

US Department of the Army

Wetland Creation in West Bay, Louisiana, Using Dredge Material From the Mississippi River Hopper Dredge Disposal Area

The proposed project will create/restore approximately 400 acres of emergent wetlands in the bird's foot delta of the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) by placing an estimated 5.7 million cubic yards (mcy) of sediment at an estimated total cost of \$36.5 million, for an average cost of \$93,000 per acre restored, at an estimated unit price of \$6.41 per cubic yard of material placed.

The proposed project consists of restoring coastal wetland habitat through the placement of dredged material from the Head of Passes Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) in the bird's foot delta of the Lower Mississippi River. The primary goal and objective of this project is to Restore Habitat, specifically, to rapidly restore 400 acres of emergent wetlands through the placement of readily available dredge material. The project will enable USACE to improve its utilization of Mississippi River sediment and will contribute to maximizing the use of dredge material for effective and sustainable habitat restoration. The emergent wetlands to be created by the project will, amongst other things, provide a barrier to the progression of saltwater intrusion into freshwater marsh, provide habitat for wildlife and waterfowl, provide higher quality essential fish habitat for recreation and commercially important fish and shellfish species, and support storm surge risk reduction to the Mississippi River and nearby transportation and oil and gas infrastructure. In addition to supporting the primary goals and objective, the project will support most of the remaining Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives. Requested funding amount: \$36,500,000.