



**State of Louisiana  
Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Engineering Division**

**2006/2007 Annual Inspection  
Report**

for

**CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE  
PROTECTION PROJECT  
(ME-09)**

State Project Number ME-09  
Priority Project List 1

November 02, 2007  
Cameron Parish

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## **I. Introduction**

The Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection project is located in north central Cameron Parish and includes 247 acres of highly organic freshwater wetlands located within the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. (See Appendix A).

The Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project was authorized by Section 303(a) of Title III Public Law 101-646, the Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) enacted on November 29, 1990 as amended and approved on the first Priority Project List. The Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project has a twenty –year (20 year) economic life, which began in August 1994.

## **II. Inspection Purpose and Procedures**

The purpose of the annual inspection of the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project (ME-09) is to evaluate the constructed project features to identify any deficiencies and prepare a report detailing the condition of project features and recommended corrective actions needed. Should it be determined that corrective actions are needed, LDNR shall provide, in the report, a detailed cost estimate for engineering, design, supervision, inspection, and construction contingencies, and an assessment of the urgency of such repairs (O&M Plan, 2003). The annual inspection report also contains a summary of maintenance projects, if any, which were completed since completion of constructed project features and an estimated projected budget for the upcoming three (3) years for operation, maintenance and rehabilitation. The three (3) year projected operation and maintenance budget is shown in Appendix C.

An inspection of the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project (ME-09) was held on November 02, 2006 under clear skies and cool temperatures. In attendance were Stan Aucoin, Mel Guidry of LDNR, and Dale Garber of NRCS (for other inspections). Representatives of USFWS were invited but were unable to attend. The annual inspection began at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the western end of the rock dike along the northern bank of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway.

The field inspection included a complete visual inspection of all features. Staff gauge readings were not available to be used to determine approximate water level and foreshore rock dike elevation. Photographs were taken at each project feature (see Appendix B) and Field Inspection notes were completed in the field to record measurements and deficiencies (see Appendix D).

## **III. Project Description and History**

Since the construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) between 1935 and 1940, wave erosion of the marsh adjacent to the GIWW has greatly increased due to the increased use of navigational vessels in the area. Wave erosion along the shoreline of the project area has caused most of the spoil banks to be depleted and allows for abnormal overtopping of the

spoil banks to occur. In 1994, a 13,200-ft limestone breakwater was constructed 0-50 ft from (and parallel) to the northern bank of the GIWW in 3-4 ft of water. The purpose of the breakwater was to prevent the encroachment of the GIWW into 247 acres of highly organic wetlands and to prevent the channel from overtopping and eroding the existing spoil bank.

The principal project features include:

- Approximately 13,200 linear feet of foreshore rock dike along the northern bank of the GIWW.

#### **IV. Summary of Past Operation and Maintenance Projects**

**General Maintenance:** Below is a summary of completed maintenance projects and operation tasks performed since August 1994, the construction completion date of the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project (ME-09).

**2001 – Warning Sign Addition (USACE)** – The US Army Corps of Engineers added warning signs along the northern boundary of the project in August 2001 in response to complaints from the commercial traffic traveling along the GIWW. This is not a project feature to be maintained through CWPPRA.

**Structure Operations:** There are no operations associated with this project.

#### **V. Inspection Results**

##### **Foreshore Rock Dike**

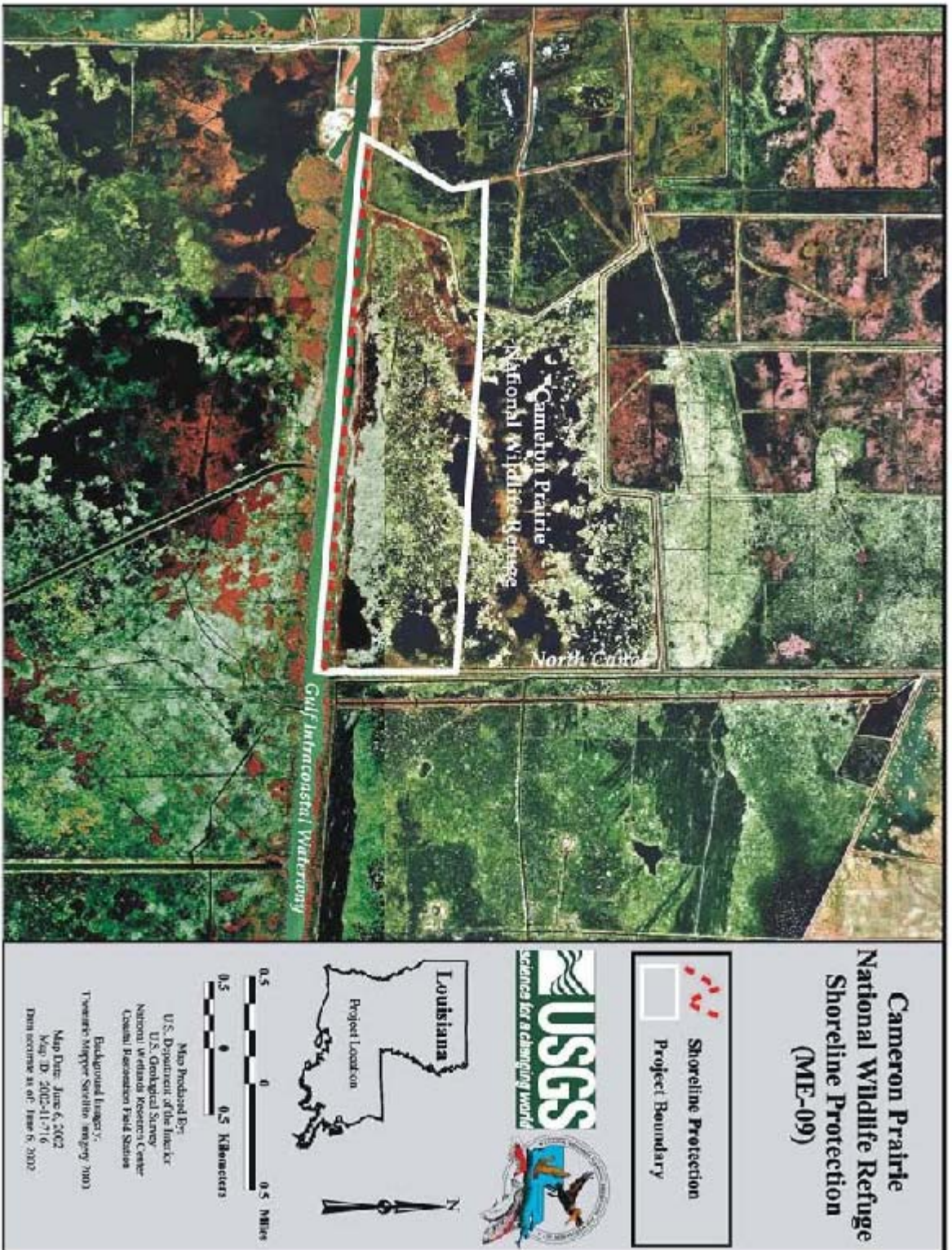
The foreshore rock dike is in excellent post construction condition. There is a short section of dike that is low with some displaced rock. Evidence of increased vegetation behind the foreshore rock dike was noted. No need for any maintenance in the foreseeable future however a staff gage is required. (Photos: Appendix B, Photos 1 - 3)

#### **VI. Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the Cameron Prairie Refuge Protection Project is in excellent condition and functioning as designed however some minor maintenance is required as listed below. This item of work will performed during 2007/2008.

- Install staff gage along rock dike.

**Appendix A**  
**Project Features Map**



## **Appendix B**

### **Photographs**



Photo 1, Tie in to North Prong Canal



Photo2, Typical foreshore dike section.





Photo 3, Low area/displaced rock area along dike.

## **Appendix C**

### **Three Year Budget Projection**

**CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE SP/ ME-09 / PPL 1**  
**Three-Year Operations & Maintenance Budgets 07/01/2007 - 06/30/10**

|                                      |  |                                 |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <u>Project Manager</u><br>Pat Landry | <u>O &amp; M Manager</u><br>Mel Guidry | <u>Federal Sponsor</u><br>USFWS | <u>Prepared By</u><br>Mel Guidry |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|

|                                   | 2007/2008   | 2008/2009   | 2009/2010   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Maintenance Inspection</b>     | \$ 5,407.00 | \$ 5,570.00 | \$ 5,737.00 |
| <b>Structure Operation</b>        |             |             |             |
| <b>Administration</b>             |             | \$ -        | \$ -        |
| <b>Maintenance/Rehabilitation</b> |             |             |             |

07/08 Description: Install staff gage.

|                                      |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| E&D                                  | \$7,500.00         |
| Construction                         |                    |
| Construction Oversight               |                    |
| <b>Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.</b> | <b>\$ 7,500.00</b> |

08/09 Description

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| E&D                                  | \$ -        |
| Construction                         | \$ -        |
| Construction Oversight               | \$ -        |
| <b>Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

09/10 Description:

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| E&D                                  | \$ -        |
| Construction                         | \$ -        |
| Construction Oversight               | \$ -        |
| <b>Sub Total - Maint. And Rehab.</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

|                              | 2007/2008           | 2008/2009          | 2009/2010          |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Total O&amp;M Budgets</b> | <b>\$ 12,907.00</b> | <b>\$ 5,570.00</b> | <b>\$ 5,737.00</b> |

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <b><u>O &amp; M Budget (3 yr Total)</u></b>          | <b><u>\$ 24,214.00</u></b>  |
| <b><u>Unexpended O &amp; M Budget</u></b>            | <b><u>\$ 180,871.26</u></b> |
| <b><u>Remaining O &amp; M Budget (Projected)</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 156,657.26</u></b> |

## **Appendix D**

### **Field Inspection Form**

Annual Inspection Report  
 CAMERON PRAIRIE REFUGE PROTECTION PROJECT  
 State Project No. ME-09

MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REPORT CHECK SHEET

Project No. / Name: ME-09 Cameron Prairie

Date of Inspection: November 2, 2006 Time: 10:00 a.m.

Structure No. 1

Inspector(s): LDNR-Stan Aucoin & Mel Guidry (LDNR)  
 Dale Garber (NRCS) (For other inspections)

Structure Description: Foreshore Rock Dike

Water Level N/A

Type of Inspection: Annual

Weather Conditions: Clear & cool

| Item                            | Condition | Physical Damage | Corrosion | Photo # | Observations and Remarks                     |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|---------|--|
| Steel Bulkhead / Caps           | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Steel Grating                   | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Stop Logs                       | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Hardware                        | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Timber Piles                    | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Timber Wales                    | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Galv. Pile Caps                 | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Cables                          | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |
| Signage /Supports               | Good      |                 |           |         |  |
| Rip Rap (fill) (foreshore dike) | Excellent |                 |           | 1,2 & 3 | One area of dike is low with displaced rock. |
| Earthen Embankment              | N/A       |                 |           |         |  |

What are the conditions of the existing levees?  
 Are there any noticeable breaches?  
 Settlement of rock plugs and rock weirs?  
 Position of stoplogs at the time of the inspection?  
 Are there any signs of vandalism?

## **Appendix E**

### **Locations to be Monitored**