September 2009
Cost figures as of: February 2017

Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement (TE-66)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2009 **Project Area:** 48,446 acres
Approved Funds: $2.32 M **Total Est. Cost:** $16.6 M
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 233 acres
Status: Planning and Design
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration
PPL #: 18

Location

The project area is located in Terrebonne Parish in the Terrebonne Basin.

Problems

The Bayou Dularge Ridge historically restricted the Gulf marine influence into Central Terrebonne marshes forming a diagonal restriction extending from northeast to southwest, where the Atchafalaya influence is prominent. The Grand Pass is currently a 900 ft wide artificial cut through the Bayou Dularge Ridge south of Lake Mechant. The pass is mainly used by commercial and recreational fisherman as a shortcut to the gulf and has greatly eroded to a point of approximately 36 feet deep that well exceeds optimal utility. The expansion of the pass to its current size has allowed for a substantial alteration of historic salinity and hydrology and consequently a broad area of the Central Terrebonne marshes are currently suffering some of the highest loss rates in the state.

Restoration Strategy

The project will reestablish historic hydrologic and salinity conditions by reducing the artificial intrusion of Gulf marine waters via the Grand Pass into the Central Terrebonne marshes while enhancing the influence of the Atchafalaya River waters into the area. A structure consisting of rock barge bay would be constructed to reduce the size of the opening by up to 90% to 150' wide and 15' deep. The project would reestablish the historic ridge function of Bayou Dularge that separated Lake Mechant from the gulf and moderate salinities that have greatly impacted the marshes to the north of Lake Mechant. The project will also increase the Atchafalaya influence in the area by modifying the current structure located in Liners Canal north of Lake Decade to increase freshwater introduction to Lake Decade by an estimated 500 cfs and provide maintenance dredging at Minors Canal to maintain optimal freshwater conveyance from the GIWW into Lake Decade.

Progress to Date

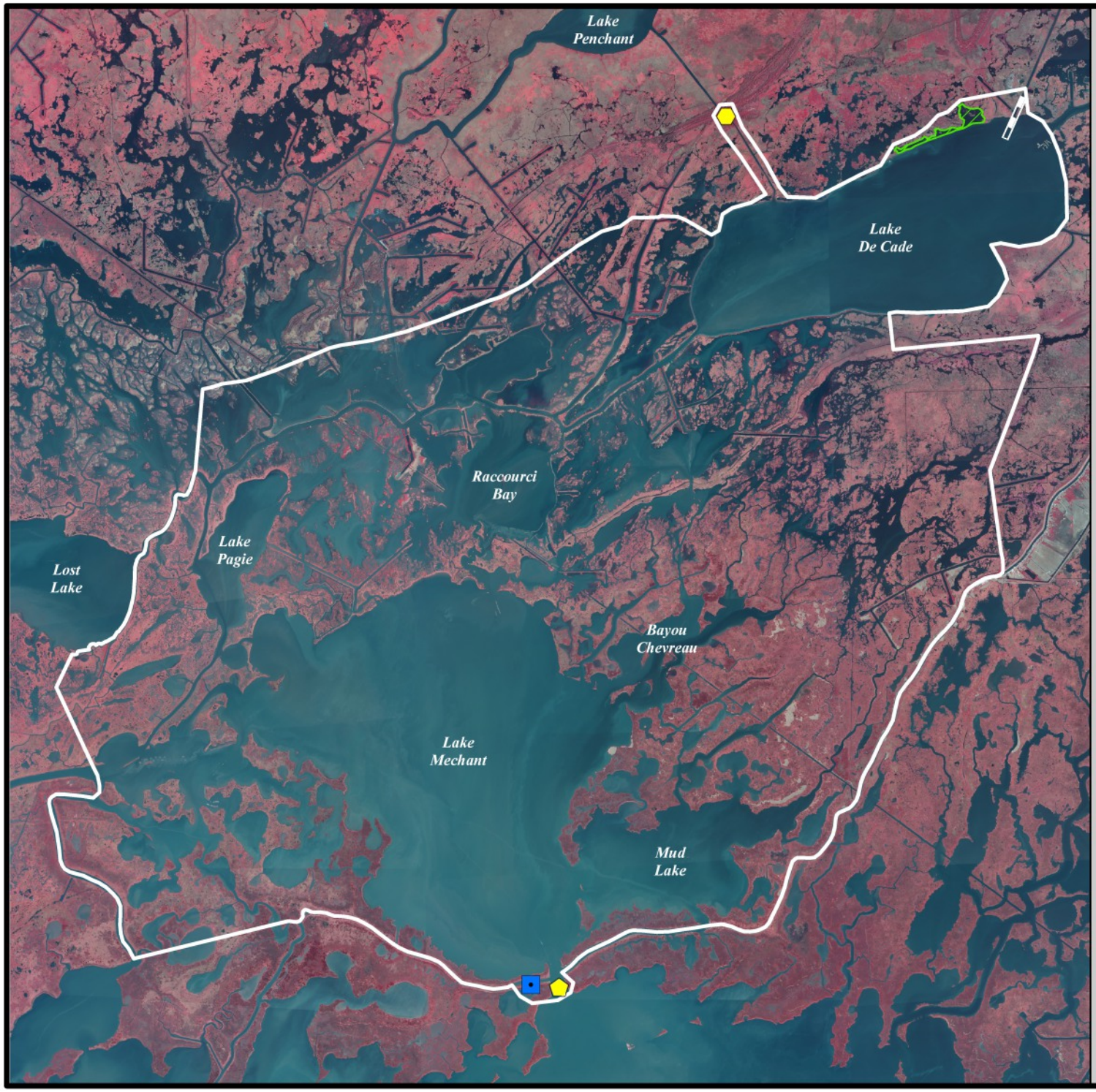
Project is currently in the Planning and Design Phase. Project Team is developing surveying, geotechnical investigations, and modeling requirements necessary to proceed to 30% design review. Project is scheduled to request Phase II funding at the January 2012 Task Force meeting.

This project is on Priority Project List 18.

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



Central Terrebonne Freshwater Enhancement (TE-66)

- Flapgate With Boat Bay *
- Rock Barge Bay *
- Plug *
- Channel Maintenance *
- Marsh Creation *
- Project Boundary

*denotes proposed features

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0.6 0 0.6 1.2 Kilometers

0.6 0 0.6 1.2 Miles

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

Background Imagery:
2008 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: August 27, 2009
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2009-11-0386
Data accurate as of: August 26, 2009