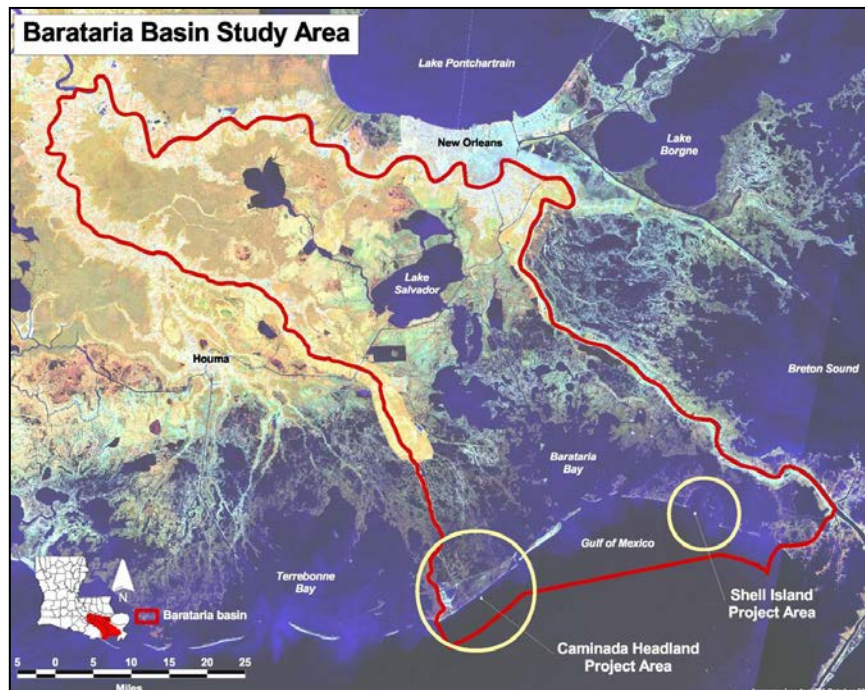


LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA (LCA) BARATARIA BASIN BARRIER SHORELINE RESTORATION (BBBS) JEFFERSON, LAFOURCHE, AND PLAQUEMINES PARISHES, LOUISIANA

22 March 2012



ABSTRACT: Title VII of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, P.L. 110-114, Section 7006(c)(1)(C) authorizes the Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration (BBBS) project in accordance with the restoration plan in the Report of the Chief of Engineers dated January 31, 2005, contingent on completion of a construction report documenting any modifications to the Chief's Report, approval of the Secretary of the Army, and submission to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Section 7006(c)(4) states that the cost of a project shall not exceed 150%

of the cost of such project set forth in Section 7006(c)(1). The cost of the BBBS project in Section 7006(c)(1)(C) is \$242,600,000, yielding \$363,900,000 as the 150% cost limit for the BBBS project. The non-Federal sponsor is the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

Restoration of the shoreline and marsh platforms on the Caminada Headland and Shell Island would restore the natural hydrologic function of the systems. The barrier islands influence the estuarine and freshwater wetland environments by helping to regulate salinity gradients important to estuarine and freshwater species. Restoring these barrier shoreline landforms would also decrease shoreline erosion and the rate of loss of interior wetlands in the Barataria Basin by reducing the extent and intensity of tidal, wave, and storm processes inland from the shorelines. In addition to their hydrogeomorphic functions, the barrier shorelines are critical habitat for diverse fish and wildlife species including commercially and recreationally harvested fish, migratory and resident birds, and Federally-protected endangered species. Without action, these critical geomorphic features that separate the Barataria Basin estuary from the Gulf of Mexico will continue to degrade, existing breaches will widen, new breaches will form, and portions of the project area will disappear in the near term.

The Recommended Plan restores approximately 2,849 acres of dune, beach, and marsh on the Caminada Headland in Lafourche and Jefferson Parishes and on Shell Island in Plaquemines Parish. The plan increases the longevity of the geomorphologic form and function of the Caminada Headland and Shell Island by creating or restoring 1,197 acres of dune and beach habitat, and

1,652 acres of marsh habitat. As part of operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation (OMRR&R), the Recommended Plan includes periodic sand renourishment of the Caminada Headland and Shell Island, sustaining the project construction benefits. Over each 10-year period, a minimum of 3.9 million cubic yards of material will be returned to the Caminada Headland. Material from the Bayou Lafourche, Louisiana navigation project will be placed into the littoral drift south of Bayou Moreau. The renourishment will benefit the Headland as longshore transport nourishes the beach and adds width to the shoreline. Shell Island will be restored to its pre-Hurricane Bob (1979) configuration and sustained with two renourishment cycles. Renourishment is an OMRR&R cost that will be fully-funded by the non-Federal sponsor. Near term restoration of the headland and island is essential to prevent the need for significantly more difficult and costly future restoration efforts, or irretrievable ecosystem losses.

The estimated first costs for the Recommended Plan is \$428,262,000 at FY 2012 (October 2011) price levels. The costs will be shared \$278,370,300 Federal and \$149,891,700 non-Federal. The average annual cost of OMRR&R is \$6,183,485, and is entirely a non-Federal expense. The fully funded cost of the Recommended Plan is approximately \$448,351,000 without OMRR&R, which exceeds the WRDA 2007 Section 7006(c)(4) cost limit, and therefore requires reauthorization from Congress for implementation.

REPORT DOCUMENTATION: Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington-Level Review Actions, are linked below:

- [CWRB Agenda](#)
- [Project Summary](#)
- [CWRB Briefing Slides](#)
- [CWRB Lessons Learned](#)
- [CWRB Meeting Record](#)
- [State & Agency Review Comment Letters](#)
- [Documentation of Review Findings](#)
- [Signed Chief of Engineers Report](#) -- 22 June 2012
- [Advance Copy to Congressional Committees](#)
- ASA(CW) Memo to OMB
- OMB Response
- ASA(CW) Transmittal to Congress
- Signed Record of Decision
- Authorization

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

[Mississippi Valley Division](#)

[New Orleans District](#)

[Louisiana Coastal Program, BBBS Project Page](#)