

Louisiana TIG Draft Phase II Restoration Plan/ Environmental Assessment #3.3

Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation: Upper Barataria Component (BA-207)



Credit: NOAA

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group is considering design alternatives for the Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation: Upper Barataria Component (LSBMC-UBC) project. Initially evaluated for engineering and design in the 2017 *Final Strategic Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment #3: Restoration of Wetlands, Coastal, and Nearshore Habitats in the Barataria Basin* (i.e., Phase I Strategic Restoration Plan #3), the Preferred Alternative would create 1,207 acres of intertidal marsh in Upper Barataria Bay. The *Draft Phase II Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #3.3* evaluated three design alternatives for the LSBMC-UBC project to help compensate the public for injuries to wetlands, coastal, and nearshore habitats in the Barataria Basin and Louisiana Restoration Area. The engineering and design work is ongoing, but there is enough information at this time to select a preferred design alternative for the project. The Preferred Alternative was selected because it represents the best balance between the area of marsh created and the construction time required, making it the most cost-effective when compared with the other design alternatives. The design alternatives are described in detail in the *Draft Phase II Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #3.3*.

The public is encouraged to review and comment on the Draft Phase II RP/EA #3.3 by submitting comments online or by mail (hard copy) during the public comment period (March 20, 2020 to April 20, 2020), or during the public webinar on April 2, 2020. More details are available at:

<http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/louisiana>.

ESTIMATED COST

The estimated total cost for the Preferred Alternative is approximately \$176,000,000.

PROPOSED RESTORATION PROJECT

PROJECT NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COST
<p>Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation: Upper Barataria Component</p>	<p>The objective of the preferred alternative is to create approximately 1,207 acres of intertidal marsh habitat in the upper Barataria Basin using an estimated 10.6 million cubic yards of fill from Mississippi River borrow areas to fill marsh creation areas. Sediments would be transported to the project area via the existing permanent access corridor used for previous marsh creation projects. The created marsh would complement nearby marsh creation projects and the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment diversion. This alternative would restore interspersed and ecologically connected coastal habitats in the upper Barataria Basin, resulting in a larger and more stable marsh platform, restored fish and wildlife habitat, and reduced erosion and land loss in the Barataria Basin over the 20-year life of the project.</p>	<p>\$176,000,000</p>

Large-Scale Barataria Marsh Creation: Upper Barataria Component in the Barataria Basin

