

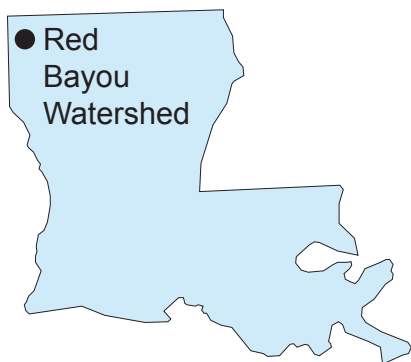
Watershed Operations

May 2009

Reinvesting in the Red Bayou Watershed, Louisiana

Introduction

This watershed project will contribute to the economic growth of the area by providing an alternative source of water and relieving the pressure on the aquifers in the project area. The site provides farmers with a means to irrigate their crops and maximize yields while maintaining quality habitat for fish and aquatic species.



The Red Bayou Watershed is located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Caddo Parish, 4th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$3,200,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$1,000,000

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Caddo Soil and Water Conservation District
- Caddo Parish Levee District
- North Caddo Irrigation District
- Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
- Twin Valley Resource Conservation & Development Area, Inc.
- Caddo Commission
- Red River Waterway Commission
- Red River Valley Association
- Louisiana Farm Bureau

Benefits

This project will reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water quality in Red Bayou and its tributaries, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and increase efficiency of existing irrigation systems. The project will allow for the use of an alternative source of water for irrigation and relieve the water withdrawal on the aquifers in the project area.



Sediment from cropland is deposited in bayous, wetlands, and drainage systems resulting in high turbidity and fertility levels in water bodies and infilling of wetlands. The estimated amount of sediment deposited in Red Bayou's water bodies is 17,800 tons per year.

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Economic Opportunities

The funds provided to accelerate the implementation of the Red Bayou Watershed project will create or save jobs within Caddo Parish. The project will also improve water supplies for residents within the project area, reduce energy use and water demands for farmers, and improve wildlife habitat. This project will return to the community an annual benefit of \$106,200.



Soil loss on row cropland averages about five tons per acre per year.

Statewide Perspective

Since 1998, Louisiana has experienced either annual or seasonal periods of severe drought that emphasize the need for farmers to develop dependable sources of irrigation water to meet crop needs during critical stages of growth. Demands on the bayou's limited waters have increased. With the Red River as the only dependable source of surface water for irrigation needs, this project will allow the use of an alternative water source, thus decreasing demand on the aquifers in the project area.



Irrigation demands on the bayou have had an adverse environmental impact.

For More Information

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