

US Department of the Army

Wetland Creation in the Pass a Loutre WMA Using Dredge Material from South Pass of the Mississippi River

The proposed project will create/restore approximately 640 acres of emergent wetlands in the bird's foot delta of the Lower Mississippi River by placing an estimated 8.5 million cubic yards (mcy) of sediment at an estimated total cost of \$36 million, for an average cost of nearly \$56,750 per acre restored, at an estimated unit price \$4.27 per cubic yard of material placed. The proposed project consists of restoring coastal ridge and wetland habitat in the bird's foot delta of the Lower Mississippi River through the placement of dredged material from South Pass of the Mississippi River. The primary goal and objective of this project is to Restore Habitat, specifically, to rapidly restore 640 acres of ridges and emergent wetlands through the placement of readily available dredge material. The project will enable USACE to improve its utilization of Mississippi River sediment and will contribute to maximizing the use of dredge material for effective and sustainable habitat restoration. The ridges and emergent wetlands to be created by the project will, amongst other things, provide a barrier to the progression of saltwater intrusion into freshwater marsh, provide habitat for wildlife and waterfowl, provide higher quality essential fish habitat for recreation and commercially important fish and shellfish species, and support storm surge risk reduction to the Mississippi River and nearby transportation and oil and gas infrastructure. In addition to supporting the primary goals and objective, the project will support most of the remaining Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. Requested funding amount: \$36,000,000.