



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENT

Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority

AMOUNT

\$12,760,187

LOCATION

Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes, LA

AWARD DATE

November 2013

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

All tasks are complete except for the visualization effort for the small scale physical model. A notice to proceed was issued to The Water Institute to complete the visualization effort and a kickoff meeting was held to finalize the schedule. (January 2019)

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), 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 NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

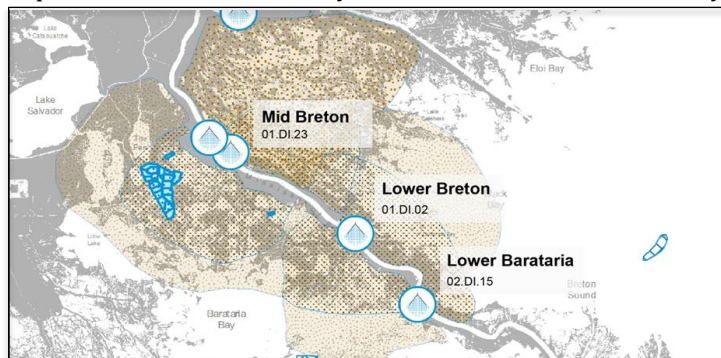
LOUISIANA

Lower Mississippi River Sediment Diversions: Planning

This project will conduct initial planning studies for sediment diversions in the lower Mississippi River. This planning effort is intended to result 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 will examine 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 will include robust stakeholder involvement. The diversion of water through these river reconnection projects will be planned in an integrated manner such that sediment and freshwater resources are optimized for maximum benefit within coastal Louisiana.

The Barataria Basin is projected to lose between 105,000 – 150,000 acres of land by 2060 depending on the future environmental conditions. The Lower Barataria diversion is expected to reduce this loss by 9,000-11,000 acres. Without any restoration action, the



Pontchartrain/Breton Basin is expected to lose 39,000 acres of land; the Mid Breton and Lower Breton diversions are expected to reduce this loss by 26,000-33,000 acres.



If constructed, these diversions would reduce land loss in the Barataria and Pontchartrain/Breton basins.