rev. March 2008
Cost figures as of: February 2023

Lake Portage Land Bridge (TV-17)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1999 **Project Area:** 1,496 acres
Approved Funds: $1.18 M **Total Est. Cost:** $1.18 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 24 acres
Status: Completed
Project Type: Shoreline Protection
PPL #: 9

Location

The project is located immediately south of Hell Hole in the southern portion of Vermilion Bay within the Louisiana Wildlife Management Area Game Preserve and the Paul J. Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary, west of Southwest Pass in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

In 1971 Sea Robin Pipeline Company (now owned by Trunkline Gas Co.) constructed a 36-inch natural gas pipeline originating offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. It traverses north and south through the two refuges and Vermilion Bay to Henry, Louisiana. Pre-cast articulating concrete block mat systems were constructed at the Gulf shoreline. They are modular in design and are attached by stainless steel cables. They protect underlying subgrades while allowing beneficial vegetative growth. An earthen dike was also constructed approximately midway between the Gulf and Lake Portage, as was a wooden bulkhead at the south shore of Lake Portage (a.k.a. Portage Lake). Since that time significant erosion has begun to occur on both the east and west sides of the mat system. Also, the earthen dike and wooden bulkhead have been breached leaving the pipeline canal susceptible to tidal exchange between the Gulf and Lake Portage and eventually Vermilion Bay.

Restoration Strategy

The project was authorized to address localized wetland loss and imminent breaching of the pipeline canal between Lake Portage and the Gulf of Mexico. Project features include backfilling of the pipeline canal with dedicated dredge material from Vermilion Bay.

The Gulf of Mexico is shown in the foreground and the shoreline, pipeline canal, and Lake Portage is in the background. The land bridge will be reinforced at this site to prevent the Gulf of Mexico from breaking through to Vermilion Bay north of Lake Portage. The work will occur early in 2003.

Progress to Date

Priority Project List 8 provided funding for engineering and design and for the backfilling of the pipeline canal. If monitoring indicates excessive shoreline erosion at the Gulf of Mexico, additional funds will be requested to construct a foreshore rock dike at the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico. Land rights have been secured. Construction was completed in 2004.

A draft monitoring plan has been developed by Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Technical Advisory Group of the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force and is currently in the review stages. It should be finalized by the end of 2002, prior to construction. Preconstruction aerial photography was collected by USGS National Wetlands Research Center in the fall of 2002.

This project is on Priority Project List 8.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
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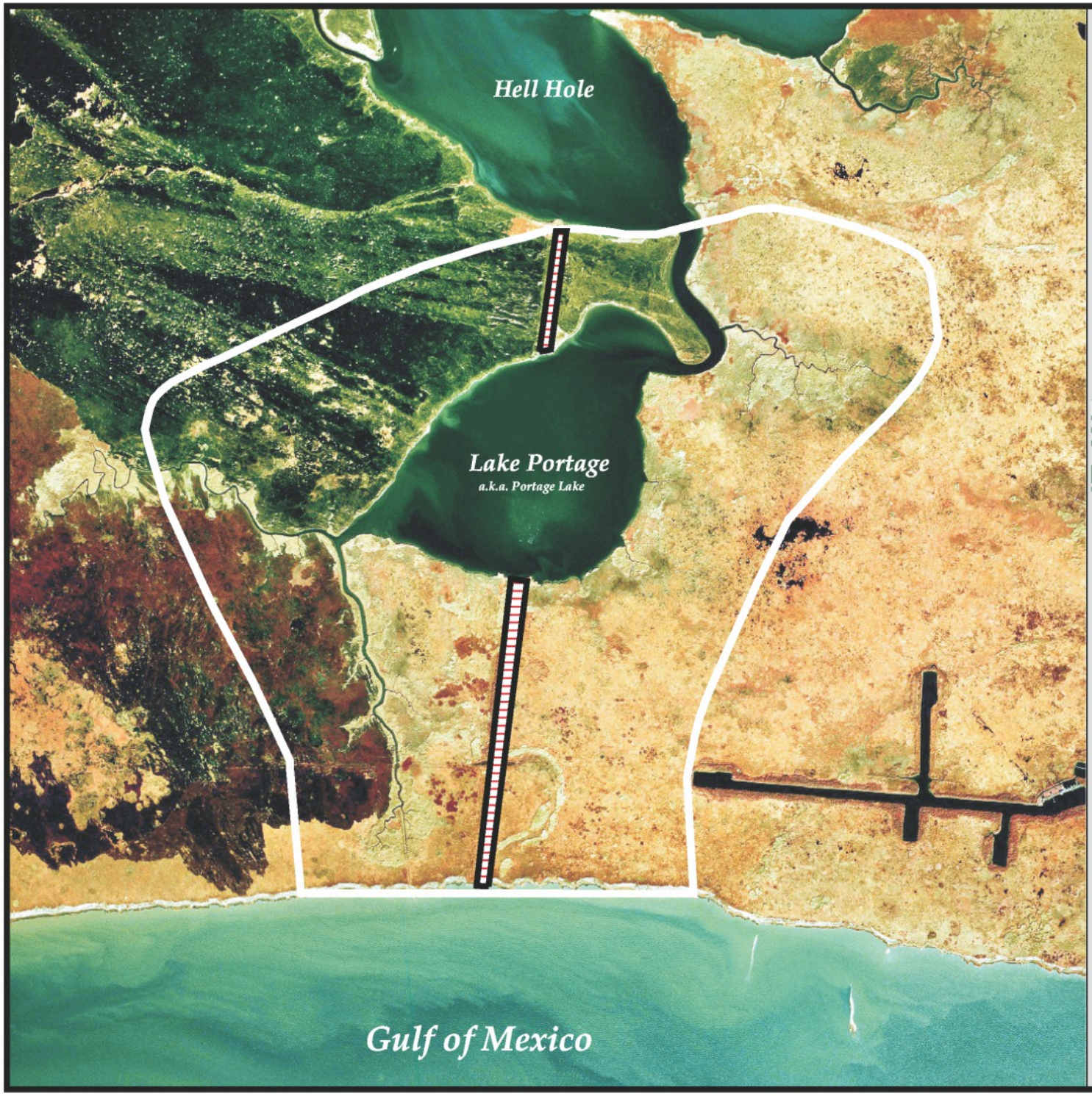
(214) 665-7459

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



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Marsh Creation/ Canal Backfill

Project Boundary

USGS
science for a changing world

N

1500 0 1500 Feet

500 0 500 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

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