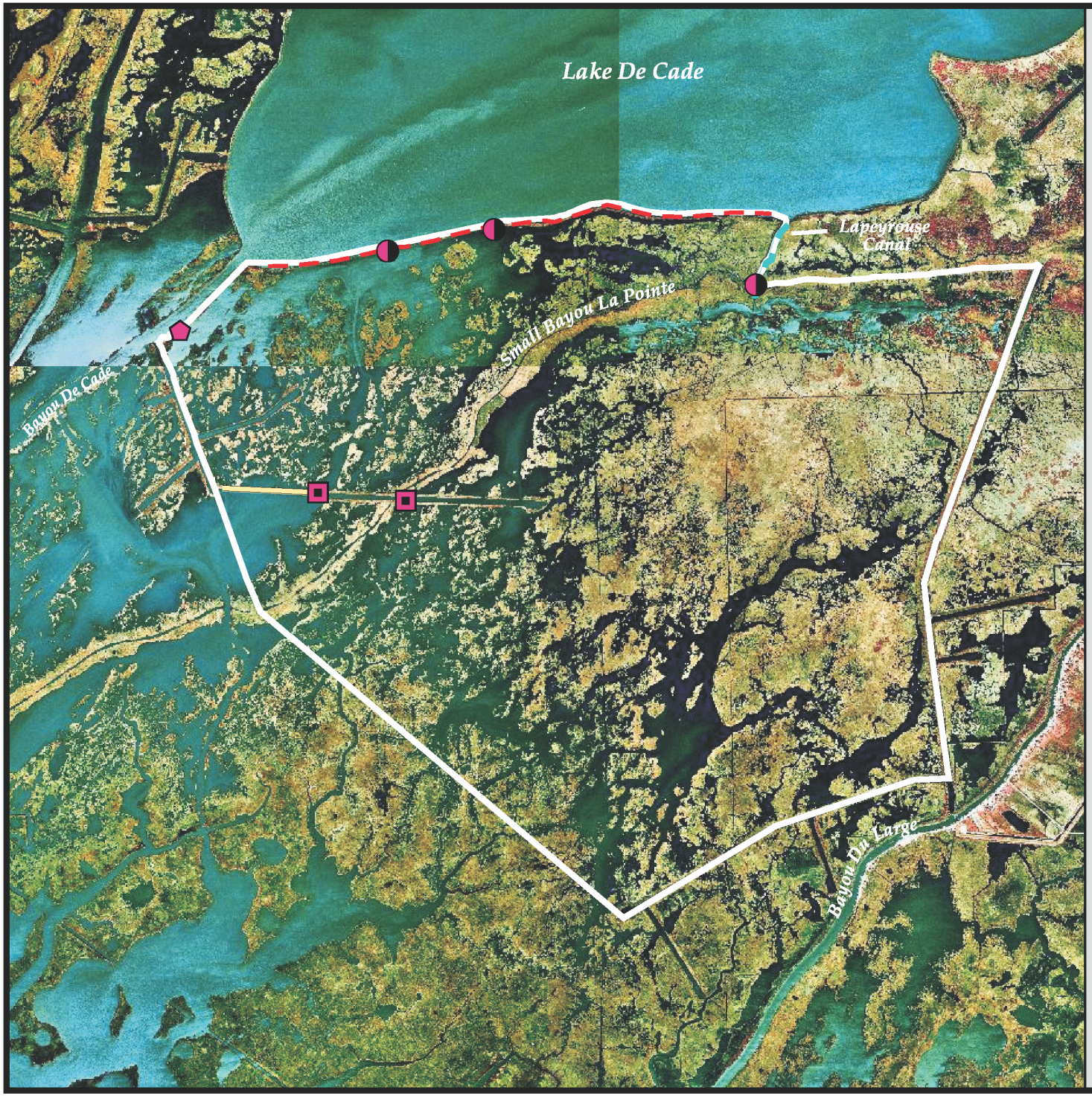
After initial engineer investigation the project was divided into two construction units. Construction unit one will consist of the shoreline protection components. The other will be freshwater introduction components. Engineering and design on the shoreline protection component is complete and constructions is pending Phase 2 approval. Data gathering and analysis is being conducted on the freshwater diversion aspects of the project.

This project is on Priority Project List 9.

For more project 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

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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: October 1, 2003
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2003-11-067
Data accurate as of: October 1, 2003