February 2012
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Northwest Turtle Bay Marsh Creation (BA-125)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2012 **Project Area:** 807 acres
Approved Funds: $2.35 M **Total Est. Cost:** $23.1 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 407 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 21

Location

This project is located in Region 2, Barataria Basin, Jefferson Parish, northwest of Turtle Bay.

Problems

Historic wetland loss in the area stems from shoreline erosion along Turtle Bay and interior marsh loss from subsidence, sediment deprivation, and construction of oil and gas canals. Based on the hyper-temporal analysis conducted by USGS for the extended project boundary, loss rates in the area are estimated to be -0.61% per year for the period 1984 to 2011.

Restoration Strategy

The primary goal is to re-create marsh habitat in the open water areas and nourish existing marsh within the project area. The specific goal of the project is to create approximately 760 acres of marsh with dredged material from Turtle Bay or Little Lake.

The proposed project would create approximately 423 acres and nourish approximately 337 acres of marsh using sediment dredged from Turtle Bay or Little Lake. Existing canal spoil banks, emergent marsh, and limited segments of containment dikes will be used to guide the distribution of the dredged material. Containment dikes will be degraded as necessary to reestablish hydrologic connectivity with adjacent wetlands.

The value of the landscape features are highly important in determining the restoration strategy of this project. As a part of the Barataria Land Bridge, it will work synergistically with existing and planned projects adjacent to this project's location.

Looking at the project area north to south; this project will fill the visible open water areas and nourish the marsh areas. The network of oil and gas canals in the area and their proximity to Turtle Bay as well as how close several of the open water areas are to the bay are visible in the photo above.

Progress to Date

This project is on Priority Project List 21.

For more project 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) 342-4736

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Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS science for a changing world

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 Kilometers

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 Miles

Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2010 NAIP Photography

Map Date: January 30, 2012
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