



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

Memorandum

June 27, 2022

To: Memorandum To File

From: Michael Barron, Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Subject: No Coastal Barrier Resources Act Consistency Determination Required for Implementation of Four (4) Restoration Projects proposed in the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group's Restoration Plan #8: Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore

The Department of the Interior Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office is working through various environmental compliance consultations on post-settlement proposed restoration alternatives. We are currently working on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act consistency determinations for four (4) proposed projects. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) has evaluated these projects as potential restoration projects under the draft Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group Final Restoration Plan #8: Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore. Public comment for this plan closed on April 18, 2022. If the LA TIG selects these projects, after consideration of public comments, the LA TIG partners would implement the projects.

We used the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) mapper (<https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps-and-data> [accessed June 27, 2022]) to determine if the proposed actions are located within a CBRS Unit or an Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). If the proposed action occurs outside of a CBRS Unit or within an OPA, no additional analysis was developed. Please refer to Table 1 below for a list of projects, Unit Numbers (if applicable), and consistency determinations.

If you have questions or concerns regarding this action, please contact Michael Barron, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at 251-421-7030 or michael_barron@fws.gov.

Table 1. Proposed Projects and Locations Relative to CBRS Units and OPA Units

Proposed Project	CBRA Consistency Determination
Bayou Dularge Ridge and Marsh Restoration	Programmatic activities include the following Louisiana parishes: Terrebonne. Potential actions could occur within the following CBRS units and OPAs: CBRS/OPA Units: None
Bayou La Loutre Restoration and Marsh Creation Project	Programmatic activities include the following Louisiana parishes: St. Bernard. Potential actions could occur within the following CBRS units and OPAs: CBRS/OPA Units: None
East Orleans Landbridge Restoration	Programmatic activities include the following Louisiana parishes: Orleans. Potential actions could occur within the following CBRS units and OPAs: CBRS/OPA Units: None
Racoon Island Barrier Island Restoration	Programmatic activities include the following Louisiana parishes: Terrebonne. Potential actions could occur within the following CBRS units and OPAs: CBRS Units: S06 OPAs: None

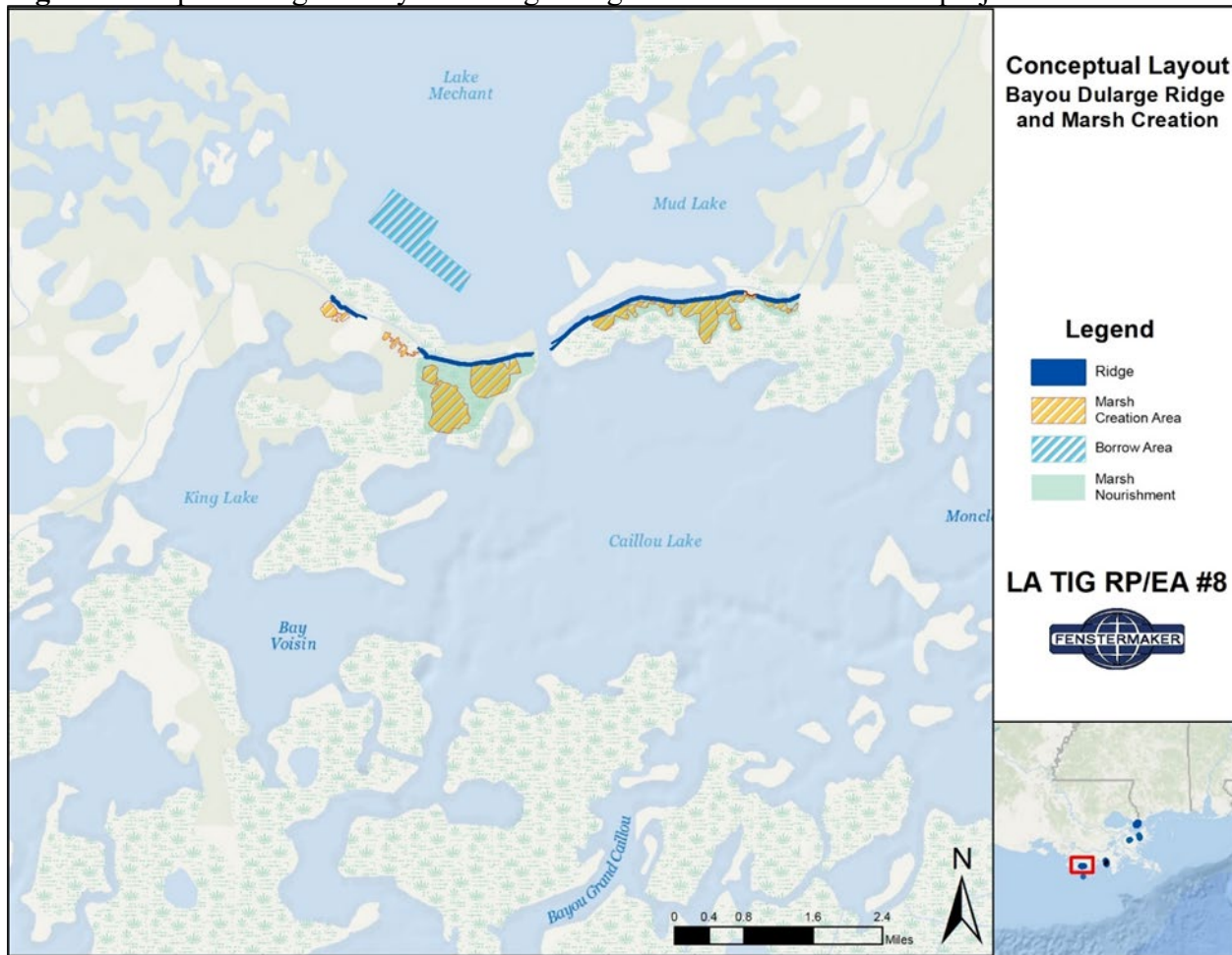
1. Bayou Dularge Ridge and Marsh Restoration

Lake Mechant sediments would be hydraulically dredged and pumped via pipeline to create/nourish approximately 400 - 500 acres of marsh. The proposed design is to place the dredged material to a fill height conducive with marsh creation, approximately +1.3-ft. to +1.5-ft. in elevation, with a 20-year project lifespan. After dewatering and compaction of dredged sediments to the designed elevation, intertidal emergent wetlands would establish. The project includes perimeter containment dikes built with in-situ material to contain the hydraulically dredged sediment. Containment would not be constructed in areas where spoil banks currently exist or along the ridge alignment. This project would also create a ridge feature over a 27.6 acre footprint in three segments (19,860 – 17,200 linear feet). Of the 27.6 acre footprint, 21.3 acres are below mean high water (MHW). The remaining 6.3 acres are above MHW. The table below shows the ridge restoration calculations. The existing 21.3 acres of ridge below MHW will be converted to an approximate above tidal elevation of +5.0- +6.0 ft. The tidal range 0.94 MHW and -0.03 mean low water (MLW). The current proposal is to restore the ridge using material excavated from south of the existing ridge and from Bayou Dularge. Herbaceous plantings (e.g., Seashore paspalum) may occur immediately after construction. Appropriate bottomland hardwood species (seedlings and saplings) would be planted approximately two years after material deposition is complete.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed actions are outside of any System Units. Therefore, Consistency Analysis for this project is not necessary.

Figure 1. Map showing the Bayou Dularge Ridge and Marsh Restoration project area.



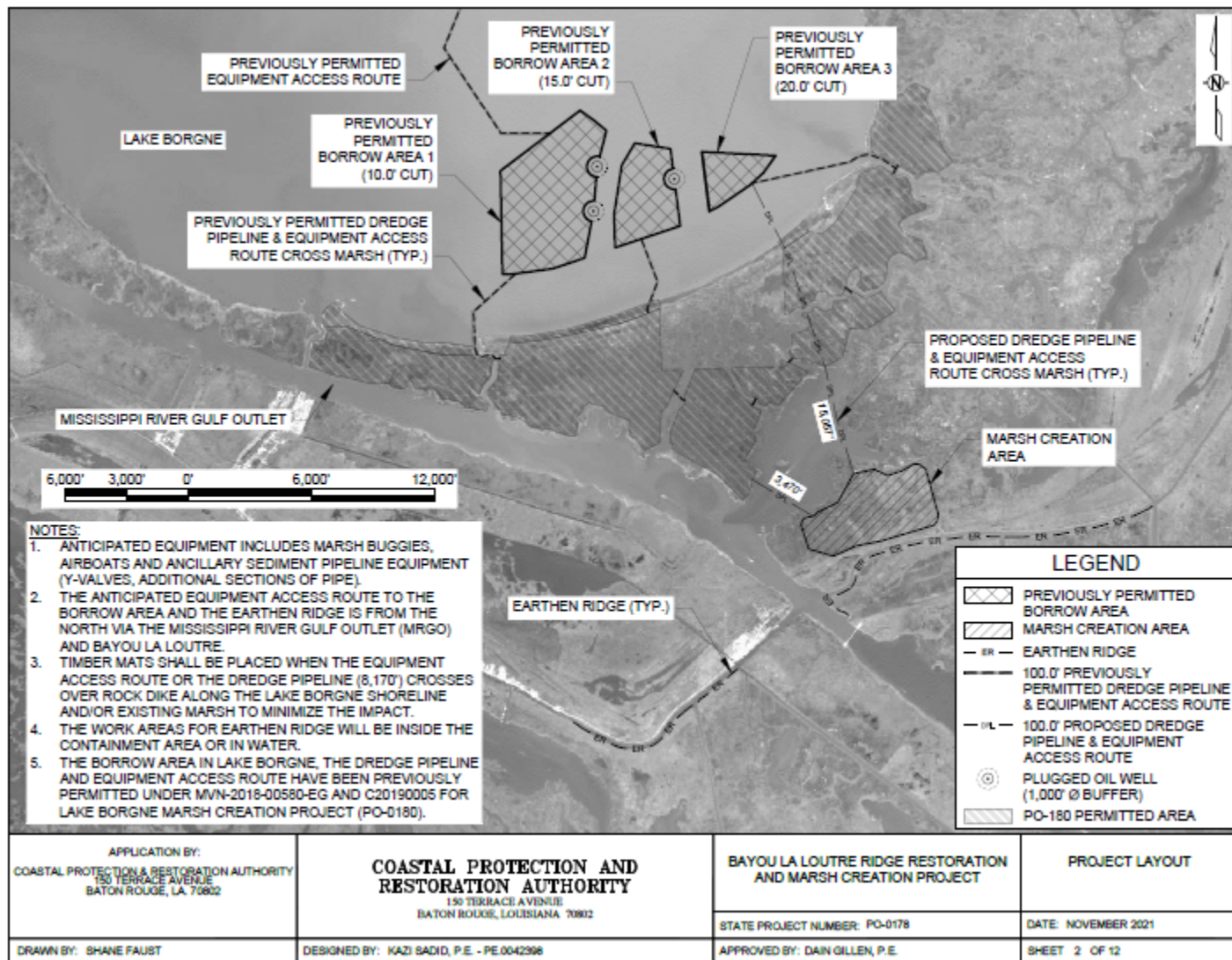
2. Bayou La Loutre Restoration and Marsh Creation Project

The proposed project would create approximately 5.46 miles (28,855 ft.) of ridge along Bayou La Loutre and 19.4 acres of Live Oak /Hackberry Maritime forest habitat. The ridge habitat would be built by bucket dredging Bayou La Loutre down to elevation -10-ft. NAVD88 with a side slope of 3:1 (H:V). Material would be placed on the existing remnant of the ridge at a ground elevation ranging from 0.8 to 1.8-ft., while a marsh buggy grades the ridge to the design cross section. The structure would have a +5-ft. NAVD88 elevation, 15-ft. crest width and 5:1 (H:V) side slopes. Additionally, the newly created ridge would include herbaceous and woody plantings with smooth cord plantings along the toe. The Lena Lagoon site would create and nourish approximately 421 acres of marsh using sediment hydraulically dredged from Lake Borgne down to bottom elevation -10 to -20-ft. NAVD88. Lena Lagoon would have a semi-confined south and east flank and a fully confined north flank. Containment would be degraded as necessary to re-establish hydrologic connectivity with adjacent wetlands. The project would result in approximately 163 acres of created marsh, 258 acres of nourished marsh, and approximately 31.7 acres of forested ridge.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed actions are outside of any System Units. Therefore, Consistency Analysis for this project is not necessary.

Figure 2. Map showing the Bayou La Loutre Restoration and Marsh Creation Project project area.



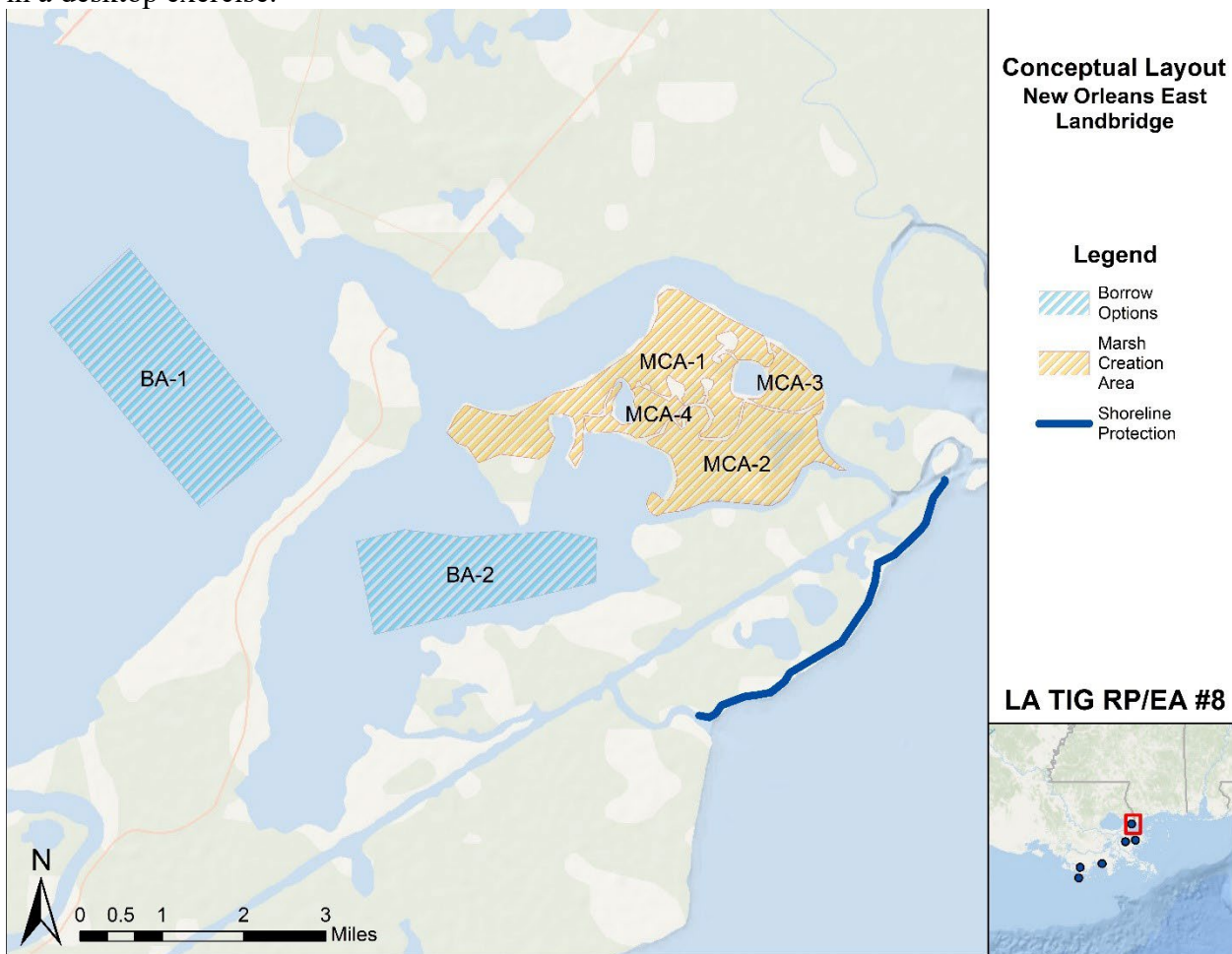
3. East Orleans Landbridge Restoration

This project is an Engineering and Design desktop project that will not involve any field activities.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed action is outside of any System Units and is a desktop exercise in which no field activities are proposed. Therefore, Consistency Analysis for this project is not necessary.

Figure 3. Map showing the East Orleans Landbridge Restoration project area to be analyzed in a desktop exercise.



4. Racoon Island Barrier Island Restoration

This project is an Engineering and Design desktop project that will not involve any field activities.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed action would occur within System Unit S06. However, the project is a desktop exercise that does not involve any field activities. Therefore, Consistency Analysis for this project is not necessary.

Figure 4. Map showing the Raccoon Island Barrier Island Restoration project area to be analyzed in a desktop exercise.

