October 2002
Cost figures as of: March 2013

Marsh Island Hydrologic Restoration (TV-14)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1997 **Project Area:** 6,697 acres
Approved Funds: $5.14 M **Total Est. Cost:** $5.14 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 408 acres
Status: Completed Dec. 2001
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL #: 6

Location

This project is located in Iberia Parish, Louisiana, on the eastern portion of the Marsh Island State Wildlife Refuge, also known as Russell Sage Refuge, and surrounds Lake Sand.

Problems

Natural erosion and subsidence, as well as the construction of navigation canals along the northeast shoreline of Marsh Island, have led to the deterioration of the north rim of Lake Sand and the interior marshes.

Restoration Strategy

This project stabilizes the northeastern shoreline of Marsh Island, including the northern shoreline of Lake Sand, and helps restore the historic hydrology. Project components include the construction of 7 closures for oil and gas canals at the northeast end of Marsh Island and the protection of the northeast shoreline with rock including the isolation of Lake Sand from Vermilion Bay.

The dams in the existing oil and gas canals do not reduce estuarine fisheries access to area marshes because there are other fisheries access points into the project area through natural bayous.

The project increases marsh, fish, and wildlife productivity by reducing shoreline erosion and correcting altered hydrology.

Project features include shoreline protection, canal closures, and isolation of Lake Sand from Vermilion Bay with a rock dike on the northeastern edge of Marsh Island. View is looking west.

Progress to Date

Construction was completed in December 2001.

The monitoring plan was finalized in January 2000 and data collection has been ongoing since that time. Pre-construction aerial photography was collected in November 2000 and the first post-construction photography is scheduled for fall of 2004. Water level, submerged aquatic vegetation, and shoreline movement data are also being collected to evaluate project effectiveness.

This project is on Priority Project List 6.

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

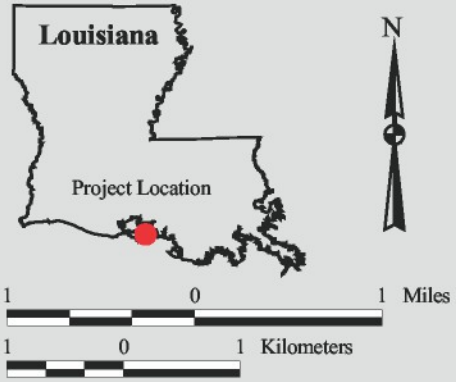
Local Sponsor:
Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-4736

Marsh Island Hydrologic Restoration (TV-14)

Closure

Shoreline Protection

Project Boundary



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 Quadragle

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