January 2017
Cost figures as of: January 2017

Terrebonne Bay Marsh Creation-Nourishment (TE-83)

Project Status

Approved Date: 2011 **Project Area:** 664 acres
Approved Funds: $2.90 M **Total Est. Cost**: aaaTEC
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 353 acres
Status: Deauthorized
Project Type: Marsh Creation
PPL #: 20

Location

This project is located in Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, Terrebonne Parish, along the northern shoreline of Lake Barre/Terrebonne Bay near Bayou Terrebonne continuing east a short distance past Bayou Chitique.

Problems

Emergent marshes north of Terrebonne Bay have been eroding as fast or faster than almost any other marshes along coastal Louisiana. As these marshes convert to shallow open water, the tidal prism will increase which will in turn increase the frequency and duration of tides north of Terrebonne Bay. This increasing tidal prism is likely to increase the future interior marsh loss rates for those marshes directly north of Terrebonne Bay. These marshes are important for their habitat values as well as serving to slow the progress of highly saline waters that threaten the lower salinity marshes north and west of Madison Bay and in the Lake Boudreaux basin. The
continued loss of these marshes has directly contributed to the ongoing flooding problems of many communities along Bayou Terrebonne including the town of Montegut.

This picture shows the broken marsh in Terrebonne Bay.

Restoration Strategy

The primary goal of this project is to fill shallow open water areas and nourish marshes north of Terrebonne Bay/Lake Barre thereby reducing the tidal prism north of Terrebonne Bay and
interior land loss from tidal scouring. Specific Goals: 1) Create 365 acres of intertidal marsh in shallow open water and nourish 299 acres of fragmented marsh within the project area reducing
water exchange between Terrebonne Bay and interior lakes during tidal and small storm events. 2) Reduce erosion along 16,000 ft of the northern Terrebonne Bay shoreline.

The proposed features of this project consist of filling approximately 365 acres of shallow open water and nourishing approximately 299 acres of very low or fragmented marsh with material hydraulically dredged from Terrebonne Bay/Lake Barre. Containment dikes will be degraded/gapped within 3 years of construction to allow for greater tidal and estuarine organism access. This project could be one part of a phased comprehensive plan to protect the northern shoreline of Terrebonne Bay and the interior marshes from further erosion and reduce the tidal prism.

The project would result in approximately 353 net acres of marsh over the 20-year project life.

Progress to Date

This project is on Priority Project List 20. Phase 1 funding approval for engineering and design was given by the Task Force in January 2011.

For more information, please contact:

Federal Sponsor:
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lafayette, LA
(337) 291-3100

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

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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 Field Station
Baton Rouge, La.

Background Imagery:
2008 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

Map Date: January 24, 2011
Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2011-11-0013
Data accurate as of: January 3, 2011