June 2010
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation (ME-31)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2010 **Project Area:** 401 acres
Approved Funds: $2.42 M **Total Est. Cost:** $25.5 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 279 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 19

Location

The project features are located in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana in an area west of Freshwater Bayou and north of the Freshwater Bayou Locks.

Problems

This area was damaged by Hurricanes Rita, Gustav, and Ike. Currently, Freshwater Bayou threatens to breach into the large interior open water and establish a hydrologic connection that previously did not exist. This would exacerbate the environmental problems affecting marshes in this area. Additionally, interior marsh loss has increased and organic soils are being exported into Freshwater Bayou. Interior marsh loss will increase without construction of the proposed project.

Restoration Strategy

The project goals include: 1) creating/nourishing marsh and associated edge habitat for aquatic species through pipeline sediment delivery via dedicated dredging from the Gulf of Mexico or beneficial use of maintenance dredging from the Freshwater Bayou Canal; 2) restoring a wetland buffer between the large open water areas in the Mermentau Basin and Freshwater Bayou.
Project features include creating and/or nourishing approximately 401 acres of marsh using dredge material.

Breach connecting Freshwater Bayou to interior marshes inside of the project area.

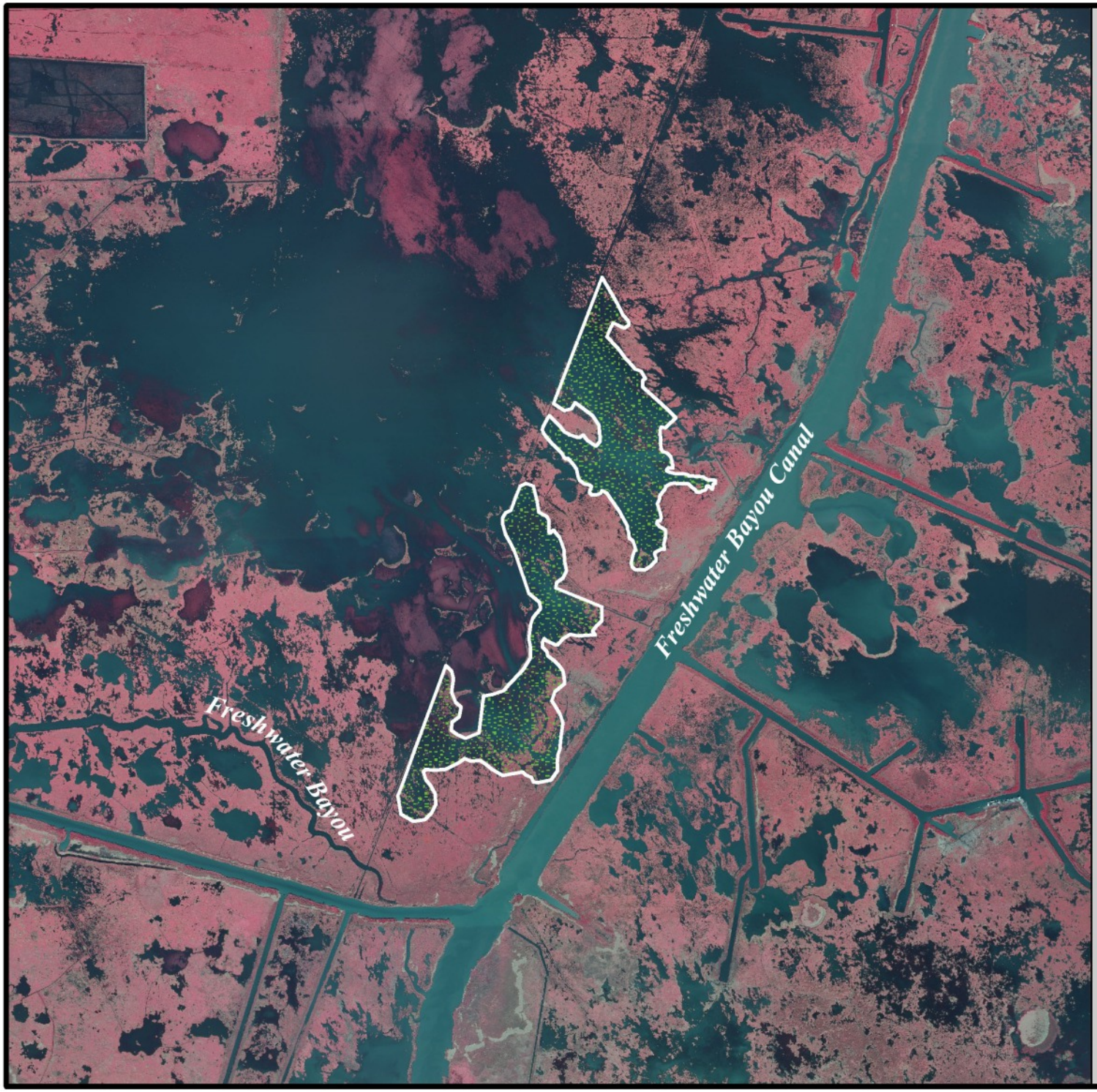
Progress to Date

This project is on Priority Project List 19.

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



Freshwater Bayou Marsh Creation (ME-31)

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS science for a changing world

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0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Kilometers

0.25 0 0.25 0.5 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:
2008 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: February 5, 2010
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Data accurate as of: February 5, 2010