



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

AWARD AMOUNT

\$16,099,200

LOCATION

Plaquemines, St. Bernard, and Jefferson Parishes, Louisiana

AWARD DATE

November 2016

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Coordination of the two diversion projects continued. Recent activities include: updates and refinements to the program schedule and reporting, completing the first draft of the construction management plan, developing the program monitoring plan, and participating in outreach and engagement meetings (January 2019)

LOUISIANA

Mississippi River Mid-Basin Sediment Diversion Program Management

This project will provide program-level support for the management of the Mid-Barataria and Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion projects through the engineering and design phase, resulting in increased efficiencies in the delivery of construction-ready projects. This program will enable the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) to take into account fundamental issues common to both projects, as well as to leverage project synergies where minimizing the duplication of efforts can be achieved. Overall, this investment is expected to result in expedited review timelines and an overall reduced schedule to implement the diversion projects.

Once constructed, these two major sediment diversions of the Mississippi River will build sustain, and maintain thousands of acres of wetland habitat over a 50-year projection by introducing over 200 million tons of new sediment into the Barataria and Breton Sound Basins. Both Basins have seen substantial loss of wetlands and habitat as a result of rising sea levels, subsidence, and damage from storms such as Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and others. Wetland productivity has continuously declined due to the lack of new sediment into the Basins. By reconnecting the river, the diversions will reestablish the deltaic processes to build, sustain, and maintain wetlands in accordance with the Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast.



The two Mid-Basin sediment diversion projects, Mid Barataria and Mid Breton, will help restore important habitat, such as the marshes 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.