NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

AWARD AMOUNT
$4,900,000

LOCATION
Terrebonne Parish, LA

AWARD DATE
November 2013

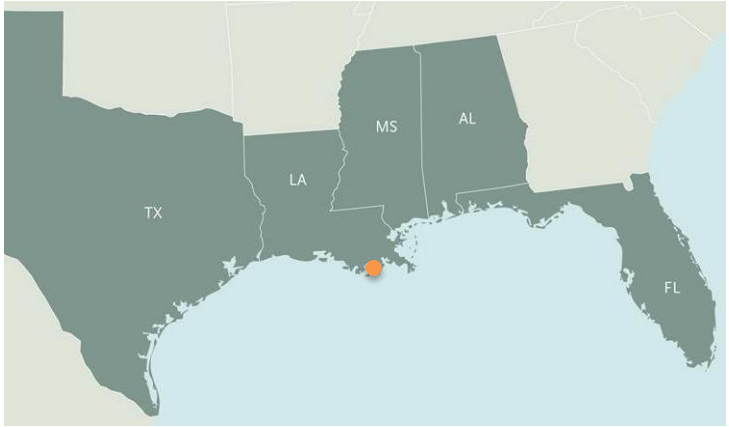
LOUISIANA

Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne: Planning

Obligated funds will be utilized to perform initial planning studies to convey sediment from the Atchafalaya River. The end result of this planning effort will be a definition of project features, projected basin benefits and impacts. The planning studies are needed for this project before engineering and design can commence.

The project will utilize freshwater and sediment from the Atchafalaya River in order to build, sustain, and maintain wetlands within the Terrebonne Basin. The proposed project area encompasses approximately 900,000 acres, and includes a large extent of coastal marsh south of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) at Morgan City eastward to the Houma Navigational Canal and Houma. The lack of both freshwater and sediment inputs due to hydrologic alterations have resulted in increased saltwater intrusion and high subsidence rates in this area which has significantly contributed to wetland loss. The project concept as described in Louisiana's Coastal Master Plan includes dredging of the GIWW east of the Atchafalaya River and installation of a bypass structure at the Bayou Boeuf Lock. This project was included in the Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration Near-Term Plan. The total project cost is currently estimated to be $332,000,000.

The project area is located between the Atchafalaya River and Bayou Lafourche and currently receives very little influence form the Mississippi River through those two distributary channels. The decrease in freshwater has resulted in increased saltwater intrusion, while lower sediment inputs has compounded high subsidence rates and reduced the ability of marshes to maintain their elevation in relation to sea level; together, these factors have contributed to the highest rates of land loss in coastal Louisiana. The project is anticipated to result in an additional 8,298- 17,190 acres of wetlands in 50 years in comparison to the future-without-project condition.



If constructed, this project is expected to restore or protect between 8,000 and 17,000 acres of coastal wetland similar to that pictured above.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to **www.nfwf.org.**