rev. June 2006
Cost figures as of: December 2016

Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Restoration (TE-40)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2000 **Project Area:** 663 acres
Approved Funds: $15.2 M **Total Est. Cost:** $15.2 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 273 acres
Status: Construction
Project Type: Barrier Island Restoration
PPL #: 9

Location

Timbalier Island is located south of Terrebonne Bay and west of East Timbalier Island in Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

Timbalier Island is migrating rapidly to the west/northwest, which is a clear indication of the dominant influence of longshore sediment transport processes (the movement of beach material by waves and currents) along the island. Thus, the western end of Timbalier Island is undergoing lateral migration by spit-building processes, at the expense of erosion along the eastern end, while the island overall is shortening and narrowing. This loss can be attributed to an inadequate sediment supply, relative sea-level rise, and the passage of storms. Without mitigating efforts, Timbalier Island was projected to disappear by the year 2050.

Restoration Strategy

The objective of this project is to restore the eastern end of Timbalier Island through the direct creation of dune and marsh habitat. The project boundary is divided into Areas A and B. Area A was restored through direct creation of dune and marsh on the east end of Timbalier Island. Area B will be enhanced through addition of sediment into the nearshore system, maintaining the west/northwest migration of the island and attenuation of wave energy.

Specifically, the project introduced sediment from the Gulf of Mexico to restore 2.2 miles of the beach rim and dune system and create a marsh platform on the bay side of the island. The marsh platform was built around existing marsh with minimal impact. Approximately 4.6 million cubic yards of material was dredged from the Little Pass borrow area about 14,000 feet away from the project and 22,750 linear feet of sand fencing was placed. Over 110,000 container grown plants consisting of eight species were initially planted. This is the most diverse plantings to date for a CWPPRA barrier island project. The sand fencing and vegetative plants help capture and retain wind-blown sand.

The plants and sand fencing shown above will help to maintain the integrity of Timbalier Island by capturing and retaining wind-blown sand.

Progress to Date

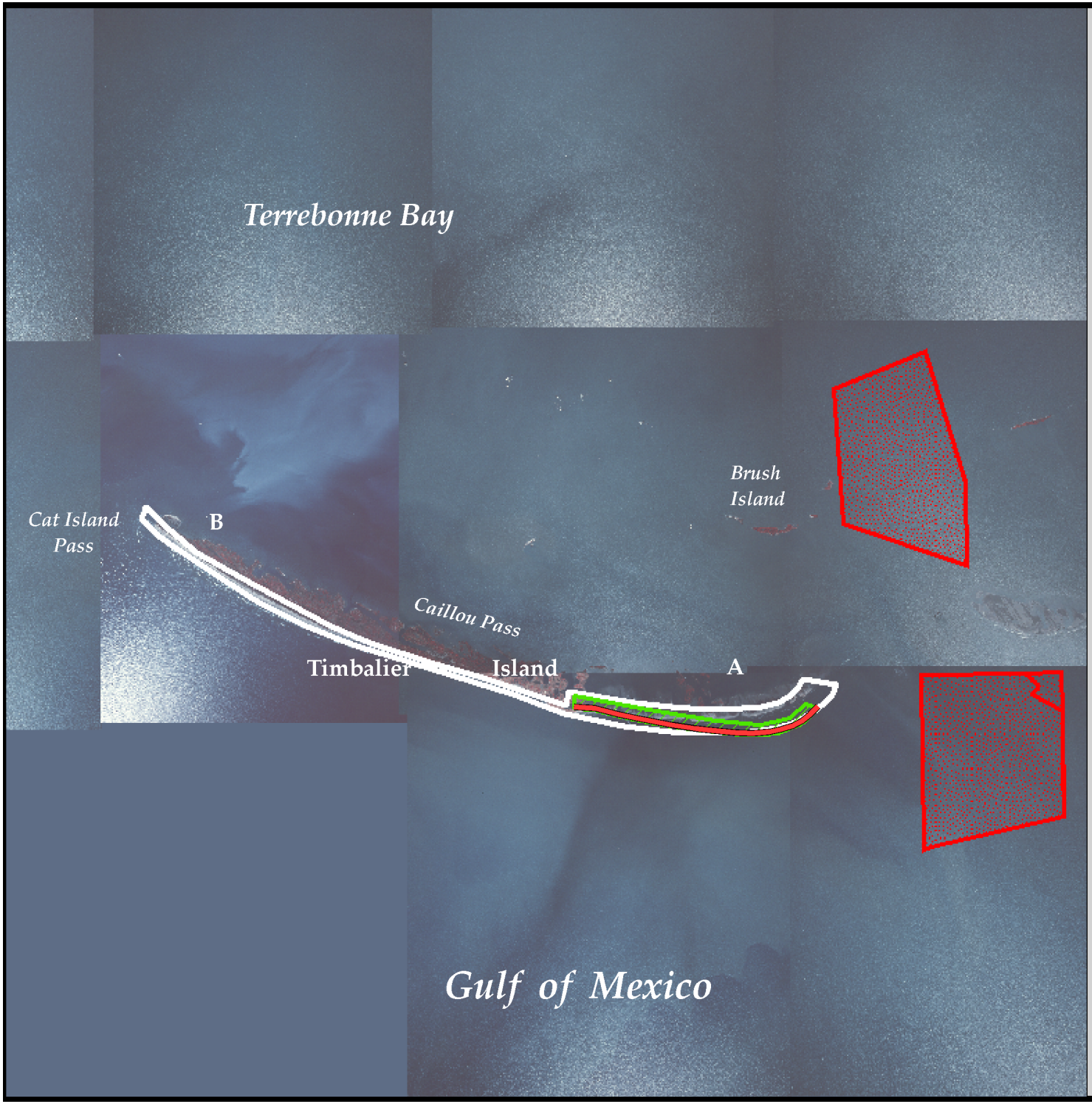
Construction funding was approved by the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Task Force in January 2003. Construction began June 2004 and dredging from the borrow site was completed in December 2004. This portion of the project was accepted in January 2005. The initial vegetative planting component began March 2005 and was completed in June 2005. The total cost of construction was $13,761,336. An additional row of sand fencing will be installed in spring 2006 along with an additional 40,000 plugs of smooth cord grass and 2,000 bitter panicum container plants.

This project is on Priority Project List 9.

For more project information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Dallas, TX
(214) 665-7255

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



Timbalier Island Dune and Marsh Creation (TE-40)

- Sediment Fence *
- Borrow Site *
- Marsh Creation *
- Project Boundary

* denotes propsed feature

USGS science for a changing world

1 0 1 2 Kilometers

1 0 1 2 Miles

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

Background Imagery:
2004 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: March 31, 2006
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