October 2002
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Disposal Area Marsh Protection (PO-19)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1993 **Project Area:** 855 acres
Approved Funds: $0.31 M **Total Est. Cost:** $0.31 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 755 acres
Status: Completed Jan. 1999
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL #: 3

Location

The project is located south of Bayou La Loutre Ridge in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana, on the existing south bank disposal area of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) between mile markers 30 and 36. The project area is approximately 855 acres.

Problems

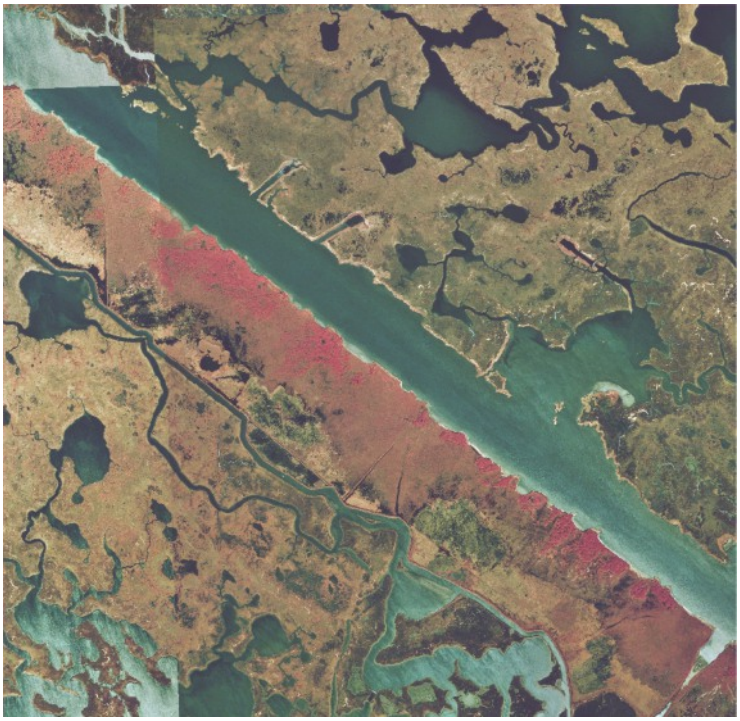
The project area consists of a 4,000-foot wide diked disposal area originally used for placement of dredged material during construction of MRGO in the early 1960's.

During MRGO maintenance dredging operations, only the 2,000 feet nearest the waterway have been used for disposal purposes. Over the years, because of settling and water ponding, the back 2,000 feet reverted to high-elevation fresh marsh. Because the project area is 1-4 feet higher than the surrounding brackish marshes, marine organisms have no access into the area; however, this fresh "perched" marsh is an excellent habitat for migratory waterfowl.

Restoration Strategy

This project repaired the wave and storm damage to MRGO's earthen back dike south of La Loutre Ridge, and it is expected to preserve approximately 755 acres of valuable wetlands.

As a result of field investigations, only two breaches along the back dike were closed. The breaches prevented water from ponding in the disposal area. Since the ponded area is higher in elevation than the surrounding saline marshes, the ponded area drained and undesirable vegetation began to take over. The breaches were repaired by using a barge-mounted crane that removed sediment from the back canal and used it to rebuild the levee.



The project involved closing two small gaps in the dredged-material retaining dikes to protect the marsh in the project area.

Progress to Date

The scope of projected work was greatly reduced from the original design. Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed construction on January 29, 1999. No operation, maintenance, or monitoring is scheduled. This project is on Priority Project List 3.

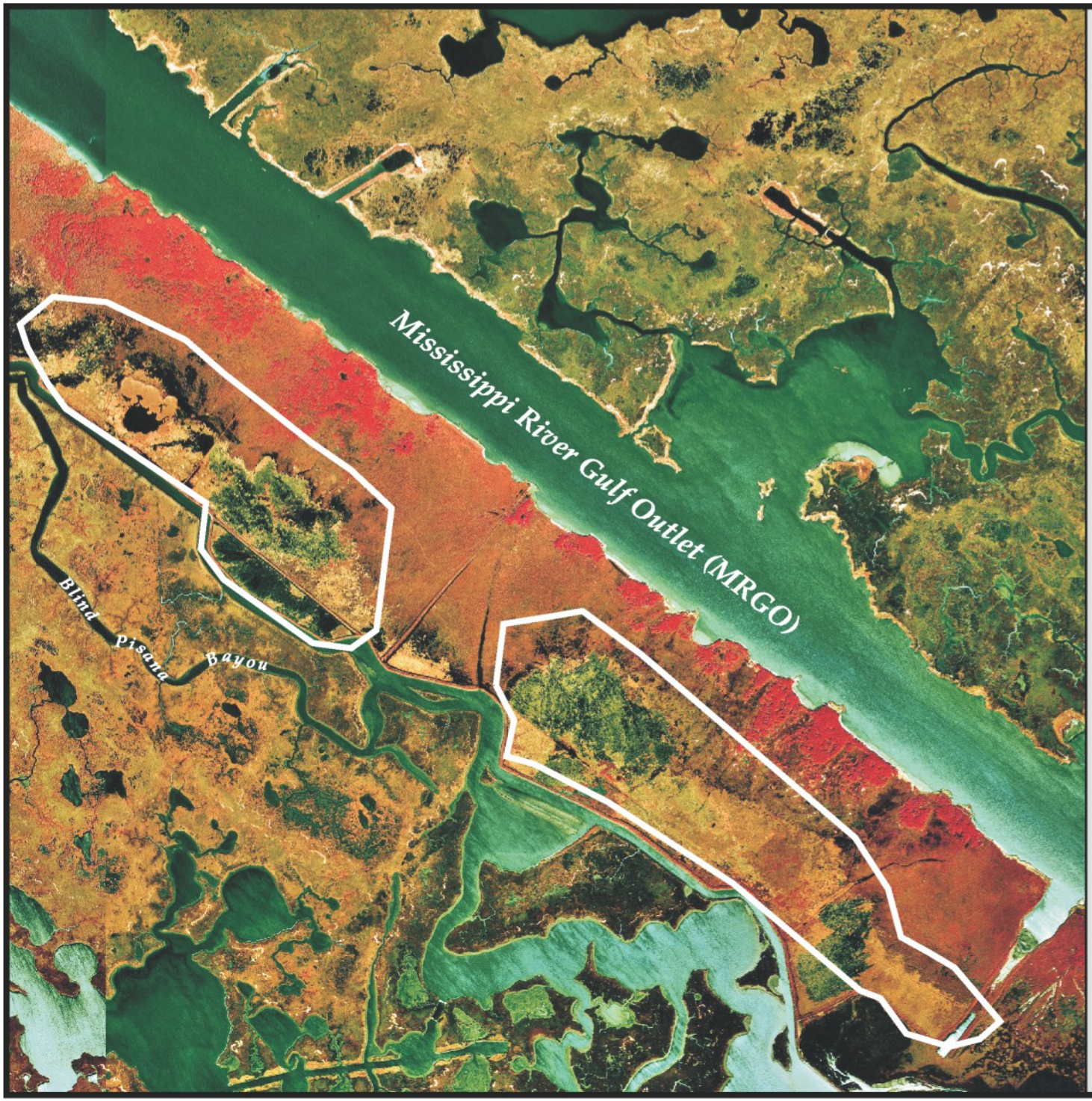
For more project information, please contact:

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans, LA
(504) 862-1597

CPRA

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



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Project Boundary

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Miles

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 0.6 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: August 22, 2002
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Data accurate as of: August 22, 2002