



Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp



Project Scope & Elements

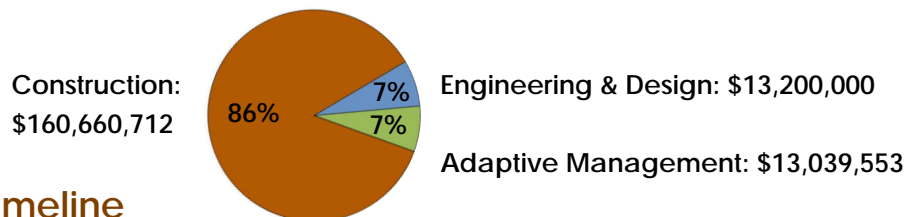
- ▶ The purpose of this project is to restore the connection between the Mississippi River and the Maurepas Swamp to address land loss within the sub-basin caused by reduced sediment input from the river and periodic introduction of brackish water from Lake Maurepas.
- ▶ An intake channel will be excavated in the Mississippi River bature, a gated structure will be built through the levee, and three 10'x10' box culverts will be installed to convey river water under the levee and River Road. The culverts will discharge into a large sand settling basin, connected to a 5.5 mile long banked conveyance channel, which will divert flow of 2,000 cfs for as much of the year as possible to the Maurepas Swamp.
- ▶ The project is estimated to maintain over 45,000 acres of land over 50 years depending on future environmental conditions compared to the Future Without Action.

Ecosystem Outcomes & Economic Impacts

- ▶ Increased sediment and nutrient input would improve the integrity of the swamp and increase primary production, which would provide habitat to commercially important wildlife, including game birds and fisheries.
- ▶ River reintroduction will help preserve and conserve the largest contiguous wetland forest remaining in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.¹
- ▶ River reintroduction will provide greater public access to recreational opportunities, which contribute to a statewide economic impact of \$4.7 billion annually.²
- ▶ By diverting water laden with nutrients and sediment from the Mississippi River, downstream water quality will be improved which could benefit Gulf health by reducing the hypoxic zone.

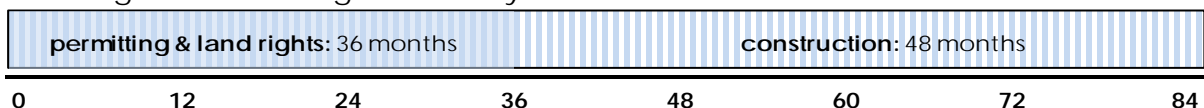
Cost

Estimated Total Cost = **Estimated Project Cost** + **Adaptive Management**
 \$186,900,265 = \$173,860,712 + \$13,039,553



Implementation Timeline

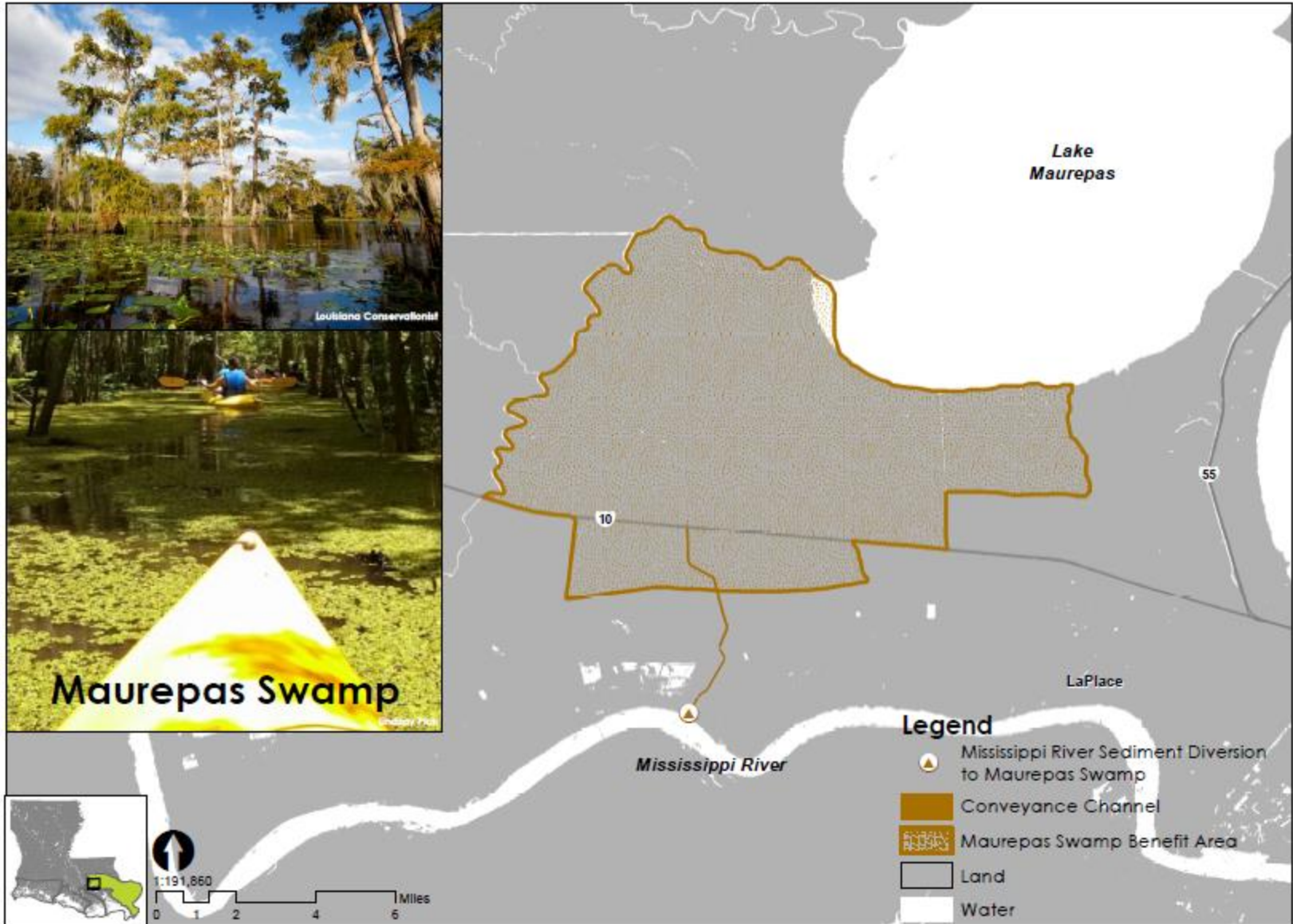
- ▶ Contingent on funding availability.



¹ LDWF 2012 <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/news/35128>

² Louisiana Conservationist 2012. <http://louisianaconservationist.org/2012/05/maurepas-swamp-wma/>

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