USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

RECOVERY.GOV

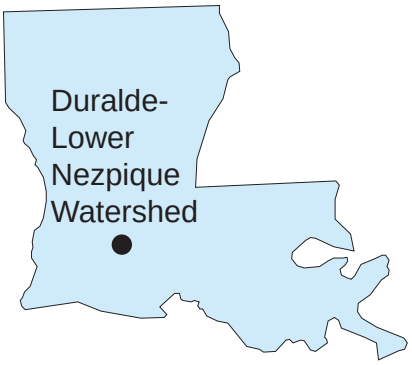
Watershed Operations

May 2009

Reinvesting in the Duralde-Lower Nezpique Watershed, Louisiana

Introduction

This watershed project will install land treatment measures on cropland to protect the watershed from excessive erosion and improve water conservation and wildlife habitat.



The Duralde-Lower Nezpique Watershed is located in Acadia, Evangeline and Jefferson Davis Parishes, Louisiana.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

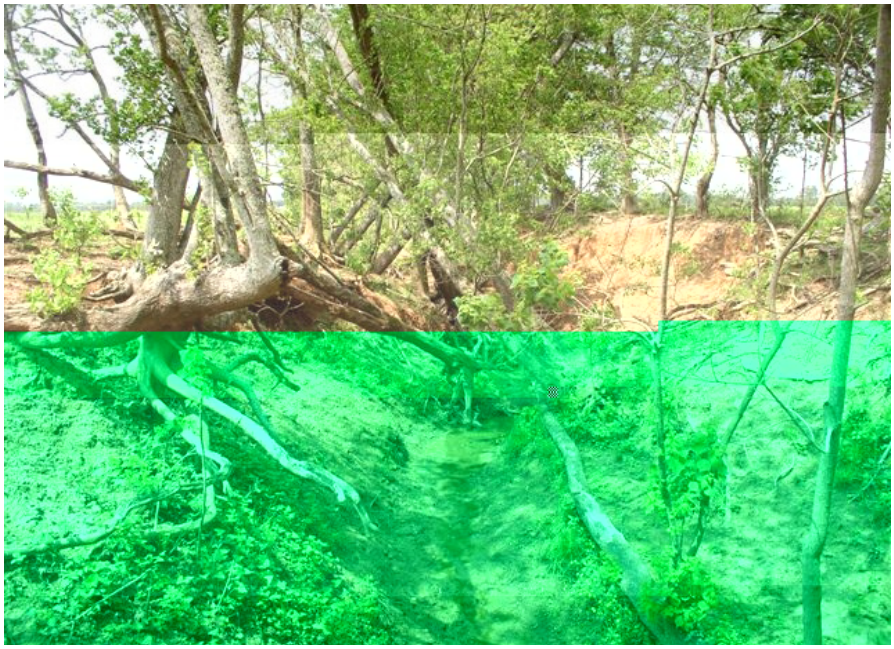
Project Description

- **Location:** Acadia, Evangeline, Jefferson Davis Parishes, 7th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** $1,270,000

Within the 159,000-acre watershed, 33,300 acres of critically eroding cropland will be treated by installing a series of conservation practices in the three parishes of the watershed. Eighty-six miles of road ditches and 135 miles of drainage canals are impacted by soil deposition in the watershed. The site consists mostly of cropland, grassland, and some forestland, and provides recreational opportunities on the 200 acres of lakes and bayous in the area.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Acadia Parish Policy Jury
- Evangeline Parish Police Jury
- Jefferson Davis Parish Police Jury
- Bayou Nezpique Gravity Drainage District
- Acadia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Gulf Coast Soil and Water Conservation District
- Evangeline Soil and Water Conservation District
- Bayou Des Cannes-Nezpique Gravity Drainage District



Critical resource issues including gully erosion are common in the watershed.

Reinvesting in the Duralde-Lower Nezpique Watershed, Louisiana

Benefits

Residents of Acadia, Evangeline, and Jefferson Davis Parishes will enjoy expanded recreational opportunities on the 200 acres of lakes and bayous in the project area, which provide more than $181,800 of annual benefits. Soil erosion protection practices will improve water quality and wildlife habitation on bottomland hardwoods.

Economic Opportunities

The funds provided to accelerate the implementation of the Bayou Duralde-Lower Nezpique Watershed will create or save jobs within the Parishes. Along with creating jobs, the project will also improve water supplies for residents within the project area, reduce energy and water demands for farmers, and improve wildlife habitat.

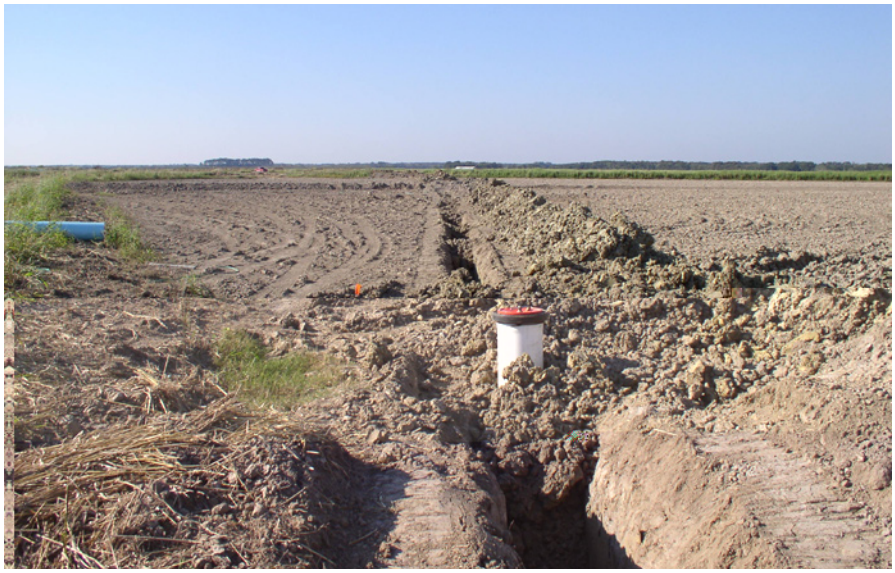
Statewide Perspective

The Bayou Duralde-Lower Nezpique Watershed is located in the Mermentau Water Quality Management Basin. The area receives an average rainfall in excess of 60 inches per year. This project will lead to major improvements in streams, will improve water quality and stream ecosystem values, and benefit long-term agricultural productivity.

For More Information

USDA, NRCS
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302
Phone: 318-473-7751
Fax: 318-473-7626
www.la.nrcs.usda.gov

As seen above, a previously funded drop pipe water control structure.



A previously funded irrigation underground pipeline installed for efficient use of water supply and fuel cost reduction.

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer