Executive Summary

Project Name: Bayou DuLarge Ridge, Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration (Planning)

Agency: This project is sponsored by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service on behalf of the Federally Recognized Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana.

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Project Start Date: February 1, 2017
Project End Date: December 31, 2019
Budget: $5,162,084.00

Project Type: Planning
RESTORE Act project funding will be used to complete the Engineering and Design (E&D) for the Bayou DuLarge Ridge, Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration (Planning) Project. The deliverable will be a completed Environmental Assessment, Full Set of Plans and Specifications, with a completed Final Design Package. This engineering and design project is estimated to be completed in 3 years.

Project Location/Background Information:
The project is located in Region 3, Terrebonne Basin, Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana, and Bayou Dularge at Grand Pass approximately 10 miles south of Theriot, LA. See Figures 1 and 2.

Ridge, Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration Projects along the coast of Louisiana have been instrumental in preserving and restoring critical habitat. Bayou Dularge is one such project which seeks to restore valuable wetlands habitat and help protect Louisiana’s coastal communities. Hydrologic restoration projects like this one attempt to return sites of altered hydrology to a more natural condition. By controlling the water level and flow of water, projects have reduced expanses of waterlogged marsh and reduced saltwater intrusion. At construction completion, projects provide benefits which meet local and state restoration planning goals.
Project Components:
The project components perform synergistically to provide benefits to over approximately 48,000 acres of wetlands through a combination of hydrologic restoration, marsh creation and ridge restoration. The project location provides a unique opportunity to manage salinity intrusion into a vast area where salinity was historically and naturally moderated through intact land features. By reducing the cross-section of the Grand Pass and restoring the integrity of the land bridge that separates the two large lake systems (Lake Mechant and Caillou Lake), the project will results in 233 net acres from the hydrologic restoration, 282 net acres from the marsh creation and 25 net acres of ridge for a total 540 net acres of total direct benefit over its first 20 years.

Short description of the overall project construction features: This project consists of funding for Engineering and Design. Funding for construction will be sought at a later date.

Consistency with Local or Regional Planning/Monitoring Efforts (if applicable): Project includes planning of project features identified in the State of Louisiana 2012 Coastal Master Plan and provides synergy to several constructed and planned coastal restoration projects in the Coastal Wetland Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) program.

Overall Project Goals and Objectives: This project proposes to complete Engineering and Design (E&D) of Bayou DuLarge Ridge, Marsh and Hydrologic Restoration (Planning) Project. The deliverable will be a completed Environmental Assessment, Full Set of Plans and Specifications, with a completed Final Design Report. Engineering and Design shall include, but not limited to, engineering and design activities including data collection, environmental compliance (cultural resources, NEPA) and permitting, project management, oyster lease survey and evaluation, and real estate requirement up to, but not including, the purchase of real estate.
Project Maps:

Figure 1. Regional map of coastal LA showing location of project area.
Figure 2. Proposed map with project features