

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
LAKE HERMITAGE MARSH CREATION PROJECT (BA-42)
PLAQUEMINES PARISH, LOUISIANA**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to construct the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project (BA-42), located in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The project is funded through the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act and was authorized for construction on January 21, 2009.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared which addresses the Preferred Alternative and a No Action alternative. The purpose of the proposed project is to create 601 acres of emergent marsh by hydraulically dredging bottom sediments and placing that material in shallow open water and fragmented marsh areas. The project will restore approximately 7,400 feet of the eastern shoreline of Lake Hermitage. In addition, approximately 7,300 feet of terraces will be constructed.

Copies of the draft EA were distributed to all pertinent local, state and Federal agencies, and public coastal Louisiana restoration groups in November, 2008. After a 30-day comment period, pertinent comments were incorporated into the final EA.

The Preferred Alternative of creating marsh in shallow open water areas was selected because it will restore emergent marsh in the project area and result in a net gain of 447 acres of marsh compared to the No Action Alternative.

Based on my review and evaluation of the enclosed EA, I have determined that the Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the proposed action is not required.



Acting Field Supervisor
Louisiana Ecological Services Office

November 8, 2011
Date

Reference:

Final Environmental Assessment, dated November 2011

Enclosure
03129196 FWM 246

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY