



MORGANZA SUCCESS STORY

Adaptive Management = Wetland Restoration

BACKGROUND

In 2007, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Ducks Unlimited, Terrebonne Parish Consolidate Government and the Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District came together on wetland projects within the Pointe-aux-Chenes (PAC) Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in wetlands just west of the Pointe-aux-Chenes community. During the late 1980s and the 1990s, several "marsh management" projects were built as one of the preferred restoration methods. Ducks Unlimited has been very active in the building of structures and marsh levees for this unit – the photo was taken in 2007 to document the existing conditions at that time.



SUCCESS

With the substantial investment in building the comprehensive Morganza to the Gulf (MTG) levee system, we have noticed that wetlands inside the levees are improving. Recently, it appears the wetlands in the northern parts of the Lake Boudreaux Basin are getting fresher because the new MTG levees and structures are causing positive environmental impacts. These "leaky" hurricane levees were designed to stop an unlimited interaction of salt water within Louisiana's vanishing wetlands.

The photo taken to the right was from 2016; less than 10 years later. It demonstrates the importance of adaptive management, levee protection benefits of reducing saltwater intrusion and the need for a collaborative effort to reverse decades of coastal landloss.



TAKEAWAY

Louisiana's large hurricane protection systems are designed to protect communities, but are also a vital element to restoring wetlands within coastal Louisiana.