Legend:
- Marsh Gain
- Marsh Loss
- Mid Breton
- Mid Barataria
- Lower Barataria
- Lower Breton

SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS OF FOUR PROPOSED SEDIMENT DIVERSIONS

Project No. 2013-31-01

Location: State of Louisiana

Contract Value: $602,635

Completion Date: Ongoing

Owner/POC:
Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority, Kent Bollfrass, Coastal Resources Scientist

Project Specific Disciplines
- Biophysical Data Analysis
- Coastal Planning
- Project Analysis
- Stakeholder Outreach and Communication

Royal Engineers & Consultants, LLC along with our teaming partner, Earth Economics, (Royal/EE) is providing CPRA with a comprehensive approach to examining the socio-economic effects on parishes of continued coastal land loss, coastal restoration, and specific coastal restoration projects. This approach will lead to in-depth analysis of four proposed sediment diversions, providing CPRA and stakeholders with robust socio-economic information that facilitates successful project implementation and helps achieve the Coastal Master Plan goals of no net loss of land in 20 years and a net gain of land in 30 years.

The reports will be organized in a format that is consistent with and supports the CPRA goals, up-coming meetings of importance, the Coastal Master Plan, and that provides inputs toward 2017 Coastal Master Plan development. This scope includes four tasks and five final deliverables.

A comprehensive socio-economic assessment of Mississippi River sediment diversion projects has not been done in Louisiana, due in large part to the complex nature of such a study. However, the quantification of socio-economic effects is vitally important to decision-making regarding these long-term projects and it is a task that is being more and more facilitated by the capabilities of numerical models and the understanding of diversions by the

scientific community. Earth Economics possesses a vast database of peer-reviewed scientific literature used to produce ecosystem service categories and corresponding economic factors which have been used in numerous valuations around the world. This database is constantly updated and coupled with environmental, community, and industry impact modeling software packages to produce comprehensive valuation results. These results are then checked for scientific and economic reasonableness by experienced QA/QC professionals.

Royal/EE has completed the framework development for the Socio-Economic Analysis Methods and is currently implementing the framework for the analysis of six diversion scenarios. Among other things, Royal will provide written future socio-economic illustrations of continued land loss and coastal restoration; summarize a framework validation analysis performed on selected past Mississippi River diversions, including historic data/information on which the validation was based, provide illustrations of how coastal restoration contributes directly to the health and economic vitality of coastal parishes, through an assessment of six socio-economic impact categories including commercial fisheries, water supply, navigation, recreation, storm protection and ecosystem services; and provide talking points for CPRA staff, decision-makers and stakeholders that summarize the report findings and recommendations.