

# MRGO Must Go

Restore the Wetlands. Protect the People.

State of the Coast 2025



# Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

- Federal navigation channel completed in the early 1960s
- Over 1 million acres of coastal habitat impacted by the MRGO
- After Katrina, Congress mandated closure and a plan for restoration
- Closure (2009) has shown significant benefits to ecosystem
- No funding allocated for USACE 2012 MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan
- Restoration and community recovery must be prioritized by government



# MRGO Impacts



Source: FEMA



# MRGO Must Go Coalition



American Rivers • Citizens Against Widening the Industrial Canal • Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana  
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice • Environmental Defense Fund • Global Green • Healthy Gulf  
Holy Cross Neighborhood Association • Levees.org • Louisiana Environmental Action Network • Louisiana Wildlife  
Federation • Lower Mississippi Riverkeeper • Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development  
lowernine.org • Song Community Development Corporation  
National Audubon Society • National Wildlife Federation • Pontchartrain Conservancy • Sierra Club – Delta Chapter

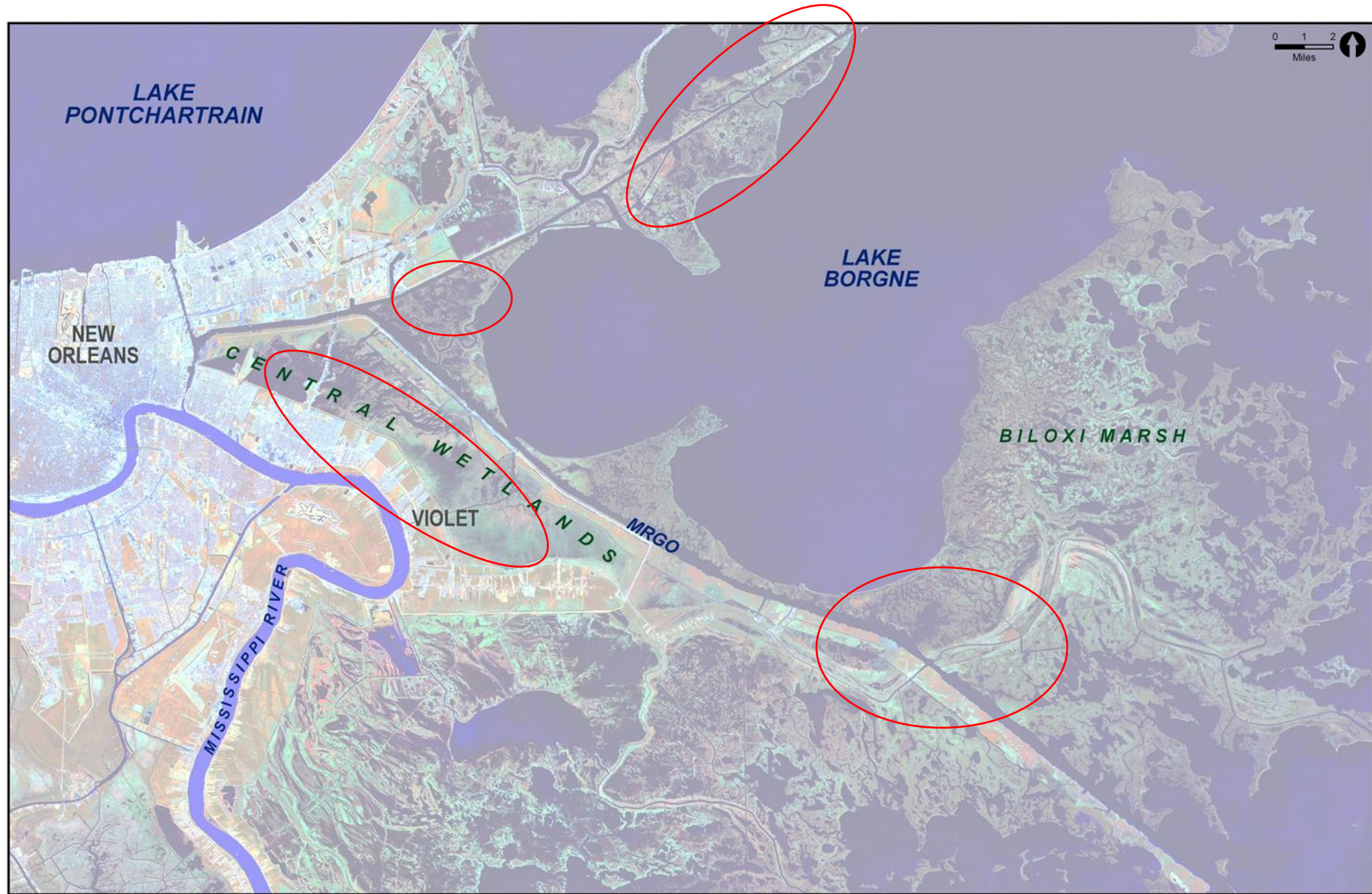


# Environmental Benefits of Closure

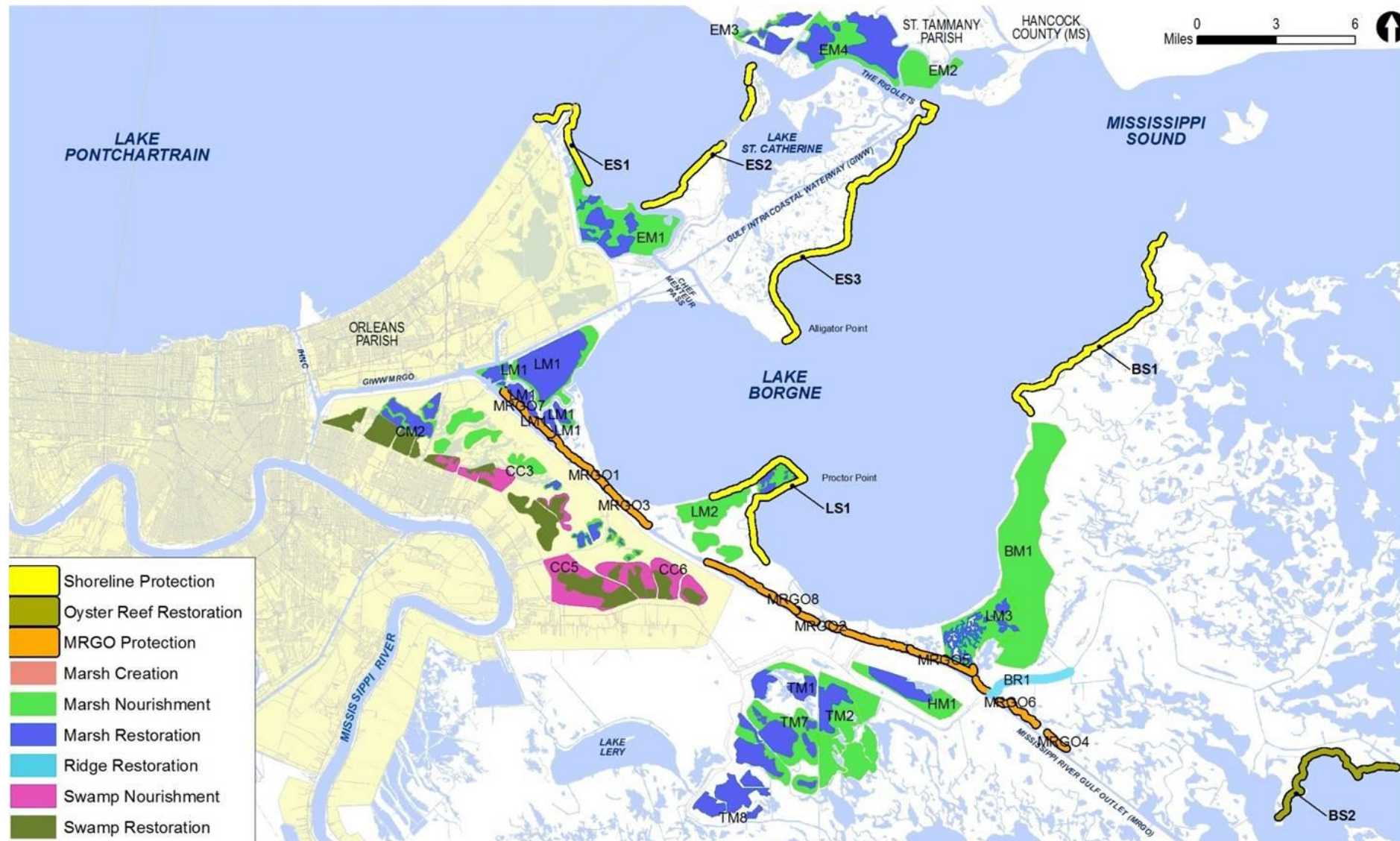
- Historical salinity gradients restored for over 1.2 million acres of coastal habitat
- A decade+ of monitoring reveals new basin salinity and hydrology
- Recovering ecosystems and species
  - Swamps
  - Oysters
  - Clams



# Restoration Highlights



# Army Corps Ecosystem Restoration Plan



# WRDA 2022 Cost Share Clarification

The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 addressed the longstanding cost share obstacle, unequivocally clarifying the cost share for the MRGO project to be 100% federal:

*MRGO language in WRDA 2022 (sec. 8341, p. 3432)*

## **SEC. 8341. MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET, LOUISIANA.**

The Federal share of the cost of the project for ecosystem restoration, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, Louisiana, authorized by section 7013(a)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1281), shall be 100 percent.

# Progress Since WRDA 2022

- \$250,000 requested by Army Corps in Work Plan to cover initial planning
- Over two years, the Army Corps has developed a short draft White Paper outlining how the New Orleans District will proceed with some of the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan implementation
- \$5million requested in FY25 Congressional Budget for Engineering and Design, potentially construction (no earmarks moved through for FY25)



# What is Next?

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- That is up to us!
- 20 years since Hurricane Katrina, and no federal funding has gone toward MRGO Ecosystem Restoration Plan construction
- Community Engagement: Elevate issue in Congress, with Army Corps, with media
- Billions of dollars in restoration are recommended by the Army Corps to restore the coast that protects NOLA, St. Bernard, St. Tammany and more
- These funds can transform the ecosystem and the economy of these vulnerable coastal areas
- Getting those funds is not guaranteed – it will take advocacy and persistence!

