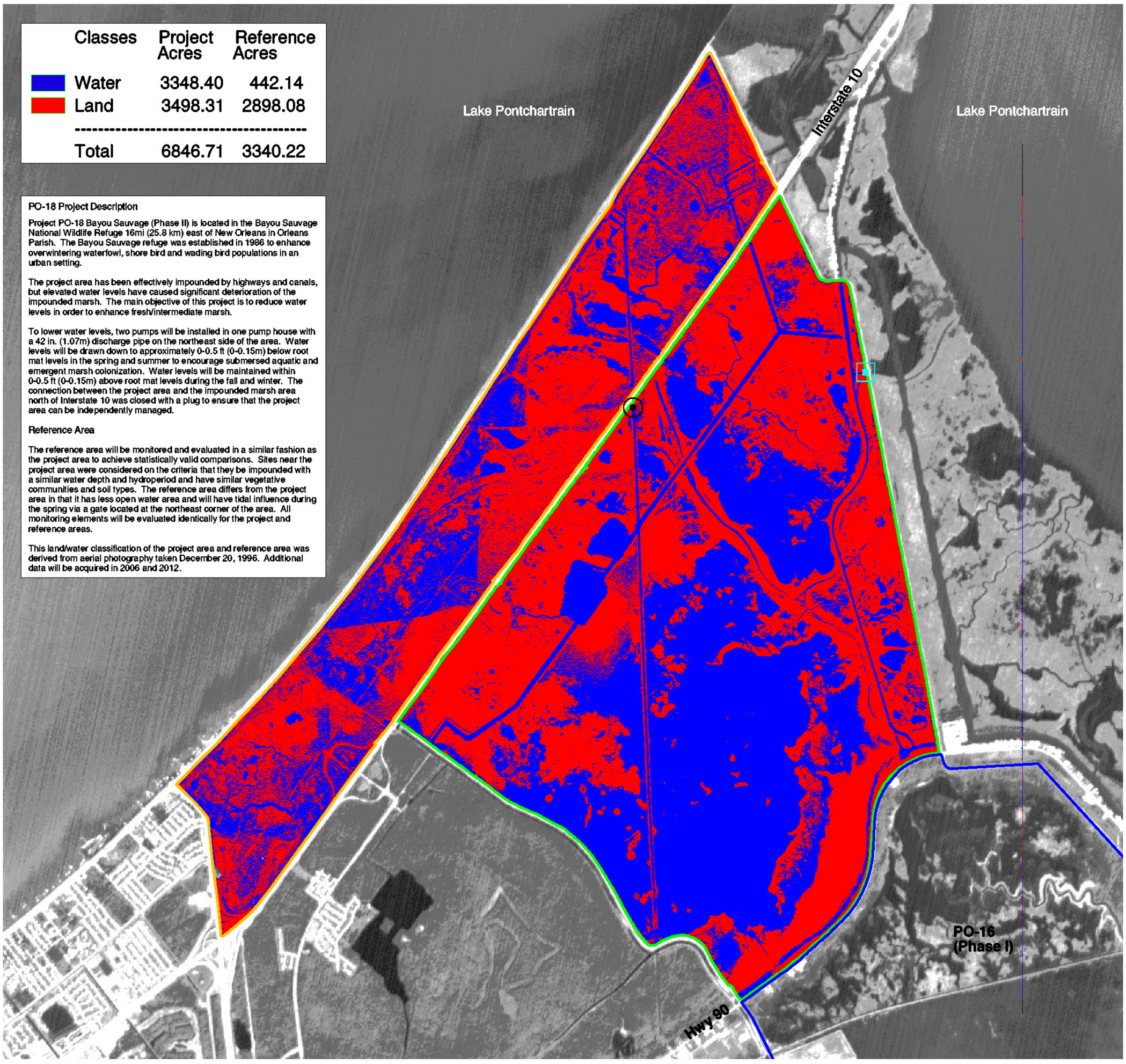
Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
Project PO-18 (Phase II): Bayou Sauvage 1996
Land / Water Classification



Classes	Project Acres	Reference Acres
Water	3348.40	442.14
Land	3498.31	2898.08
Total	6846.71	3340.22

PO-18 Project Description

Project PO-18 Bayou Sauvage (Phase II) is located in the Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge 16mi (25.8 km) east of New Orleans in Orleans Parish. The Bayou Sauvage refuge was established in 1986 to enhance overwintering waterfowl, shore bird and wading bird populations in an urban setting.

The project area has been effectively impounded by highways and canals, but elevated water levels have caused significant deterioration of the impounded marsh. The main objective of this project is to reduce water levels in order to enhance fresh/intermediate marsh.

To lower water levels, two pumps will be installed in one pump house with a 42 in. (1.07m) discharge pipe on the northeast side of the area. Water levels will be drawn down to approximately 0-0.5 ft (0-0.15m) below root mat levels in the spring and summer to encourage submersed aquatic and emergent marsh colonization. Water levels will be maintained within 0-0.5 ft (0-0.15m) above root mat levels during the fall and winter. The connection between the project area and the impounded marsh area north of Interstate 10 was closed with a plug to ensure that the project area can be independently managed.

Reference Area

The reference area will be monitored and evaluated in a similar fashion as the project area to achieve statistically valid comparisons. Sites near the project area were considered on the criteria that they be impounded with a similar water depth and hydroperiod and have similar vegetative communities and soil types. The reference area differs from the project area in that it has less open water area and will have tidal influence during the spring via a gate located at the northeast corner of the area. All monitoring elements will be evaluated identically for the project and reference areas.

This land/water classification of the project area and reference area was derived from aerial photography taken December 20, 1996. Additional data will be acquired in 2006 and 2012.

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Prepared by
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U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
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2000 0 2000 4000 6000 Feet
300 0 300 600 900 Meters

Data derived from 1:12,000 scale aerial photography.
Photography taken December 20, 1996
Data are shown here at 1:20,000 scale.
Backdrop is 1994 SPOT Panchromatic 10-meter imagery.

Project Area
Reference Area
PO-16 (Phase I)
Weir
Pump

Department of Natural Resources
Coastal Restoration Division
New Orleans Field Office

Federal Sponsor:
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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