

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Matrix — Department of the Treasury										OMB Approval No. 1505-0250									
Applicant Name:					Lafourche Parish														

1. CUMULATIVE DIRECT COMPONENT ALLOCATION AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION TO APPLICANT:			\$1,348,297.87		2. TOTAL ALLOCATIONS PLUS KNOWN FUNDS NOT YET DEPOSITED IN TRUST FUND FOR DIRECT COMPONENT:					\$1,348,297.87	
3. Primary Direct Component Eligible Activity Further Described in Application (Static Field)	4. Activity Number and Activity Title (Static Field)	5. Location - Municipality(ies) (Static Field, locations also shown on attached map)	6. Total Funding Resources For Activity Budget (refer to Instructions)				7. Proposed Start Date mm/yyyy	8. Actual Start Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	9. Proposed End Date mm/yyyy	10. Actual End Date mm/yyyy (Static Field)	11. Proposed High Level Milestones Further Described in Application
			6a. Direct Component Contribution	6b. Other RESTORE Act Contribution	6c. Other Third Party Contribution	6d. Total Project Budget					
Planning Assistance	Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration	Lafourche Parish (see map)	\$434,760.00			\$434,760.00	Jul-16		Jul-17		Preliminary engineering and design report that details data collection and permitting activities
Planning Assistance	Grand Bayou Freshwater Reintroduction	Lafourche Parish (see map)	\$79,870.00			\$79,870.00	Jul-16		Jul-17		Preliminary engineering and design report that details data collection and permitting activities
Planning Assistance	West Belle Pass Marsh Creation	Lafourche Parish (see map)	\$360,860.00			\$360,860.00	Jul-16		Jul-17		Preliminary engineering and design report that details data collection and permitting activities
Planning Assistance	Catfish Lake Marsh Creation	Lafourche Parish (see map)	\$177,930.00			\$177,930.00	Jul-16		Jul-17		Preliminary engineering and design report that details data collection and permitting activities
Planning Assistance	Bayou L'Ourse to Leeville Marsh Creation	Lafourche Parish (see map)	\$270,550.00			\$270,550.00	Jul-16		Jul-17		Preliminary engineering and design report that details data collection and permitting activities
12. TOTAL FUNDING FOR BUDGET (refer to Instructions)			\$1,323,970.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,323,970.00					

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name: Lafourche Parish

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name: Amanda Voisin

POC Title: Coastal Zone Manager

POC Email: voisinam@lafourchegov.org

POC Phone: +1 (985) 493-6616

B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity.

ACTIVITY 1 - Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The purpose of the Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration project is to design and construct an efficient sediment delivery pipeline system from a renewable resource in the Mississippi River to strategic locations within the Lafourche Parish portion of the Barataria Basin. The project will provide the means to re-establish emergent wetlands using a sustainable sediment source in an area where sediment is limited. The project will also provide a synergistic effect with previously constructed restoration projects in the area such as receiving nourishment from the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion.

NEED

The area being targeted for marsh creation is experiencing catastrophic land loss, which jeopardizes natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, estuarine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands and makes nearby communities more susceptible to flooding from storm events. Due to the area's geography and limited restoration options, marsh creation is the best option to restore these important ecosystem services that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This project was identified as a priority by the 2012 Coastal Master Plan and some initial planning work has begun to advance the project further west towards Lafourche Parish. The project was developed as a regional Coastal Impact Assistance Program project, with funding provided by the State of Louisiana and three coastal parishes: Plaquemines, Jefferson and Lafourche. Phase I construction of a portion of the project has already been completed, and the project currently extends from the Mississippi River in the vicinity of Myrtle Grove/Alliance area in Plaquemines Parish and ends in Jefferson Parish at the Barataria Waterway in the vicinity of Dupre Cut.

As it relates to the specific project in this multiyear plan, Lafourche Parish is proposing that engineering, design, and permitting activities be initiated to advance the Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration project as a means to marsh creation in this area.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to begin engineering, design, and permitting activities to advance the project toward implementation.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- Analyze existing information and determine data gaps: This will include reviewing data needed to begin initial permitting activities and developing a preliminary project design.
- Collect data: This will include engineering data and data related to land rights, natural resources, existing infrastructure, and existing geotechnical surveys.
- Initiate permitting activities: This will include initial and ongoing agency coordination, as well as exploration of mitigation needs and other regulatory requirements.
- Preliminary design: Preliminary design activities will be focused on developing more detailed specifications for the project, creating design operating procedures, conducting coastal processes analysis, estimating project costs, and developing a completion report.
- Create preliminary engineering and design report: The summary report will compile the information above, identify project areas or components that are most feasible, and outline a recommended path forward for project implementation.

ACTIVITY 2 - Grand Bayou Freshwater Reintroduction: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The primary goal of this project is to increase the flow of freshwater from the Atchafalaya River down Grand Bayou Canal via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). This reintroduction of fresh river water will lower salinities and add nutrients to the wetlands south of the GIWW along the east and west banks of Grand Bayou Canal.

The project is intended to increase the flow of freshwater from the GIWW into Grand Bayou Canal from approximately 600 cubic feet per second to 1,600 cubic feet per second; redirect much of the freshwater from Grand Bayou Canal into the marshes east and west of Grand Bayou Canal; create 112 acres of fresh marsh; and nourish an additional 14 acres of intermediate marsh west of Grand Bayou Canal near Highway 24.

NEED

Without restoration, this region will continue to see the breakup of marshes and the conversion of low salinity marshes to brackish and saline marsh. More than 16,000 acres of marsh have been lost in this area since 1949, and a significant amount of this land loss may be attributed to direct removal and altered hydrology from canal dredging. Altered hydrology remains a current cause of land loss along with high rates of subsidence, which are estimated to be between 2.1 and 3.5 feet/ century (LCWCRTF 1999).

Because of the high number of canals that have been dredged in the area, high salinity Gulf waters move rapidly northward into the marshes within the project area from Lake Felicity and Lake Raccourci. The amount of high salinity waters moving north is increasing as the marshes continue to breakup and disappear. The only freshwater input to this area originates from the GIWW along the northern project boundary. The freshwater inflow from the GIWW is restricted by the small cross-section of the channel north of the Highway 24 Bridge that could be dredged and the cross-section of the channel for several thousand feet south of that bridge. There is also a restriction (earthen plug) in Margaret's Bayou, which prevents freshwater from moving east from Grand Bayou into the broken marshes. The wetland loss currently experienced in this area jeopardizes natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands and it makes nearby communities more susceptible to flooding from storm events.

This project requires additional data collection and hydrologic analysis, as well as initial permitting to coordinate with agency and flood protection authority representatives.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to begin engineering, design, and permitting activities to advance the project toward implementation.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- Analyze existing information and determine data gaps: This will include reviewing data needed to begin initial permitting activities and developing a preliminary project design.
- Collect data: This will include engineering data and data related to land rights, natural resources, existing infrastructure, preliminary hydrologic analysis, and existing hydrologic and geotechnical surveys.
- Initiate permitting activities: This will include initial and ongoing agency coordination, as well as exploration of mitigation needs and other regulatory requirements including coordination with local flood protection authorities.
- Preliminary design: Preliminary design activities will be focused on developing more detailed specifications for the project, creating design operating procedures, conducting coastal processes analysis, estimating project costs, and developing a completion report.
- Create preliminary engineering and design report: The summary report will compile the information above, identify project areas or components that are most feasible, and outline a recommended path forward for project implementation.

ACTIVITY 3 - West Belle Pass Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

This project is a marsh creation project that will build approximately 11,000 acres from Belle Pass to Golden Meadow on the west side of Highway 1 through sediment dredging of either offshore, inshore, or Bayou Lafourche sediment sources to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

This project was identified as a priority project in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan as it focuses on restoring wetlands critical to the economy, people, and other living coastal and marine resources. Wetland restoration in these areas improves the intrinsically linked habitats of the Gulf of Mexico. Rebuilding wetlands in areas that were suffering before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill harmed them further only makes sense. These wetlands support an incredibly diverse array of birds and estuarine/marine wildlife and are not only used recreationally, but support residents' livelihoods and the area's culture as well. Rebuilding these areas also reduces storm surge and protects vulnerable communities and infrastructure (e.g., Port Fourchon) from hurricanes. These areas were already in an immense battle with natural and man-made causes that threatened complete destruction, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill only exacerbated these problems. With wetlands damaged across the coast of Louisiana, it is essential to rebuild wetlands in areas where restoration is feasible so the people and wildlife dependent upon them gain the greatest benefits.

NEED

The area being targeted for marsh creation is experiencing catastrophic land loss, which jeopardizes natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, estuarine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands and makes nearby communities more susceptible to flooding from storm events. Due to the area's geography and limited restoration options, marsh creation is the best option to restore these important ecosystem services that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

As it relates to the specific project in this multiyear plan, Lafourche Parish is proposing that engineering, design, and permitting activities be initiated to identify project areas or components that are most feasible and outline a recommended path forward to implementation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to begin engineering, design, and permitting activities to advance the project toward implementation.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- Analyze existing information and determine data gaps: This will include reviewing data needed to begin initial permitting activities and developing a preliminary project design.
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- Create preliminary engineering and design report: The summary report will compile the information above, identify project areas or components that are most feasible, and outline a recommended path forward for project implementation.

ACTIVITY 4 - Catfish Lake Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

This project is a marsh creation project that will build approximately 1,650 acres of marsh southwest of Catfish Lake (just to the west of Golden Meadow) to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion utilizing either offshore, inshore, or Bayou Lafourche sediment sources.

NEED

The area being targeted for marsh creation is experiencing catastrophic land loss, which jeopardizes natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, estuarine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands and makes nearby communities more susceptible to flooding from storm events. Due to the area's geography and limited restoration options, marsh creation is the best option to restore these important ecosystem services that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

As it relates to the specific project in this multiyear plan, Lafourche Parish is proposing that engineering, design, and permitting activities be initiated to identify project areas or components that are most feasible and outline a recommended path forward to implementation.

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- Preliminary design: Preliminary design activities will be focused on developing more detailed specifications for the project, creating design operating procedures, conducting coastal processes analysis, estimating project costs, and developing a completion report.
- Create preliminary engineering and design report: The summary report will compile the information above, identify project areas or components that are most feasible, and outline a recommended path forward for project implementation.

ACTIVITY 5 - Bayou L'Ourse To Leeville Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

This project is a marsh creation project that will create approximately 5,500 acres along Highway 1 east of Leeville through sediment dredging of offshore, inshore, or Bayou Lafourche sediment sources to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

This project was identified as a priority project in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan as it focuses on restoring wetlands critical to the

economy, people, and living coastal and marine resources. Wetland restoration in these areas improves the intrinsically linked habitats of the Gulf. Rebuilding wetlands in areas that were suffering before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill harmed them further only makes sense. These wetlands are home to an incredibly diverse array of birds and marine wildlife, and are not only used recreationally, but support the livelihoods and culture of the area. Rebuilding these areas also reduces storm surge and protects vulnerable communities from hurricanes. These areas were already in an immense battle with natural and man-made causes that threatened complete destruction, before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill exacerbated these problems. With wetlands damaged across the coast of Louisiana, it is essential to rebuild wetlands in areas where restoration can thrive so the people and wildlife dependent upon them gain the greatest benefits.

NEED

The area being targeted for marsh creation is experiencing catastrophic land loss, which jeopardizes natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, estuarine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands and makes nearby communities more susceptible to flooding from storm events. Due to the area's geography and limited restoration options, marsh creation is the best option to restore these important ecosystem services that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

As it relates to the specific project in this multiyear plan, Lafourche Parish is proposing that engineering, design, and permitting activities be initiated to identify project areas or components that are most feasible and outline a recommended path forward to implementation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this project is to begin engineering, design, and permitting activities to advance the project toward implementation.

OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACTIVITIES

- Analyze existing information and determine data gaps: This will include reviewing data needed to begin initial permitting activities and developing a preliminary project design.
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- Create preliminary engineering and design report: The summary report will compile the information above, identify project areas or components that are most feasible, and outline a recommended path forward for project implementation.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

The draft multiyear plan was made available for public review and comment over a period of forty-five (45) days in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations in accordance with 31 C.F.R. §§34.303(a)(8) and 34.503(g). Public comments on the draft multiyear plan were accepted from August 26, 2015, to October 9, 2015, by both email and regular mail.

The draft multiyear plan was made available on the Lafourche Parish website (<http://www.lafourchegov.org>) with explicit instructions regarding how to submit public comments. In addition, the draft multiyear plan was presented to the Lafourche Parish Council on August 25, 2015. A public meeting was held on September 16, 2015, at the Larose Civic Center (307 E 5th St, Larose, LA 70373), where the draft multiyear plan was presented and made available for public comments and consideration.

Two public comments were received and reviewed. Both submittals were supportive of the draft plan and didn't suggest or require any changes.

The Lafourche Parish Council adopted Resolution No. 15-361 on October 27, 2015 to approve the Lafourche Parish Implementation Plan. The Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Manager submitted the multiyear plan to Treasury for acceptance on January 21, 2016.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

Each of the activities included in this multiyear plan narrative are based on the best available science and meet all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

ACTIVITY 1 - Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration project is to design and construct an efficient sediment delivery pipeline system from a renewable resource in the Mississippi River to strategic locations within the Lafourche Parish portion of the Barataria Basin. The project will provide the means to re-establish emergent wetlands using a sustainable sediment source in an area where sediment is limited. The project will also provide a synergistic effect with previously constructed restoration projects in the area such as receiving nourishment and from the Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion.

As such, this activity meets the following criteria as outlined in the RESTORE Act:

- Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

ACTIVITY 2 - Grand Bayou Freshwater Reintroduction: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The primary goal of this project is to increase the flow of freshwater from the Atchafalaya River down Grand Bayou Canal via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW). This reintroduction of fresh river water will lower salinities and add nutrients to the wetlands south of the GIWW along the east and west banks of Grand Bayou Canal.

The project is intended to increase the flow of freshwater from the GIWW into Grand Bayou Canal from approximately 600 cubic feet per second to 1,600 cubic feet per second; redirect much of the freshwater from Grand Bayou Canal into the marshes east and west of Grand Bayou Canal; create 112 acres of fresh marsh; and nourish an additional 14 acres of intermediate marsh west of Grand Bayou Canal near Highway 24.

As such, this activity meets the following criteria as outlined in the RESTORE Act:

- Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

ACTIVITY 3 - West Belle Pass Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

This project is a marsh creation project that will build approximately 11,000 acres from Belle Pass to Golden Meadow on the west side of Highway 1 through sediment dredging of either offshore, inshore, or Bayou Lafourche sediment sources to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

This project was identified as a priority project in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan as it focuses on restoring wetlands critical to the economy, people, and other living coastal and marine resources. Wetland restoration in these areas improves the intrinsically linked habitats of the Gulf of Mexico. Rebuilding wetlands in areas that were suffering before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill harmed them further only makes sense. These wetlands support an incredibly diverse array of birds and estuarine/marine wildlife and are not only used recreationally, but support residents' livelihoods and the area's culture as well. Rebuilding these areas also reduces storm surge and protects vulnerable communities and infrastructure (e.g., Port Fourchon) from hurricanes. These areas were already in an immense battle with natural and man-made causes that threatened complete destruction, and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill only exacerbated these problems. With wetlands damaged across the coast of Louisiana, it is essential to rebuild wetlands in areas where restoration is feasible so the people and wildlife dependent upon them gain the greatest benefits.

As such, this activity meets the following criteria as outlined in the RESTORE Act:

- Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

ACTIVITY 4 - Catfish Lake Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

This project is a marsh creation project that will build approximately 1,650 acres of marsh southwest of Catfish Lake (just to the west of

Golden Meadow) to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion utilizing either offshore, inshore, or Bayou Lafourche sediment sources.

As such, this activity meets the following criteria as outlined in the RESTORE Act:

- Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

ACTIVITY 5 - Bayou L'Ourse To Leeville Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

This project is a marsh creation project that will create approximately 5,500 acres along Highway 1 east of Leeville through sediment dredging of offshore, inshore, or Bayou Lafourche sediment sources to create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

This project was identified as a priority project in the 2012 Coastal Master Plan as it focuses on restoring wetlands critical to the economy, people, and living coastal and marine resources. Wetland restoration in these areas improves the intrinsically linked habitats of the Gulf. Rebuilding wetlands in areas that were suffering before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill harmed them further only makes sense. These wetlands are home to an incredibly diverse array of birds and marine wildlife, and are not only used recreationally, but support the livelihoods and culture of the area. Rebuilding these areas also reduces storm surge and protects vulnerable communities from hurricanes. These areas were already in an immense battle with natural and man-made causes that threatened complete destruction, before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill exacerbated these problems. With wetlands damaged across the coast of Louisiana, it is essential to rebuild wetlands in areas where restoration can thrive so the people and wildlife dependent upon them gain the greatest benefits.

As such, this activity meets the following criteria as outlined in the RESTORE Act:

- Restoration/protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

ACTIVITY 1 - Barataria Marsh Creation & Ridge Restoration: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The success metric used to evaluate this activity will be receipt of a preliminary design report that details data collection and permitting activities and identifies project areas or components that are most feasible with a recommended path forward for project implementation.

The output of this project will be the creation of this report. The outcome will be the benefit of the implementation of the report's recommendations, which will ultimately lead to construction of an efficient sediment delivery pipeline system from a renewable resource in the Mississippi River to strategic locations within the Lafourche Parish portion of the Barataria Basin.

ACTIVITY 2 - Grand Bayou Freshwater Reintroduction: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The success metric used to evaluate this activity will be receipt of a preliminary design report that details data collection and permitting activities and identifies project areas or components that are most feasible with a recommended path forward for project implementation.

The output of this project will be the creation of this report. The outcome will be the benefit of the implementation of the report's recommendations, which will ultimately lead to the increase of freshwater flow that will lower salinities and add nutrients to the wetlands south of the GIWW along the east and west banks of the Grand Bayou Canal.

ACTIVITY 3 - West Belle Pass Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The success metric used to evaluate this activity will be receipt of a preliminary design report that details data collection and permitting activities and identifies project areas or components that are most feasible with a recommended path forward for project implementation.

The output of this project will be the creation of this report. The outcome will be the benefit of the implementation of the report's recommendations, which will ultimately lead to the construction of a marsh creation project from Belle Pass to Golden Meadow that

will create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

ACTIVITY 4 - Catfish Lake Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The success metric used to evaluate this activity will be receipt of a preliminary design report that details data collection and permitting activities and identifies project areas or components that are most feasible with a recommended path forward for project implementation.

The output of this project will be the creation of this report. The outcome will be the benefit of the implementation of the report's recommendations, which will ultimately lead to the construction of a marsh creation project southwest of Catfish Lake that will create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

ACTIVITY 5 - Bayou L'Ourse To Leeville Marsh Creation: Preliminary Engineering, Design, and Permitting Activities

The success metric used to evaluate this activity will be receipt of a preliminary design report that details data collection and permitting activities and identifies project areas or components that are most feasible with a recommended path forward for project implementation.

The output of this project will be the creation of this report. The outcome will be the benefit of the implementation of the report's recommendations, which will ultimately lead to the construction of a marsh creation project along Highway 1 east of Leeville that will create new wetland habitat, restore degraded marsh, and reduce wave erosion.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Lafourche Parish is in southeast Louisiana and covers approximately 1,469 square miles. The parish is bordered by the Gulf of Mexico to the south, Terrebonne Parish to the west, Assumption Parish to the northwest, St. John Parish and St. James Parish to the north, and St. Charles Parish and Jefferson Parish to the east. Running right through the heart of Lafourche Parish is Bayou Lafourche, a 106-mile-long bayou that is a historic distributary of the Mississippi River and ultimately discharges into the Gulf of Mexico.

Louisiana's coastal land loss crisis was recognized decades prior to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. In response to that crisis, Lafourche Parish has worked in coordination with the State of Louisiana and the federal government to identify and implement projects that maintain and/ or restore the parish's coastal wetlands. The Deepwater Horizon oil spill severely exacerbated the damage to the parish's ecosystems, economy, and resident livelihoods. In response, the parish acknowledges the necessity of restoring its coastal habitats by implementing projects that will set the Gulf of Mexico on a course to full recovery. The parish continues to be heavily engaged in ecosystem restoration planning activities, which have included extensive and ongoing public engagement.

One such planning and public engagement effort is the "Louisiana Comprehensive Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast" (Coastal Master Plan), which was adopted by the Louisiana Legislature in the spring of 2012 and was developed using robust scientific analysis and incorporated extensive public outreach. As required by Louisiana law, the Coastal Master Plan must be updated every five years to ensure it is updated to include the best available science and information. All projects submitted in this draft multiyear plan are consistent with the 2012 Coastal Master Plan and the forthcoming 2017 Coastal Master Plan, as well as the eligibility requirements detailed in the RESTORE Act.

The projects included in this multiyear plan were selected based on years of ongoing work and public engagement and represent key elements of the State's Coastal Master Plan efforts; furthermore, each has independent utility. By including these specific projects in this multiyear plan, Lafourche Parish may move toward large-scale restoration of its adjacent wetlands through a combination of restoration strategies, including marsh creation and freshwater diversions. These projects, and/or project phases, can be constructed via the long distance pipeline sediment from the Mississippi River, offshore borrow, or interior borrow, and diversions of freshwater as appropriate. These projects will significantly contribute to restoring the natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and communities of Lafourche Parish residents, as well as residents of the entire state of Louisiana and the Gulf Coast.

For purposes of this multiyear plan, Lafourche Parish identified specific activities for five separate ecosystem restoration projects totaling \$1,323,970. Regarding future RESTORE Act Direct Component allocations, Lafourche Parish intends to further advance and implement components of the restoration projects included herein.

In addition to this initial process, the project selection process considered public comments received during the 45-day public comment period detailed in the Public Review and Comment Period section of this multiyear plan.

6. The relationship, if any, between the activities the applicant included in the multiyear plan matrix and other activities funded under the RESTORE Act.

There are no known direct relationships between the projects included in this multiyear plan and other RESTORE Act funded activities.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

