



US Army Corps
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New Orleans District

News Release

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Project will help water circulation in Atchafalaya Basin Environmental assessment now available on Buffalo Cove Management Unit

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has designed a water-management project to provide water circulation improvements and sediment management in south Louisiana's great Atchafalaya Basin river swamp.

The purpose of the Buffalo Cove Water Management Unit is to enhance fish and wildlife resources. It would benefit more than 7,500 acres initially and 53,000 to 58,000 acres eventually. It is located in the lower basin in Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary parishes.

A 75-page draft **environmental assessment** is now available (see below) from the Corps of Engineers. Also available is a draft "**finding of no significant impact**" or FONSI, which if adopted would give the environmental green light for construction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to begin construction in 2004 on Buffalo Cove, the first water management unit in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System project.

The Buffalo Cove project proposes "to improve interior circulation within the swamp, remove barriers to north-south flow, provide input of oxygenated, low temperature river water, and prevent or manage sediment input into the interior swamps," said Larry Hartzog, a Corps freshwater biologist.

Obtain copies, on paper or disc, of the environmental assessment and the FONSI: Larry Hartzog, New Orleans Engineer District, Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch, CEMVN-PM-RP, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, La., 70160-0267. E-mail larry.m.hartzog@mvn02.usace.army.mil. Call 504-862-2524. Fax 504-862-2572.

Fact sheet for Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System project:
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/visitor/atchpfs.htm>

Brochure for the separate, but related Atchafalaya Basin Project:
<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/pao/bro/AtchafalayaBasinProject.pdf>