



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

News Release

Public Affairs Office, 7400 Leake Ave.
www.mvn.usace.army.mil

Tel. 504-862-2201
Fax 504-862-1724

FACT SHEET

Revised: August 2001

Contact: John Hall, 504-862-2201

Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System

A project of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Louisiana

Land acquisition (100 percent Corps)

- Environmental protection, developmental control
- Flood control
- Public access

Water management units (100 percent Corps)

- Restoration of flows for fish and wildlife enhancement

Recreation (50 percent Corps, 50 percent state)

- Visitor center, boat launching ramps, campgrounds
- Percentages: Corps and State of Louisiana shares of first (capital) costs

Project begun by Corps of Engineers. 1988

Corps spending through fiscal year 2001 (ends Sept. 30). About \$91 million. Corps' current estimated project cost, \$202 million.

The Army Corps of Engineers has been at work since 1988 on the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System. It has spent about \$91 million on this project, which will preserve the environment of this great river swamp and make a modest portion of it available to the public. The environmental preservation dovetails with the flood control. Restrictions on development will enhance flood flows and preserve the environment.

Land Acquisition, 100 percent Corps. 388,000 acres in two forms:

- Fee land, 50,000 acres. Acquired to date, 47,324 acres*. This land will have public access, under the management of Corps of Engineers park rangers.

- Environmental protection and developmental control easements, 338,000 acres. Acquired to date, 143,730 acres*. The easements will keep the property in private hands but prevent development as, for example, farms, oil refineries and residences/camps. Absence of structures will help to pass floodwaters. Logging will be restricted, with the greatest protection for wetland trees such as cypress and tupelo.

The ABFS project area is the Lower Atchafalaya Basin. This encompasses 595,000 acres, from U.S. 190 to the vicinity of Morgan City. Of this, the Corps is acquiring 388,000 acres. Contrary to claims that the project will throw open most of the Basin to tourists and other public users, 87 percent (338,000 acres) of the Corps acreage will remain in private ownership – and come under the protective easements.

Water management units, 100 percent Corps. The Corps is authorized to construct two pilot water management units, Buffalo Cove and Flat Lake. This fiscal year, money has been appropriated to begin planning the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit. The units will re-establish water flows for the enhancement of fish and wildlife. Within Buffalo Cove, the Bayou Eugene prototype model was completed in 1996. Construction in Buffalo Cove could begin in fiscal year 2002.

Recreation, 50 percent Corps, 50 percent state. The recreation features include boat launching ramps, campgrounds and a visitor center. We are working on implementation of the Simmesport Boat Launch, whose local sponsor, in this case, is Avoyelles Parish. Plans and specifications are complete. The scheduled award date for the Simmesport Boat Launch is September 2001. We have been planning of the Myette Point boat launch near Franklin, and construction could begin in fiscal year 2003.

Operation & Maintenance costs. Land and water management units, 75 percent Corps of Engineers, 25 percent State of Louisiana. Recreation, 100 percent State of Louisiana.

* On a small number of acres, purchase has been negotiated but is not yet closed.

-0-

There are two Atchafalaya Projects – Please do not confuse the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (ABFS) project, outlined above, with another Corps of Engineers project known as the Atchafalaya Basin. Long predating the ABFS, the Atchafalaya Basin project's main features are 449 miles of levees; three navigation locks; navigation, freshwater distribution, and access channels; 14 pumping stations and 15 drainage structures. For more on the Atchafalaya Basin, see the Corps' New Orleans District Web site at www.mvn.usace.army.mil and click on "brochures".

Note: Fiscal years end September 30.

Filename: ABFS.8.2001wheader.doc
Directory: N:\PAO\RELEASES
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\b2imimpn.MVN01\Application
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot
Title: Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System
Subject:
Author: US Army Corps of Engineers
Keywords:
Comments:
Creation Date: 8/6/2001 9:43 AM
Change Number: 2
Last Saved On: 8/6/2001 9:43 AM
Last Saved By: SirVive
Total Editing Time: 68 Minutes
Last Printed On: 8/6/2001 11:09 AM
As of Last Complete Printing
Number of Pages: 2
Number of Words: 588 (approx.)
Number of Characters: 3,352 (approx.)