

Fourchon Maritime Forest Ridge



Excavator on the Maritime Forest Ridge

Project Year: 2001

Category: Birds

Status: Open

Project #: None

Location:

Barataria Basin, Lafourche Parish, Port Fourchon, LA

Project Partners:

Greater Lafourche Port Commission, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Shell Oil Company, Gulf of Mexico Foundation, and the Gulf of Mexico Program.

Problem Addressed:

The unparalleled disappearance of Louisiana's coast can only be surmounted by large scale projects accomplished through partnerships that bring together the knowledge and resources necessary to address this overwhelming crisis.

Problem Description:

BTNEP has played an instrumental role in the advancement of private, corporate, and public collaboration leading to unique partnerships resulting in meaningful restoration for coastal Louisiana.

In 2001, the BTNEP and the Greater Lafourche Port Commission fostered a partnership with other organizations to reestablish a chenier ridge in southeast Louisiana, now known as the Fourchon Maritime Forest Ridge.

Louisiana's unparalleled coastal wetland loss has dire consequences for many species of fish and wildlife. But of as equal importance are the distributary ridges and chenier ridges that are also being lost at an alarming rate. These ridge habitats are extremely important to many animals including the millions of migrating birds that cross the Gulf of Mexico in the spring each year on their way back to their breeding grounds in the eastern United States and Canada.

This project involves pumping earthen material via hydraulic dredge. Constructed in phases, each of the three components will result in the restoration of over 100 acres of chenier ridge and marsh habitat that will stretch approximately 12,000 linear feet. The creation of new slips for the expansion of Port Fourchon provided the material for the project. In addition to benefitting the economics of the region, the port expansion and the construction of the Fourchon Maritime Forest Ridge help to restore habitat and protect infrastructure from the effects of hurricane storm surge. This unique partnership is just one example of how all the stakeholders of Louisiana can work together for the preservation, protection, and restoration of our



BTNEP Nicholls State
University
P.O. Box 2663
Thibodaux LA 70310

Toll Free: (800) 259-0869
Phone: (985) 447-0868
Fax: (985) 447-0870

btnep.org