June 2004 (rev.)
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1997 **Project Area:** 5,210 acres
Approved Funds: $4.72 M **Total Est. Cost:** $4.72 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 2,386 acres
Status: Completed 1999
Project Type: Water Diversion
PPL #: 6

Location

The project is located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana, within the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries) and the Delta National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Problems

The Mississippi River Delta is one of the hallmark symbols of Louisiana's rich natural heritage. Unfortunately, natural and man-made alterations to the Mississippi River have changed the hydrology of the river and impeded the natural wetland building processes in the delta. Levees constructed for navigation maintenance and flood control have reduced natural sedimentation and freshwater flow, causing deterioration of wetlands and saltwater intrusion. Crevasses are breaks in the levees that allow the river to deposit sediments into adjacent shallow bays. The wetlands formed from the deposition of these sediments are called crevasse splays. This restoration project mimics the natural process of crevasse formation that was responsible for building much of the Mississippi River Delta.

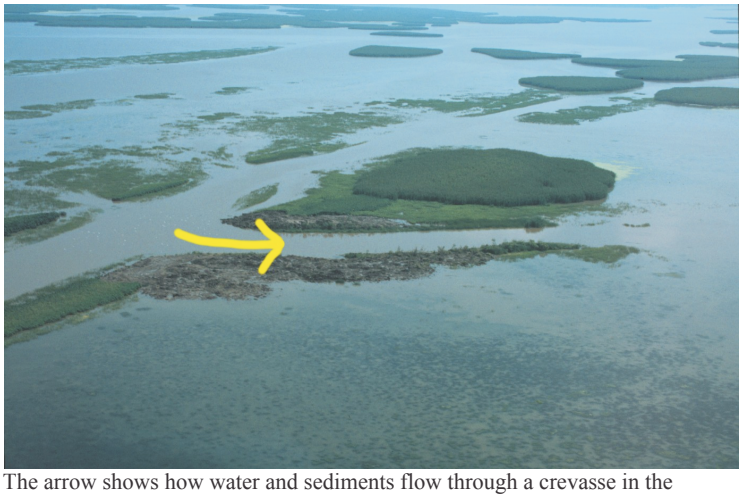
Restoration Strategy

The project consists of maintaining presently existing crevasse splays, the construction of new crevasse splays and plugs, and future maintenance of selected crevasse splays in both the Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area and the Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The objective is to promote the formation of emergent freshwater and intermediate marsh.

Progress to Date

The first dredging cycle of construction was completed in 1999; three dredging cycles are scheduled in the future. The second cycle is scheduled for early summer 2004.

This project is listed on Priority Project List 6.



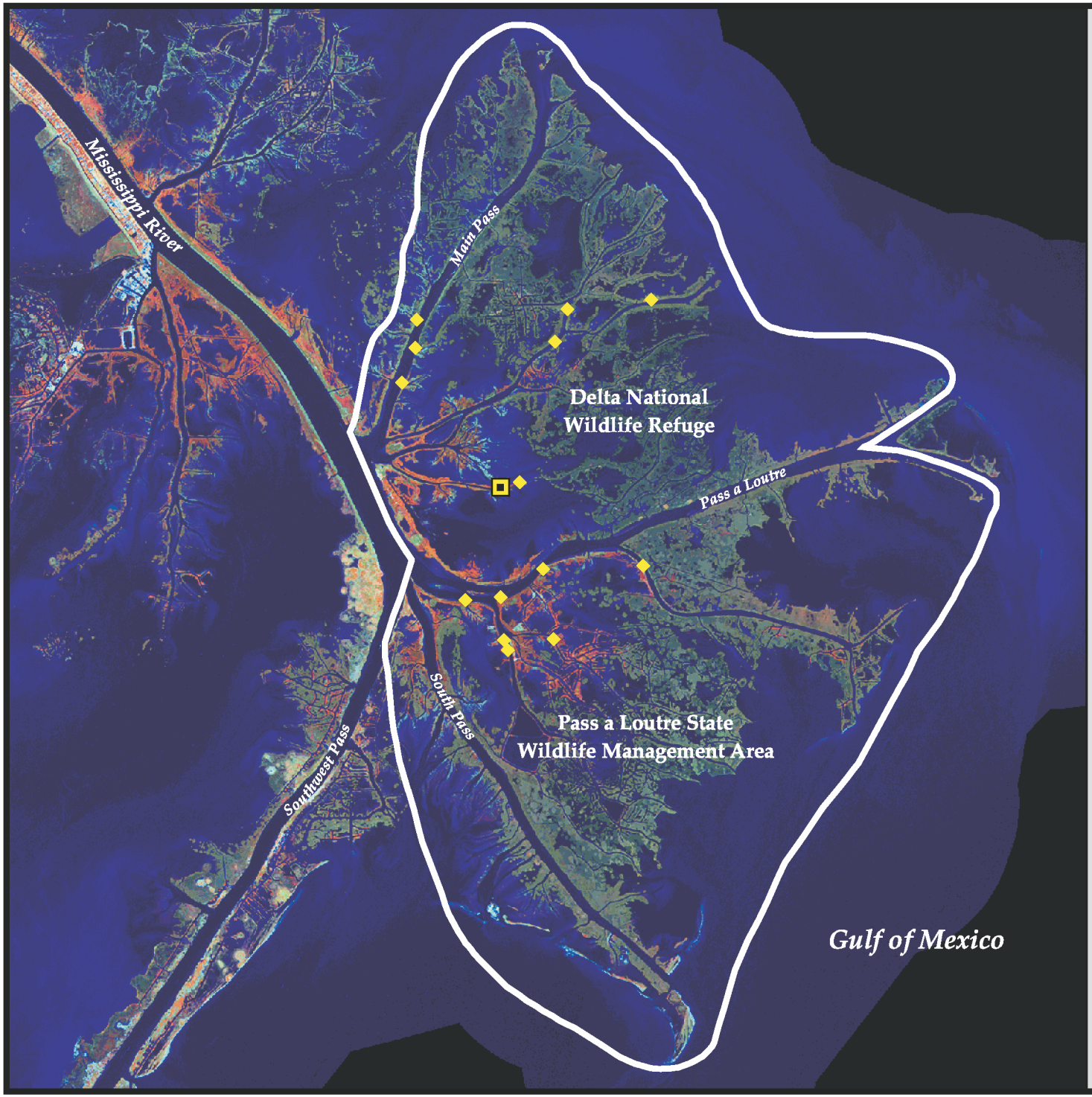
The arrow shows how water and sediments flow through a crevasse in the Mississippi River.

This image shows a crevasse being plugged in 1999 in order to maximize the effectiveness of crevasses downstream. As this project contains several building cycles, project components are adjusted over time to achieve optimal performance as new features are constructed.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
National Marine Fisheries Service
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 389-0508

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



Delta Wide Crevasses (MR-09)

Plug
Crevasse
Project Boundary

USGS
science for a changing world

N

2 0 2 4 Miles

2 0 2 4 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
2000 Thematic Mapper Imagery

Map Date: June 2, 2004
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2004-11-0372
Data accurate as of: June 2, 2004