February 2015
Cost figures as of: January 2017

West Fourchon Marsh Creation & Nourishment (TE-134)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2015 **Project Area:** 614 acres
Approved Funds: $3.20 M **Total Est. Cost:** $29.4 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 304 acres
Status: Engineering and Design
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 24

Location

The project is located in Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, in Lafourche Parish.

Problems

The primary causes of land loss in the project area are oil and gas canals, subsidence, and sediment deprivation, which have resulted in an estimated rate of -0.41% per year based on hyper-temporal analysis conducted by USGS for the extended project boundary for the years 1984 to 2012. Bounded by Bayou Lafourche to the east and Timbalier Bay to the west the project area is also subject to shoreline erosion.

Remnant mangrove/spartina marsh hangs on at the site of the West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Nourishment project.

Restoration Strategy

This project would create 302 acres of saline intertidal marsh and nourish 312 acres of emergent marsh using material dredged from the Gulf of Mexico, southwest of the project area. Earthen containment dikes will be constructed along the project boundary to contain the material. Vegetative plantings are planned at a 50% density, with half planned at TY1 and half planned at TY3 if necessary. Containment dikes will be degraded or gapped by TY3 to allow access for estuarine organisms. Funding will be set aside for the creation of tidal creeks if needed. This project, along with TE-23 West Belle Pass Headland Restoration and TE-52 West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration, will help stabilize the edge of the marshes and protect Port Fourchon from the west. The initial construction elevation is +2.4 feet NAVD 88; after settlement, marsh is expected to be +1.4 NAVD 88.

Progress to Date

This project was approved for Phase I Engineering and Design in January 2015

This project is on Priority Project List (PPL) 24.

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

West Fourchon Marsh Creation and Marsh Nourishment (TE-134)

Marsh Creation *

Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

USGS
science for a changing world

N

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 Kilometers

0.2 0 0.2 0.4 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 Digitial Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: March 05, 2015
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2015-11-0009
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