February 2014
Cost figures as of: February 2017

South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation - Baker Tract (ME-32)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2014 **Project Area:** 420 acres
Approved Funds: $2.65 M **Total Est. Cost:** $25.4 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 393 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 23

Location

The project is located in planning Region 4, Mermentau Basin in Cameron Parish within the Hog Bayou Watershed Coast 2050 Mapping Unit. The mapping unit is bordered by Lower Mud Lake to the west, the Gulf of Mexico to the south, Rockefeller Refuge to the east, and Louisiana Highway 82 to the north.

Problems

Marshes within the Hog Bayou Watershed mapping unit are stressed due to limited freshwater input and seasonal salinity spikes exacerbated by construction of the Mermentau Ship Channel. Other contributors to land loss in the area are subsidence, compaction, and erosion of organic soils. Currently, the project area is characterized as large, open water with degraded areas of wetland vegetation and low organic production. The dredging of the Mermentau Ship Channel increased tidal amplitude and salt water intrusion into the watershed.

Restoration Strategy

The goal of the project is to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion of organic soils. The project would promote the expansion of emergent marsh and submerged aquatic vegetation throughout the project area. Material dredged from the Gulf of Mexico will be used to create and nourish approximately 420 acres of marsh. Smooth cordgrass will be planted throughout the area. To help facilitate estuarine fisheries access, constructed retention levees will be degraded and approximately 11,756 linear feet of tidal creeks will be constructed.

An area of open water with very little vegetation.

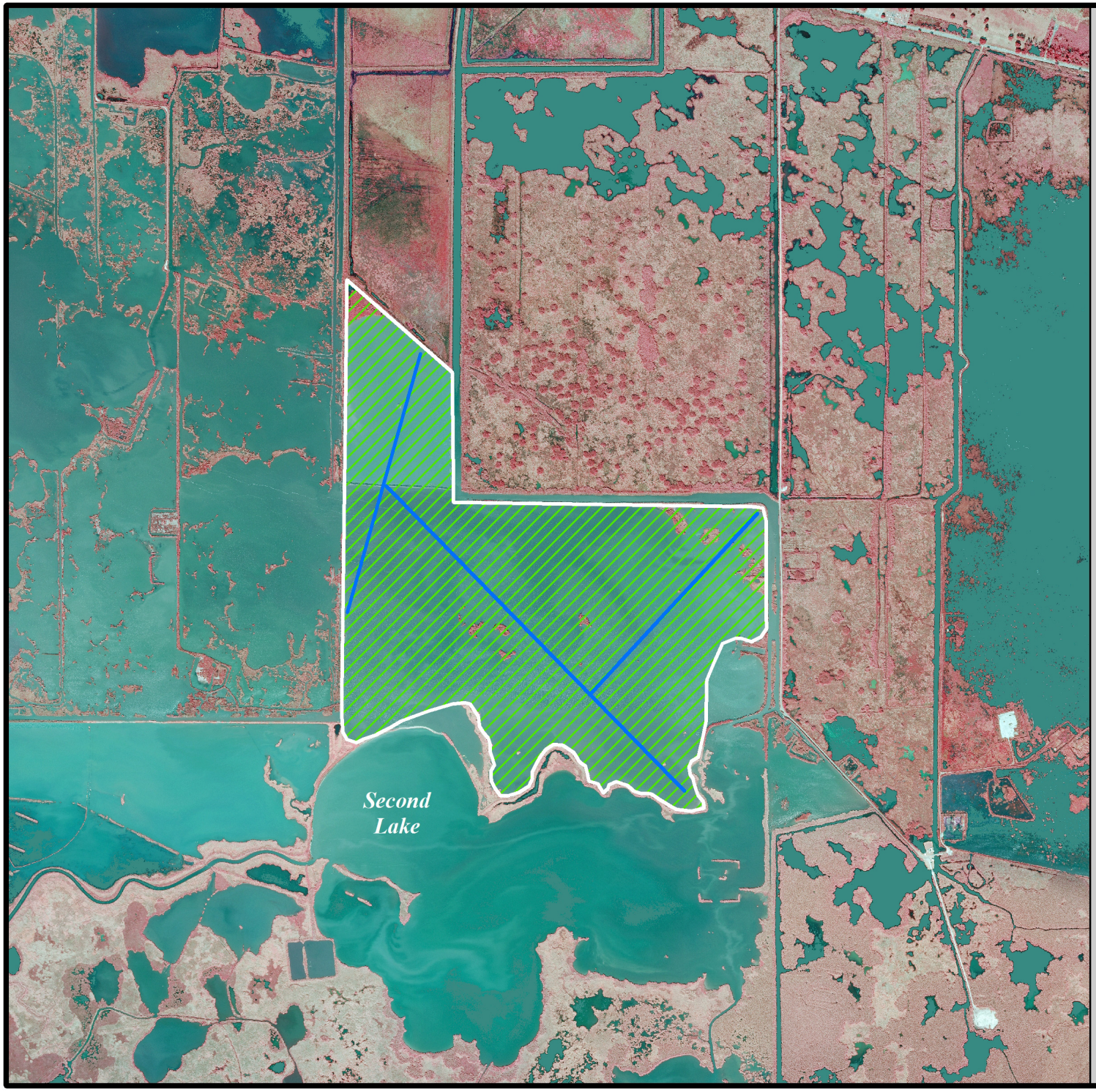
Progress to Date

This project is on Priority Project List 23.

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



South Grand Chenier Marsh Creation - Baker Tract (ME-32)

Tidal Creeks *

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 Kilometers

0.1 0 0.1 0.2 Miles

Map Produced by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Coastal Restoration Assessment Branch
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2012 DOQQ

Map Date: February 10, 2014
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2014-11-0009
Data accurate as of: August 17, 2013