

COASTWIDE PROJECTS

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Project Number	Project Proposals
CW-01	Southwest Louisiana Salvinia Weevil Propagation

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PPL26 PROJECT NOMINEE FACT SHEET
January 26, 2016

Southwest Louisiana *Salvinia* Weevil Propagation

State Master Plan Consistency

The proposed project has been deemed consistent with the Master Plan.

Project Location - Coastwide Project

Primarily, in Cameron, Calcasieu, Vermilion, Iberia, and St. Mary Parishes

Problem

The invasive plant, giant *Salvinia*, was first observed in Chenier Plain marshes in 2009. Since then it has spread throughout most the Louisiana Chenier Plain marshes (Figure 1). This plant can stack up above the water surface to as much as 6 to 12 inches. Under such conditions, oxygen exchange is greatly reduced, and decay of shaded *Salvinia* can easily cause anoxic conditions in affected areas. As a result, habitat quality of badly infested areas is severely degraded, and may affect many species typical of fresh marshes, including many species of management concern (alligator snapping turtle, mottled duck [including critical brood rearing habitat], wintering migratory waterfowl, black rail, king rail, little blue heron, whooping crane, and peregrine falcon).

Goals

Operate a weevil propagation facility in Jeanerette, like that previously operated by LSU in Houma, to make weevils available free of charge to landowners in southwest coastal Louisiana.

Proposed Project Features

LSU Ag. Center has a pond in Jeanerette which is capable of producing weevil-infested *Salvinia*, but LSU does not have funding to operate a weevil production facility there. Costs associated with this project consist primarily of supplies and one part-time position to operate the pond, coordinate public weevil harvests, keep records of release locations, monitor *Salvinia* problem areas, assist landowners conduct weevil releases, relay infested *Salvinia* to new locations, and conduct public outreach to promote the program.

Preliminary Project Benefits

Although *Salvinia* is not known to directly cause marsh loss, it severely degrades the fish and wildlife habitat functions provided by marsh ponds and waterbodies. The proposed project would help to restore habitat functions lost as a result of *Salvinia* infestations.

Identification of Potential Issues

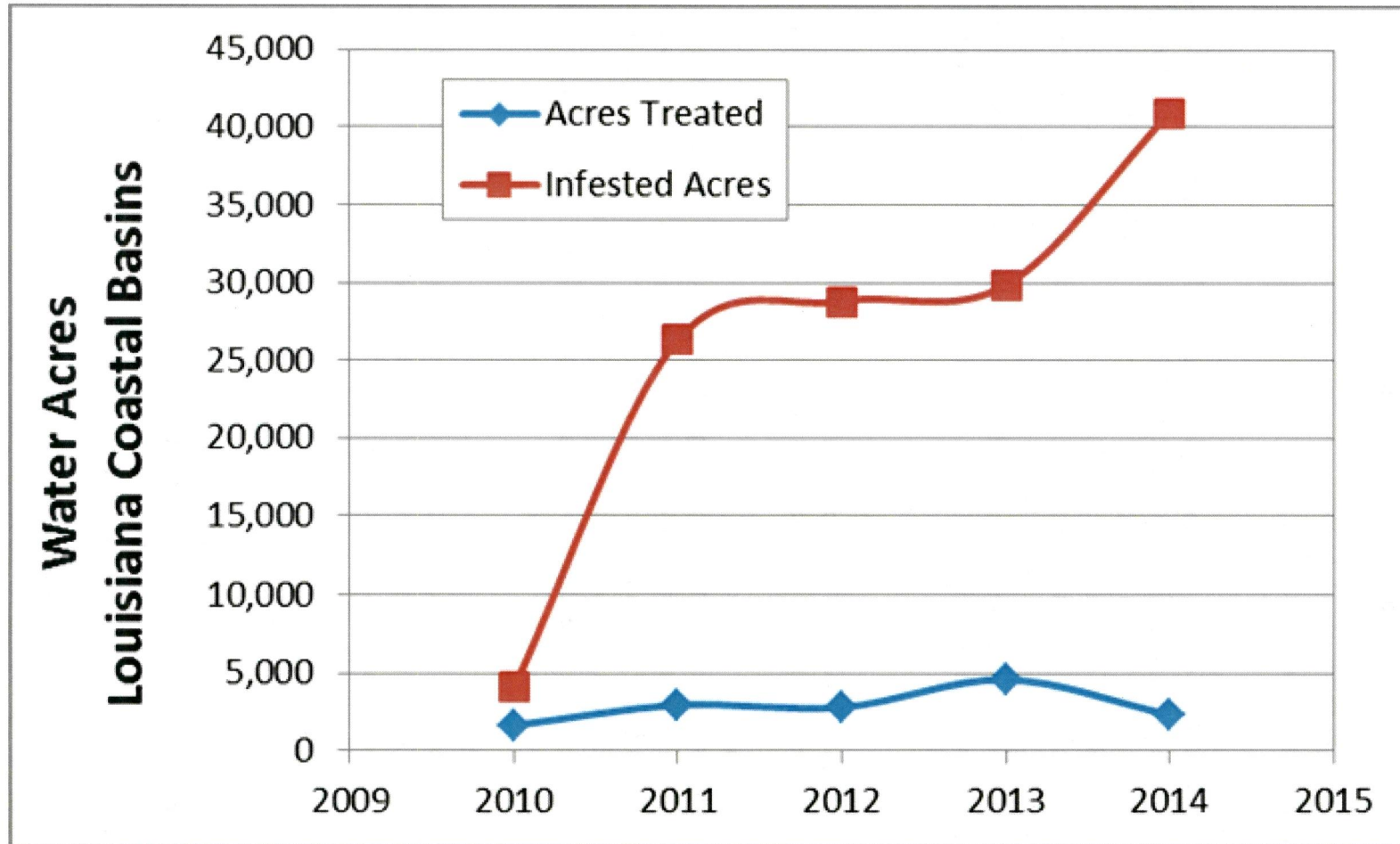
Funding would have to be transferred to LSU Ag. Center.

Preliminary Construction Costs

There are no construction costs, however, supplies such a pump and booms totaling \$65,000 are needed to operate the Jeanerette facility. The total cost to operate the facility for 20 years is approximately \$1.6M (fully funded cost approx. \$2.0M).

Preparer: Ronny Paille, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 337-291-3117 Ronald_Paille@fws.gov

Figure 1. LDWF Acres Treated

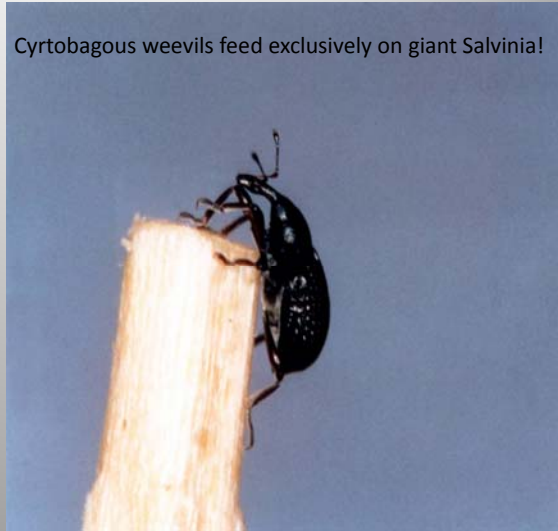


Data from: LDWF Aquatic Plant Control Coordinator

Southwest Louisiana Salvinia Weevil Propation Project

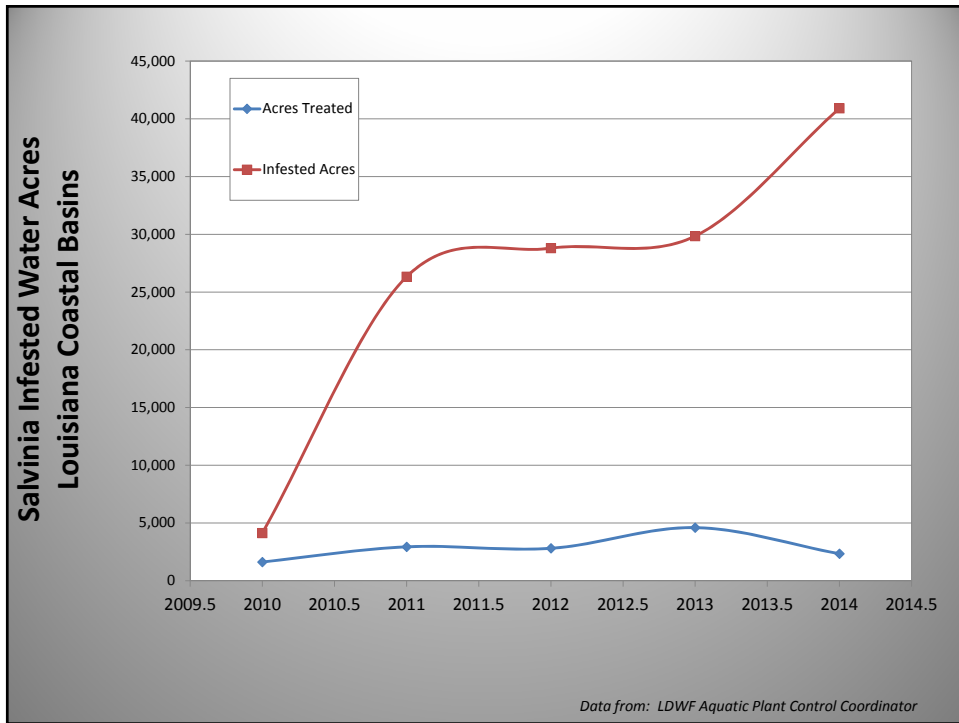
- *Cyrtobagous salviniae*
- Successfully used as bio-control agent in 13 countries on 3 continents.

Cyrtobagous weevils feed exclusively on giant Salvinia!



Delta Farms 2009





LSU Ag Center Jeanerette, Louisiana

- One-acre pond available
- LSU has found water quality good
- LSU has NO funding to operate

**CWPPRA funding would allow LSU
to operate this facility !!**

\$1.6M for 20 yrs