



Gulf Coast  
Ecosystem  
Restoration  
Council

# Mississippi River Delta Watershed

Mississippi River Reintroduction into the Maurepas Swamp  
(LA\_RESTORE\_005\_000\_Cat1)



**Project Name:** Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp - Planning

**Cost:** Category 1: \$14,190,000

**Responsible Council Member:** State of Louisiana

**Project Details:** The Maurepas Swamp is one of the largest areas of forested wetlands along the Gulf Coast, encompassing approximately 57,000 hectares (approximately 140,850 acres) of bald cypress-tupelo swamp west of Lake Pontchartrain. Historically, the swamp received sediment and nutrient inputs from the Mississippi River during seasonal overbank flooding; however, reduced freshwater inflow and sediment input has caused land loss within the sub-basin and resulted in the periodic introduction of brackish water from Lake Pontchartrain into Lake Maurepas and the swamp.

**Activities:** The project would include engineering and design of the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp project, leading to construction-ready plans and specifications and the development of an adaptive management plan to guide decision-making for future project maintenance activities. If implemented in the future, the project would consist of the following major components designed to divert fresh water from the river into the Maurepas Swamp: a gated river intake structure; a box culvert through the levee; a sedimentation basin; a conveyance channel; and a drainage pump station. The maximum design flow is 2,000 cubic feet per second.

**Environmental Benefits:** If implemented in the future, in addition to restoring and enhancing a total of 18,300 hectares (approximately 45,220 acres) of forested wetland, the project would provide a host of other benefits to wildlife that are dependent on cypress-tupelo swamps. Increased primary productivity and water quality would increase food resources and subsequently increase secondary productivity of freshwater fish. Wading birds, migratory birds, bald eagles, alligators and other wildlife species would also benefit. The project could maintain stands of mature bald cypress and other woody vegetation, which would ensure that suitable nesting areas are available for numerous bird species. Bald eagles, for example, predominantly use bald cypress when nesting in Louisiana, and the Maurepas Swamp supports a large number of nests.

**Duration:** The timeline for this planning project is estimated to be three years for permitting and land rights. If implemented in the future, project construction would take four years.

**More information on this activity can be found in Appendix D. Mississippi River Delta;**

**Unique Identifier: LA\_RESTORE\_005\_000\_Cat1.**



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

## Mississippi River Delta

### Mississippi River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp

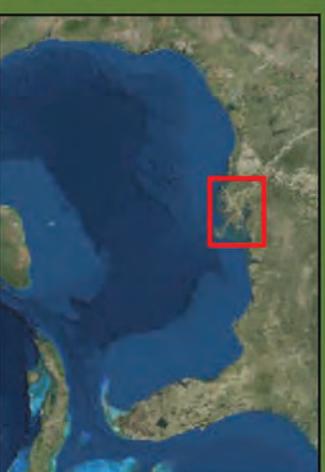
 Wetlands Restoration

**Cost:** Category 1: \$14,190,000

**Sponsor:** State of Louisiana

**Project Status:** Planning

**Purpose:** This project would include the engineering and design for the restoration and enhancement of the Maurepas Swamp – one of the largest areas of forested wetlands along the Gulf Coast – through the reintroduction of seasonal Mississippi River inflow.



Map Date: August 08, 2015