

# ***MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Update***

***Gregory Miller***

***New Orleans District***



®

US Army Corps of Engineers  
**BUILDING STRONG**®



# Legislative Authority

WRDA 2007 Section 7013 (P.L. 110-114 effective Nov. 8, 2007)

INCLUSIONS — At a minimum, the report ... shall include—

- ▶ a plan to physically modify the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet and restore the areas affected by the navigation channel;
- ▶ a plan to restore natural features of the ecosystem that will reduce or prevent damage from storm surge;
- ▶ a plan to prevent the intrusion of saltwater into the waterway;
- ▶ efforts to integrate the recommendations of the report with the [LCA] ...and the [LACPR] analysis and design ...; and
- ▶ consideration of—
  - use of native vegetation; and
  - diversions of fresh water to restore the Lake Borgne ecosystem.
- ▶ provide Report to Congress NLT May 7, 2008

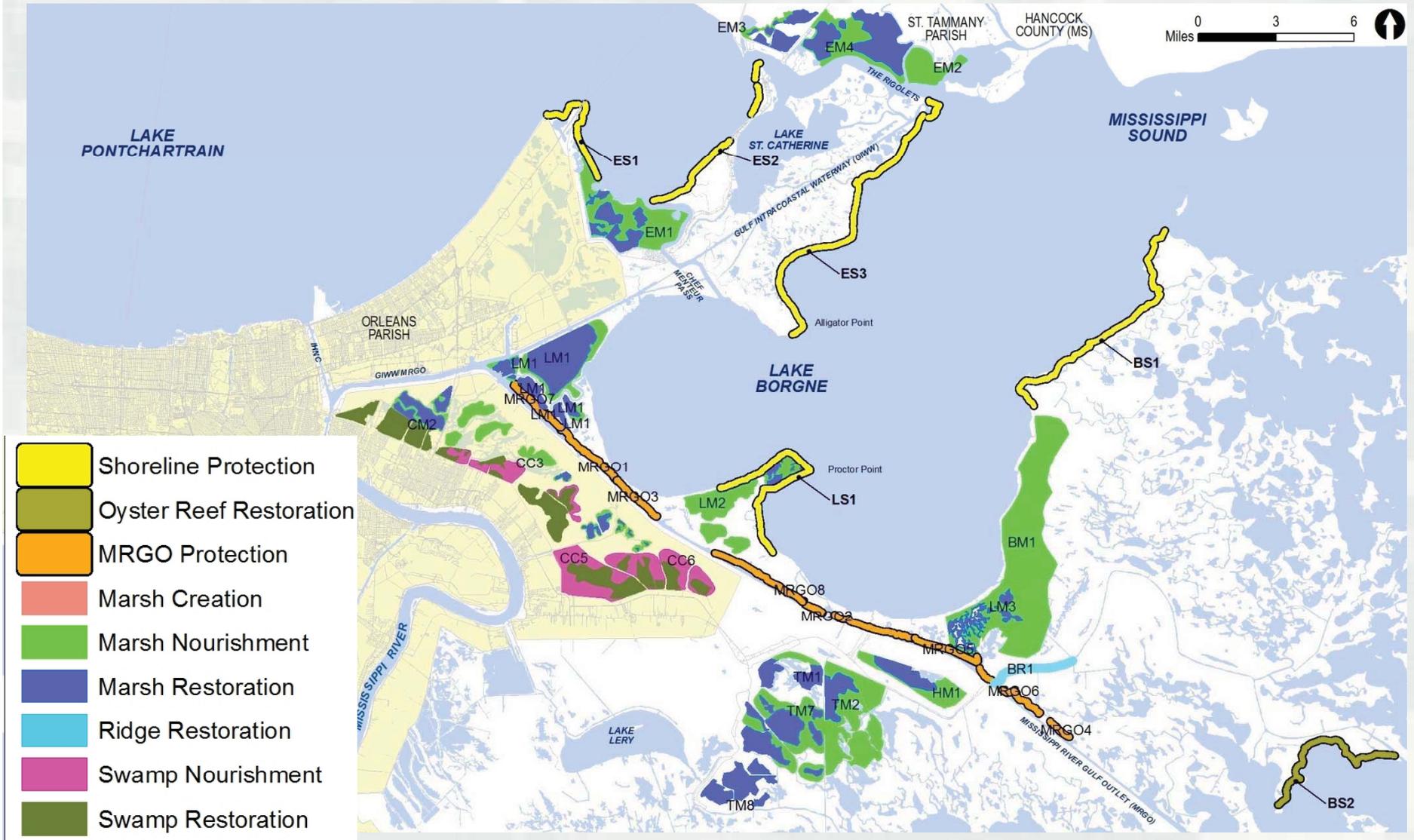


# Study Timeline

- November 2007 – WRDA 2007 enacted
- June 2008 – MRGO Deauthorization Report Completed and sent to Congress
- October 2008 – Notice of Intent to prepare EIS published
- November 2008 - Public Scoping Meetings
- April 2009 – Feasibility Scoping Meeting
- June 2009 – MRGO Closure structure construction completed
- May 2010 – Selection of draft Tentatively Selected Plan
- July 2010 – Alternative Formulation Briefing
- December 2010 – Public Comment Period on Draft Report
- April/May 2012 – Tiered Recommendation developed
- June 2012 – Civil Works Review Board
- August 2012 – State & Agency Review on Final Report & NEPA Final EIS review period
- *September 2012 – pending Signed Chief's Report*



# Federally Identified Plan



# Federally Identified Plan

- Restores and Protects:
  - 32,511 acres of brackish marsh
  - 14,123 acres of fresh and intermediate marsh
  - 10,318 acres of cypress swamp
  - 466 acres of saline marsh
  - 54 acres of ridge habitat
  - 71 miles of shoreline protection, including 5.8 miles of oyster reef
  - 3 recreation features
- Total: 57,472 Acres
- ~\$3B plan



# Next Action and Future Opportunities

- Next Actions:

- Sept 2012 Signing of Report of the Chief of Engineers
- Oct 2012 Transmittal of Report to Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
- Nov 2012 Administration review of Report
- Feb 2013 Transmittal of Report to Congress

- Future Opportunities:

- Actions by Congress
- Non-traditional cost share sponsors
- Violet Diversion Authority appropriations
- Sponsor reconsideration of cost share support

