

THE NEWS ROOM

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BOEMRE Awards \$600,000 for Louisiana Ridge, Marsh Restoration

Funds to Continue Maritime Forest Ridge Project in Lafourche Parish

NEW ORLEANS – The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) announced today that it has awarded a \$600,000 Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to Lafourche Parish, La. The grant will provide the remaining funding for a project begun previously to shape sediment in a 4,000-foot maritime ridge and associated fringe marsh near Port Fouchon, Louisiana.

Created by the Energy Policy Act of 2005, CIAP provides funding to the six Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas producing states to conserve and protect the coastal environment. CIAP is an ongoing program with grant funding that is allocated based on the offshore energy revenues collected by the United States.

“Marsh restoration is critical to the state of Louisiana,” said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. “We will continue to provide CIAP funds to help the state and Lafourche Parish protect their coastal ecosystem.”

The \$600,000 grant will be used to provide the remaining funds needed to continue a project, initiated in late 2006, that pumped sediment into a 4,000-foot maritime forest ridge and its associated fringe marsh. This phase of the project will shape and form the originally pumped sediment and also provide for the planting and completion of the vegetative component and project evaluation.

The Maritime Forest Ridge and Marsh Restoration project is located in lower Lafourche Parish near Port Fouchon, La., in the Barataria Basin.

CIAP received \$250 million in appropriated funds for each of the fiscal years 2007-2010, to be disbursed to six eligible OCS oil and gas producing states: Mississippi, Alabama, Alaska, California, Louisiana and Texas.

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