This project removed flotant marsh and other debris that had settled in interior compartment ditches in the Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as a result of extreme flooding from Hurricane Harvey. These ditches are critical for moving water for waterfowl and habitat management activities within the WMA. Funding for this project helped reduce the time that marsh is flooded and therefore reduced the risk of creating floating marsh which would have been susceptible to additional storm damage.

The J.D. Murphree WMA encompasses diverse wetland habitat home to marsh birds, shorebirds and wading birds that were affected by the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. Protection and restoration of the marsh habitat flooded by Hurricane Harvey directly benefits the species that rely on this habitat such as numerous heron species, Glossy and White Ibis as well as migratory waterfowl.

This project will enhance marsh habitat for wading birds such as the white ibis pictured above.