

## **US Department of Agriculture**

### **Bayou Dularge Ridge Restoration, Marsh Creation & Hydrologic Restoration Phase 1 (Tribal Proposal)**

The project components perform synergistically to provide benefits to over approximately 48,000 acres of wetlands through a combination of hydrologic restoration, marsh creation and ridge restoration. The project location provides a unique opportunity to manage salinity intrusion into a vast area where salinity was historically and naturally moderated through intact land features. By reducing the cross-section of the Grand Pass and restoring the integrity of the land bridge that separates the two large lake systems (Lake Mechant and Caillou Lake), the project will result in 233 net acres from the hydrologic restoration, 282 net acres from the marsh creation and 25 net acres of ridge for a total 540 net acres of total direct benefit over its first 20 years. This project takes a regional ecosystem-based approach to restoration by: 1) Reestablishing historic hydrologic and salinity conditions by reducing the artificial intrusion of Gulf marine waters into the Central Terrebonne marshes via the Grand Pass while enhancing the influence of the Atchafalaya River waters into the area and 2) Creating/restoring a ridge feature and degraded marsh in the landbridge that separates Lake Mechant from Caillou Lake to insure the integrity of the ridge and its important function of sustaining optimal salinity gradients and promoting healthy marsh recovery in the region.

Requested funding amount: \$5,162,084.