April 2006
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation (BA-42)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2006 **Project Area:** 1,600 acres
Approved Funds: $37.9 M **Total Est. Cost:** $38.3 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 447 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 15

Location

The project area is located in the Barataria Basin in an area referred to as the "West Pointe a la Hache Mapping Unit," which is south and east of Lake Hermitage in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The West Pointe a la Hache Mapping Unit lost 38 percent of its marsh from 1932 to 1990. By the year 2050, 28 percent of the 1990 marsh acreage is expected to be lost. That loss is expected to occur even with operation of the West Pointe a la Hache Siphon (State project BA-04) and implementation of the West Pointe a la Hache Outfall Management Project (CWPPRA project BA-04c). Significant marsh loss has occurred south and east of Lake Hermitage and along the eastern lake shoreline. Deterioration of the lake rim will expose interior marshes to the wave energy of Lake Hermitage and increase tidal exchange.

The battered eastern Lake Hermitage shoreline following Hurricane Katrina. Flooded fastlands can be seen in the background.

Restoration Strategy

The goals of this project are to create approximately 593 acres of wetlands, reduce tidal exchange in marshes surrounding Lake Hermitage, and reduce fetch and turbidity to promote submerged aquatic vegetation.

Several restoration techniques will be utilized to accomplish these goals. Riverine sediments will be hydraulically dredged and pumped via pipeline to create approximately 593 acres of marsh in the project area. Approximately 25,000 linear feet of terraces (16 acres) will also be constructed to reduce fetch and turbidity and promote submerged aquatic vegetation. In addition, approximately 6,000 linear feet of rock dike will be constructed along the eastern Lake Hermitage shoreline. An earthen plug will also be constructed in an oil and gas canal to return tidal exchange to natural waterways within the project area.

Progress to Date

The Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force approved funding for engineering and design at their February 2006 meeting.

This project is on Priority Project List 15.

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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Containment Dike *

Marsh Creation *

Terracing *

Project Boundary

Shoreline Restoration *

*denotes proposed features

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles

Scale: 1:30,000

Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2009-11-0009
Map Date: October 24, 2008

Map Produced By:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Field Station
Baton Rouge, LA

Image Source:
2005 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle