October 2002
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1993 **Project Area:** 30,000 acres
Approved Funds: $8.53 M **Total Est. Cost:** $10.0 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 2,223 acres
Status: Completed Jan. 1999
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL #: 3

Location

The 30,000-acre project in the marshes surrounding Marone Point is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Franklin, Louisiana, in St. Mary Parish.

Problems

Construction of several oilfield canals altered the hydrologic regime of Cote Blanche project area marshes. The result has been an increase in water exchange between interior marsh areas and East and West Cote Blanche Bays that directly contributed to marsh deterioration and loss. In addition, shoreline erosion has been a major problem, and breaches along the shoreline have begun to provide additional exchange points between interior marshes and the bays.

Restoration Strategy

Low-level weirs were constructed across seven major water exchange avenues in the Cote Blanche system. These passive weirs reduce the water exchange between the system's interior marsh and the outer bays, thereby preventing continued scouring of the marsh substrate and conversion to open water. The lower-energy hydrologic regime also encourages accretion of available sediment.

In addition, a PVC sheet-pile wall was constructed along 4,140 linear feet of shoreline between Jackson Bayou and the British American Canal to minimize wave-induced erosion.

Progress to Date

The project construction was completed in January 1999. Monitoring is ongoing, and preliminary field data has been gathered.

The most notable effect of the project was a reduction in the range of water level fluctuation. Since the project was completed, preliminarily analysis of monitoring data indicates the range in water level fluctuation increased or showed no change in the reference area, but decreased in the project area. This project is on Priority Project List 3.

A low-level weir constructed across the British American Canal within the project area.

This sheet-pile structure provides protection to the eroding shoreline. Metal caps were placed on the pilings to prevent the rotting of the wood.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7816

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

Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration (TV-04)

Weir
Shoreline Protection
Project Boundary

N

1 0 1 2 Miles

1 0 1 2 Kilometers

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

Background Imagery:
Thematic Mapper Satellite Imagery 2000

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