September 2009
Cost figures as of: March 2013

West Pointe a la Hache Marsh Creation (BA-47)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2007 **Project Area:** 352 acres
Approved Funds: $1.62 M **Total Est. Cost:** $16.1 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 203 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 17

Location

The project area is located in Plaquemines Parish in the Barataria Basin. The site is located near Hwy 23 at West Pointe a la Hache.

Problems

As a result of leveeing the Mississippi River for navigation and flood control, the West Pointe a la Hache wetlands were cut off from the historic overbank flooding of the river. Without continued sediment input, marshes couldn't maintain viable elevations due to ongoing subsidence. In addition, oil and gas canals disrupted hydrology and facilitated saltwater intrusion further degrading the marsh. Beginning in 1993, the siphons at West Pointe a la Hache were operated to re-introduce Mississippi River water, fine sediments, and nutrients into this area. However, land loss rates have continued to be high. An opportunity exists to create marshes directly in the influence area of the siphons using sediment from the nearby Mississippi River. The created marshes should benefit from the effects of the re-introduced Mississippi River water from the siphons.

Open water area being restored to emergent marsh.

Restoration Strategy

This project will recreate marsh habitat in the area just west of the Jefferson Lake Canal by harvesting sediment from the Mississippi River and pumping it via pipeline to the proposed site. The goals of this project include converting approximately 250 acres of open water habitat to intermediate marsh, nourishing approximately 102 acres of existing intermediate marsh with dredged material, and maintaining 203 acres of created/nourished marsh over the 20-year project life.

Progress to Date

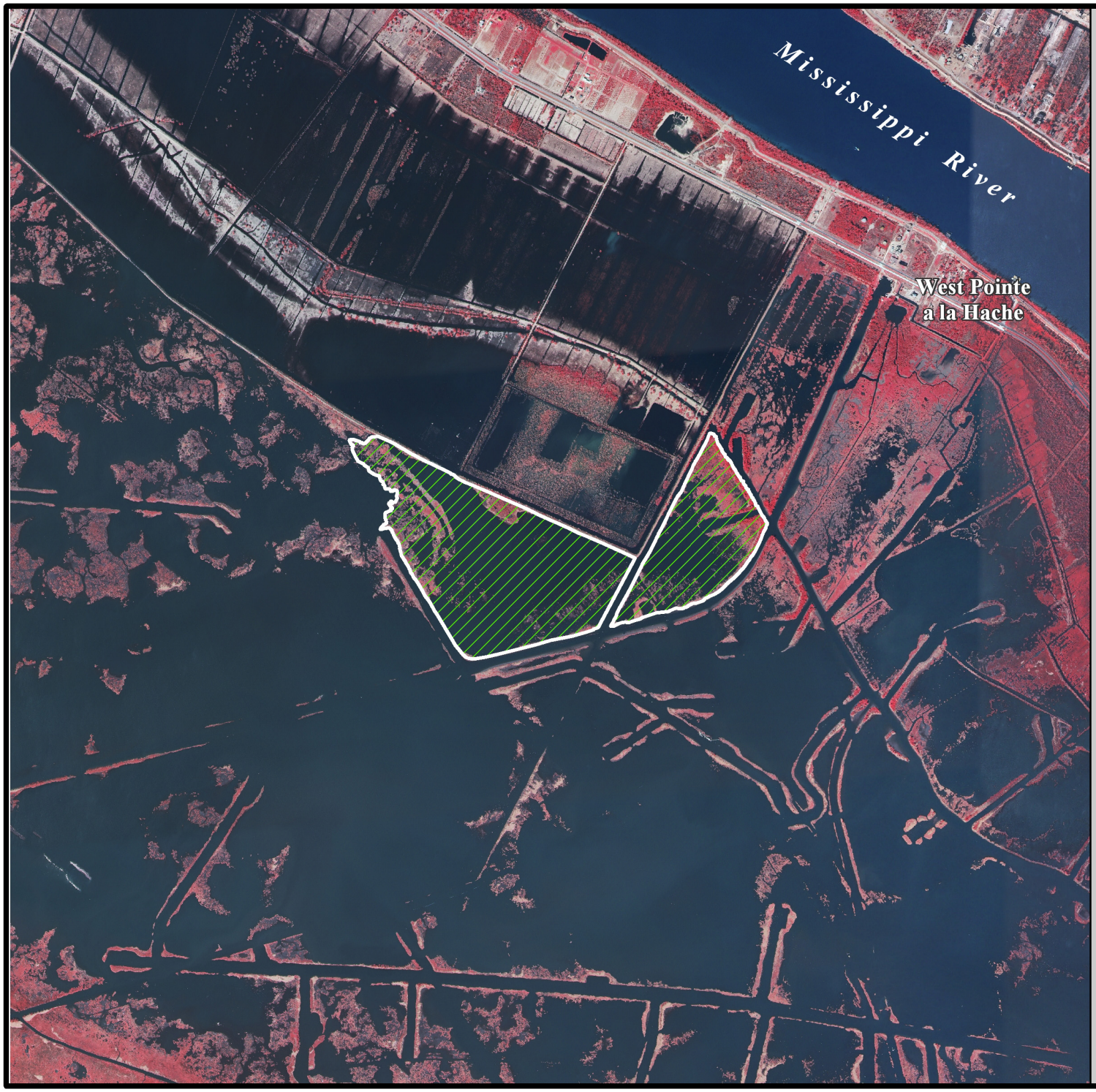
Project is currently in the Planning and Design Phase. A 30% review meeting is anticipated for June 2010. Project is scheduled to request Phase II funding at the January 2011 Task Force meeting. Construction is anticipated to begin September 2011 with a completion date of September 2012.

This project is on Priority Project List 17.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7756

Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736



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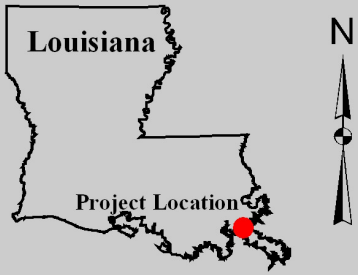
Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features



0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Kilometers

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Miles

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

Background Imagery:
2005 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

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