



Twitchell Island rice growing area



Delta rice potentially fulfills economic and ecological goals



Rice links to hydrology, subsidence reversal, and carbon sequestration

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Subsidence Mitigation Through Rice Cultivation Research

Project Goals:

1. Determine the viability of different rice growing methods within the Delta.
2. Determine the rates/amounts of subsidence reversal/land accretion through rice farming.
3. Determine the air and water quality impacts of rice cultivation.
4. Determine the per acre costs/benefits to farmers of different methods of rice cultivation.
5. Provide recommendations for Delta-wide implementation.

Project Description:

Rice is a wetland crop with an existing agricultural market that has the potential to accrete land mass and sequester carbon. The Subsidence Mitigation Rice Cultivation Research project will determine whether growing rice reverses subsidence, can be grown without deleterious effects to the environment, and is economically feasible in the Delta.

The project area consists of a 300 acre parcel on Twitchell Island. Propositions 84/1E provides the funding sources for this project, which will total \$9,900,000 from 2008-2013. Agriculture and infrastructure improvements will cost \$2,450,000 and research activities will cost \$7,450,000.

A Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) was issued in March 2008 and a public meeting was held in April 2008. One proposal has been awarded to Reclamation District 1601 (Twitchell Island). Twitchell Island is collaborating with a team of private consultants as well as experts from the University of California and the USGS. A Project Funding Agreement (PFA) with RD 1601 was executed in June 2008. The RD is preparing a contract with research and agricultural contractors.

Schedule and Milestones:

March 24, 2008 – Rice Proposal Solicitation Package Posted

April 25, 2008 – Application Deadline

May 9, 2008 – Notification of Award

June 2008 – Notice to Proceed Issued to RD

Fall 2008 – Field Preparations (Agriculture and Research)

Spring 2009-2013 – Planting

Fall 2009-2013 – Harvest

April and October – Quarterly Reports

January and July – Semi-Annual Reports

January 2014 – Project Completion and Final Report