



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

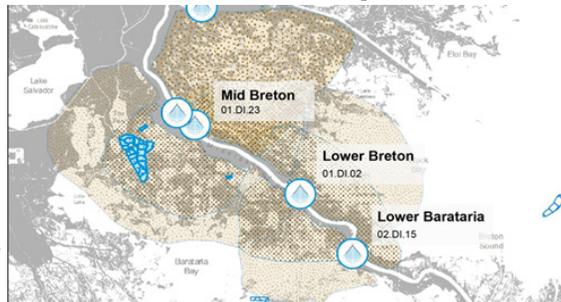
LOUISIANA

Lower Mississippi River Sediment Diversions: Planning

This project conducted initial planning studies for sediment diversions in the lower Mississippi River. This planning effort resulted in a preferred location, size and operation regime for the diversion structures; an evaluation of the sediment distribution (river and basin side), flooding, fisheries, nutrients and economic effects of the projects; and a 10% conceptual design for each project. The planning studies are needed for these projects before engineering and design can commence.

The study examined additional lower Mississippi River sediment diversions designed to reconnect the Mississippi River to degrading marshes east (Mid Breton and Lower Breton) and west (Lower Barataria), building land in shallow open water and introducing sediment and nutrients to sustain existing stressed wetlands. Planning for each of these projects included robust stakeholder involvement. The diversion of water through these river reconnection projects have been planned in an integrated manner such that sediment and freshwater resources are optimized for maximum benefit within coastal Louisiana.

The study determined that the Barataria Basin is projected to lose between 105,000-150,000 acres of land by 2060 depending on future environmental conditions, including sea level rise and subsidence. The Lower Barataria diversion can be expected to reduce this loss by 9,000-11,000 acres. Without any restoration action, the Breton Basin is expected to lose 39,000 acres of land; the Mid Breton and Lower Breton diversions can be expected to reduce this loss by 26,000-33,000 acres based on the results of the study. In response, CPRA has begun advancing the Mid-Breton diversion through engineering and design.



If constructed, these diversions will reduce projected land loss in the Barataria and Breton basins.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

AWARD AMOUNT:
\$10,109,147

LOCATION:
Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana

AWARD DATE:
November 2013

STATUS:
Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Project closed December 2020.



The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 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 GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to www.nfwf.org/Gulf