



**Coastal Protection and Restoration  
Authority of Louisiana**

**Office of Coastal Protection and  
Restoration**

**2009/2010 Annual Inspection  
Report**

for

**SABINE REFUGE PROTECTION  
PROJECT (CS-18)**

State Project Number CS-18  
Priority Project List 1

March 18, 2010  
Cameron Parish

Prepared by:

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## **I. Introduction**

The proposed project is located approximately 20 mi (32 km) west-southwest of Hackberry, Louisiana (figure 1) on the east levee of the Burton-Sutton Canal (BSC) adjacent to the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge Impoundment 3, a 27,000 ac (10,927 ha) freshwater impoundment that provides habitat for freshwater game fish, alligator, furbearers, and migratory and resident waterfowl. (See Appendix A).

The Sabine 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 Sabine Refuge Protection Project has a twenty-year (20 year) economic life, which began in February 1995.

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

The purpose of the annual inspection of the Sabine Refuge Protection Project (CS-18) 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, OCPR 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, 2002). The annual inspection report also contains a summary of maintenance projects 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. A summary of past operation and maintenance projects completed since completion of the Sabine Refuge Protection Project are outlined in Section IV.

An inspection of the Sabine Refuge Protection Project (CS-18) was held on March 18, 2010 under sunny skies and cool temperatures. In attendance was Dewey Billodeau, Darrell Pontiff and Mark Mouledous from OCPR. Representatives from USFWS were invited but could not attend. The inspection began at the southern end of the rock dike along Burton Sutton Canal.

The field inspection included an inspection of all of the project features. Staff gage readings and existing temporary benchmarks where available were used to determine approximate elevations of water, rock, embankments, concrete structures and other project features. Photographs were taken (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

The existing west levee along Impoundment 3, which was constructed in 1951, has deteriorated due to boat wake erosion and subsequent sloughing of levee material into the BSC. It is estimated that the levee is eroding at the rate of 0.27 ft/yr (0.08 m/yr) (LCWCRTF 1991; USFWS 1991). Continued erosion will result in multiple breaches of the levee, allowing higher salinity waters from the Calcasieu Ship Channel and Sabine Lake to enter the impoundment via the BSC. Since much of the freshwater marsh within the impoundment is highly organic and floating, saltwater intrusion and increased tidal exchange would likely convert as much as 13,000 ac (5,261 ha) of the impoundment to shallow open water (LCWCRTF 1991; USFWS 1991). The loss of floating and submersed vegetation would result in greater wind-induced wave erosion of the remaining marsh within the impoundment.

To prevent further bank erosion, 5.5 mi (8.9 km) of free-standing rock breakwater will be constructed on the canal side of the east levee of the BSC (figure 2). In addition, the levee will be restored where is it degraded using dredge material from the canal, and maintenance work will be undertaken at the three weir sites and at three alligator crossings.

#### Project Objectives

1. Protect the existing freshwater vegetation within Impoundment 3 of Sabine NWR adjacent to the Burton-Sutton Canal.
2. Prevent the encroachment of the Burton-Sutton Canal into the impoundment.

#### Specific Goals

The following measurable goals were established to evaluate project effectiveness:

1. Restore and protect the west levee of Impoundment 3 using dredge material and a free-standing rock breakwater.
2. Protect existing freshwater vegetation in Impoundment 3 from saltwater intrusion via the Burton-Sutton Canal.

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

**General Maintenance:** Below is a summary of completed maintenance projects and operation tasks performed since February 1995, the construction completion date of the Sabine Refuge Protection Project (CS-18).

There has been no required maintenance on this project.

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

## **V. Inspection Results**

### **Foreshore Rock Dike (Burton Sutton Canal)**

The rock breakwater along the Burton Sutton Canal was inspected along its entire reach. The water level in the Burton Sutton Canal was estimated to be +0.75 NAVD88. The dike is in excellent post construction condition. No need for any maintenance in the foreseeable future. (Photos: Appendix B, Photos 1 - 2)

### **Reinforcement of wingwalls at 3 water control structures**

The weirs at Beach Canal Structure No. 2, Northline Canal Structure No. 3, and Stark's Central Canal Structure No. 4 were not inspected during this trip due to logistics problems.

### **Alligator crossings**

The alligator crossings were not inspected during this trip due to logistics problems.

### **Stark's Central Canal**

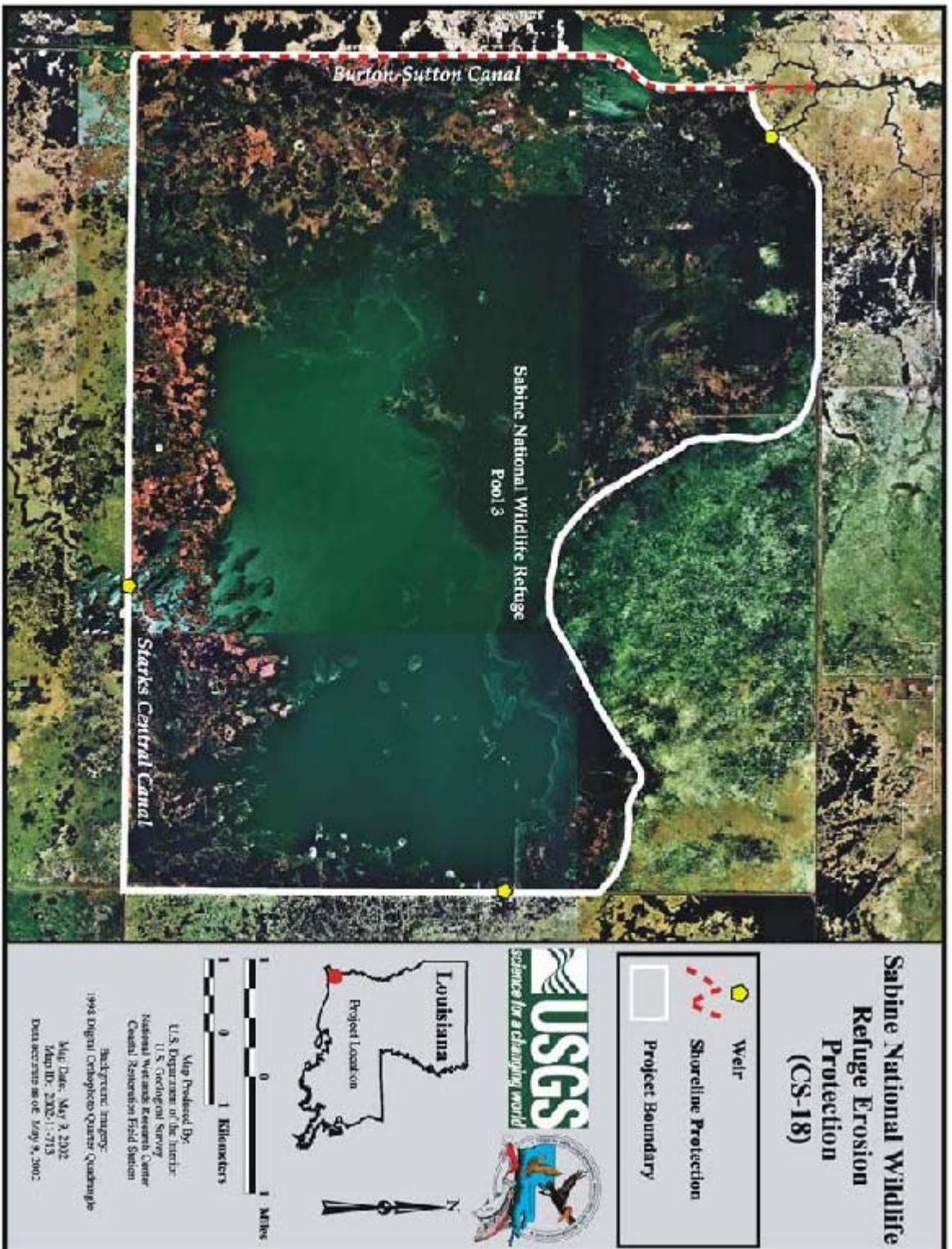
The Stark's Canal was not inspected during this trip due to logistics problems.

## **VI. Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the Sabine Refuge Protection Project is in excellent condition with structures functioning as designed. Input will be sought from USFWS personnel to determine whether alligator crossings are of any benefit. Should it be determined that alligators no longer use these areas once they are reinforced, they can be cut from future projects. In addition, USFWS personnel indicate that the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is currently conducting a study on CTU 3 and once complete the refuge will have updated information on operation of the three weir control structures.

## **Appendix A**

### **Project Features Map**



## **Appendix B**

### **Photographs**





**Photo 1**—southern tie-in on Burton Sutton Canal



**Photo 2**—northern tie-in on Burton Sutton Canal

## **Appendix C**

### **Three Year Budget Projection**

**SNWR EROSION PROTECTION/ CS-18 / PPL 1**  
**Three-Year Operations & Maintenance Budgets 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2013**

<u>Project Manager</u> Pat Landry	<u>O &amp; M Manager</u> Dewey Billodeau	<u>Federal Sponsor</u> USFWS	<u>Prepared By</u> Dewey Billodeau
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	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
<b>Maintenance Inspection</b>	\$ 5,909.00	\$ 6,086.00	\$ 6,269.00
<b>Structure Operation</b>			
<b>Administration</b>		\$ -	\$ -
<b>Maintenance/Rehabilitation</b>			

10/11 Description:

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

11/12 Description:

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

12/13 Description:

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

	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
<b><u>Total O&amp;M Budgets</u></b>	<b>\$ 5,909.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,086.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,269.00</b>

<b><u>O &amp; M Budget (3 yr Total)</u></b>	<b>\$ 18,264.00</b>
<b><u>Unexpended O &amp; M Budget</u></b>	<b>\$ 277,898.00</b>
<b><u>Remaining O &amp; M Budget (Projected)</u></b>	<b>\$ 259,634.00</b>

## **Appendix D**

### **Field Inspection Form**

Annual Inspection Report  
 SABINE REFUGE PROTECTION  
 State Project No. CS-18

MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REPORT CHECK SHEET

Project No. / Name: CS-18 Sabine National Wildlife Refuge

Date of Inspection: March 18, 2010 Time: 10:35 AM

Structure No. Impoundment Area 3

Inspector(s): Dewey Billodeau, Darrell Pontiff, Mark Mouledous (OCPR)

Structure Description: Rock Dike

Water Level Inside: N/A Outside: +0.75

Type of Inspection: Annual

Weather Conditions: Sunny and 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	N/A				
Rip Rap Rock Dike W.W. Reinf.	Good			1 & 2	
Earthen Embankment	Good				

What are the conditions of the existing levees? Good  
 Are there any noticeable breaches? No  
 Settlement of rock plugs and rock weirs? No  
 Position of stoplogs at the time of the inspection? N/A  
 Are there any signs of vandalism? No

## **Appendix E**

### **Locations to be Monitored**