

Draft Funded Priorities List 3b

Proposal Abstract

Sponsor: U.S. Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the federally-recognized Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana

Proposal: Cote Blanche Freshwater and Sediment Introduction and Shoreline Protection

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, on behalf of the federally-recognized Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana, is requesting \$2.65M in Council-Selected Restoration Component funding for the proposed Cote Blanche Freshwater and Sediment Introduction and Shoreline Protection project. This request includes planning funds as FPL Category 1. The project was a 2012 Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) nominee for Priority Project List 22. Through CWPPRA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service developed information for the nominee project. Project activities will support the primary RESTORE Comprehensive Plan goal to restore and conserve habitat through planning and technical assistance activities for the Cote Blanche Freshwater and Sediment Introduction, and Shoreline Protection Project. The proposed project, located in the Teche/Vermilion Basin in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, consists of two components: freshwater and sediment introduction and shoreline protection. The freshwater and sediment introduction component includes channel improvement or enlargement and a structural feature to increase freshwater and sediment input from the Atchafalaya River into interior Cote Blanche Wetlands.

Project activities will optimize distribution of water and sediment to reduce emergent marsh loss and accelerate sediment accretion to promote land building in isolated marsh areas. When implemented, the project features will also provide a synergistic effect with two existing CWPPRA projects: Cote Blanche Hydrologic Restoration Project and Sediment Trapping at the Jaws. Project duration is 3 years.