



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
New Orleans District

News Release

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Louisiana wilderness tract purchased for public access

Hunting on Atchafalaya Basin land to begin in 2002-2003 season

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed the purchase of 10,500 acres of Louisiana wilderness, the last big acquisition among 50,000 acres for public access in the Atchafalaya Basin.

The 10,500 acres, formerly owned by the St. Martin Land Co. and leased by several hunting clubs, lies just north of Interstate 10 between Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Purchase was completed Nov. 27 for \$5.825 million.

Public access for hunting, which was not previously available, will begin in the 2002-2003 hunting season. The acreage will not be opened for hunting in the 2001-2002 season in order to make preparatory arrangements.

“Concerns about public safety and the need to be good neighbors to surrounding landowners led to the decision not to allow hunting immediately after the purchase,” said Col. Thomas Julich, New Orleans district engineer.

“We are getting work underway to prepare the land for the next hunting season. It would be premature to open the area without making an adequate inspection and properly marking the property boundaries.”

Public hunting remains available on nearby Corps land, including the Indian Bayou area immediately to the north. Also nearby, hunting remains available in the Sherburne Wildlife Management Area and the Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge.

The Corps is buying the 50,000 acres of land for public access as part of the larger Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project, which includes recreational, environmental and flood-control features.

The 50,000 acres give the public access to recreational opportunities in a modest portion of the 550,000-acre Lower Atchafalaya Basin, which lies between U.S 190 to the north and Morgan City to the south.

Access to the Corps land is available over public roads and navigable waterways. Citizens using privately owned land for access to this property should first obtain written permission from the landowner.

The St. Martin Land Co. tract is immediately north of Interstate 10, between the Atchafalaya River to the east and the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

Information. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Office, 112 Speck Lane, Port Barré, or call 337-585-0853.

Fact Sheet, Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System:

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/RELEASES/ABFS_8.pdf