October 2003

Humble Canal Hydrologic Restoration (ME-11)

Project Status

Approved Date: 1999
Cost: $1.6 million
Project Area: 4,030 acres
Status: Completed March 2003
Net Benefit After 20 Years: 378 acres
Project Type: Hydrologic Restoration

Location

The project is located in the Mermentau basin, on the west bank of the Mermentau River approximately 2 miles southwest of Grand Lake at the Humble Canal in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

Problems

The Grand and White Lakes system has been maintained as a fresh-to-intermediate marsh environment. This has been accomplished through water management using natural ridges, levees, locks, and water control structures. This project replaces the Humble Canal structure that has fallen into disrepair. This project is compatible with the overall basin strategy of treating critical areas of marsh loss within the interior of the basin and managing water levels with structures to relieve stress on interior wetlands. The project also relieves this area from continued saltwater intrusion from the Mermentau River that threatens the viability of the fresh to intermediate marshes within the region.

Restoration Strategy

The objective of this project is to restore historical hydrology to the project area by constructing a water control structure consisting of five 48-inch diameter by 50-foot long corrugated aluminum pipes with flap gates and weir drop inlets along with one 18-inch diameter corrugated aluminum pipe with screw gate. This structure will protect the area from Mermentau River saltwater intrusion and allow high water to drain from the marsh to the river. Dredging of a small waterway is included to increase the effectiveness of the structure.

Progress to Date

Construction of the project was completed March 5, 2003. The project is now in the operation and maintenance phase.

This project is on Priority Project List 8.

Marsh located in the interior of the project area is experiencing critical loss. Project features will help to restore historical patterns of freshwater flow, which will decrease marsh loss by stabilizing water flow patterns and salinity.

For more project information, please contact:

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Federal Sponsor:
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alexandria, LA
(318) 473-7756

Local Sponsor:
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
Baton Rouge, LA
(225) 342-7308

Humble Canal Hydrologic Restoration (ME-11)

- Water Control Structure
- Dredge Channel
- Project Boundary

USGS science for a changing world

N

2000 0 2000 Feet

500 0 500 1000 Meters

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

Background Imagery:
1998 Digital Orthophoto Quarter Quadrangle

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