Terrebonne Bay Marsh
Creation-Nourishment (TE-83)
Deauthorized

Project Status
Approved Date: 2011  
Project Area: 664 acres
Approved Funds: $2.90 M  
Total Est. Cost: aaaTEC
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 353 acres
Status: Deauthorized
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 20

Location
This project is located in Region 3, Terrebonne Basin,  
Terrebonne Parish, along the northern shoreline of Lake  
Barre/Terrebonne Bay near Bayou Terrebonne continuing  
east a short distance past Bayou Chitique.

Problems
Emergent marshes north of Terrebonne Bay have been  
eroding as fast or faster than almost any other marshes  
along coastal Louisiana. As these marshes convert to  
shallow open water, the tidal prism will increase which will  
in turn increase the frequency and duration of tides north  
of Terrebonne Bay. This increasing tidal prism is likely  
to increase the future interior marsh loss rates for those  
marshes directly north of Terrebonne Bay. These marshes are  
important for their habitat values as well as serving to slow  
the progress of highly saline waters that threaten the lower  
salinity marshes north and west of Madison Bay and in the  
Lake Boudreaux basin. The  
continued loss of these marshes has directly contributed to  
the ongoing flooding problems of many communities along  
Bayou Terrebonne including the town of Montegut.

Restoration Strategy
The primary goal of this project is to fill shallow open water  
areas and nourish marshes north of Terrebonne Bay/Lake  
Barre thereby reducing the tidal prism north of Terrebonne  
Bay and  
interior land loss from tidal scouring. Specific Goals: 1)  
Create 365 acres of intertidal marsh in shallow open water  
and nourish 299 acres of fragmented marsh within the  
project area reducing  
water exchange between Terrebonne Bay and interior lakes  
during tidal and small storm events. 2) Reduce erosion along  
16,000 ft of the northern Terrebonne Bay shoreline.

The proposed features of this project consist of filling  
approximately 365 acres of shallow open water and  
nourishing approximately 299 acres of very low or  
fragmented marsh with material hydraulically dredged from  
Terrebonne Bay/Lake Barre. Containment dikes will be  
degraded/gapped within 3 years of construction to allow  
for greater tidal and estuarine organism access. This project  
could be one part of a phased comprehensive plan to protect  
the northern shoreline of Terrebonne Bay and the interior  
marshes from further erosion and reduce the tidal prism.

The project would result in approximately 353 net acres of  
marsh over the 20-year project life.

Progress to Date
This project is on Priority Project List 20. Phase 1 funding  
approval for engineering and design was given by the Task  
Force in January 2011.

For more information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Lafayette, LA  
(337) 291-3100

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority  
Baton Rouge, LA  
(225) 342-4733

This picture shows the broken marsh in Terrebonne Bay.