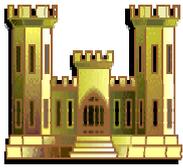


Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration Study



- **Status:**
Cong Add in FY 00
- **Sponsor:** State of Louisiana, Dept. of Natural Resources
- **FY05 Funds Required:**
\$12,000,000
- **Last Event/Date:**
Submitted Draft report in Oct 03
- **Next Event/Date:**
Submit Revised Draft Report in May 04



Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-M
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: 04 March 2004

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA (General Investigations): Ecosystem Restoration Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: Senate Resolution 19 Apr 67 and House Resolution 19 Oct 67.

STUDY SPONSOR: The State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area is Louisiana's coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Louisiana parishes included in the study area include Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Vermilion. The entire Louisiana coast includes 9 hydrologically distinct basins, subdivided in 4 sub provinces.

STUDY PURPOSE: The purpose of the study is to identify and explore ecosystem restoration plans to restore and protect coastal Louisiana.

STUDY FEATURES: Study features include barrier island restoration, marsh creation, and river diversion.

STUDY COSTS: The LCA study is authorized to progress over a 10-year period at an estimated cost of \$130 million (\$65,000,000 Federal/\$65,000,000 non-Federal).

STUDY SCHEDULE: Study efforts are being refocused to identify a Near-Term Restoration Plan that will address critical ecosystem needs that require immediate attention. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study is currently underway and is evaluating all 9 coastal basins and will develop a plan of implementation for restoration projects in the Louisiana Coastal Area. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Near-Term Plan is scheduled for completion in May 04, which would make it eligible for inclusion in WRDA 2004.

STUDY BACKGROUND: As a result of the natural coastal processes and human activity, coastal Louisiana has lost over 900,000 acres since the 1930s. As recently as the 1970s, the loss rate for Louisiana's coastal wetlands was as high as 25,600 acres per year. The current rate of loss is about 16,000 acres per year. Without action, it is estimated that coastal Louisiana will lose an additional 320,000 acres by the year 2050.

- The various components of the LCA Ecosystem Restoration study will develop alternative plans to restore and/or protect the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem within the context of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including coastal Louisiana.

- The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Near-Term Plan: These studies are being conducted under the LCA Authorization of 1967. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study is based on the Coast 2050 Plan, which contains long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies to preserve and protect coastal Louisiana. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study supports the Louisiana Coastal Area – Ecosystem Restoration, Louisiana reconnaissance report approved May 1999, and proposes long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies to restore and protect coastal Louisiana. The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study was initiated in FY02. Study efforts are being refocused to identify a Near-Term Restoration Plan that will address critical ecosystem needs that require immediate attention and to improve the scientific and technology needed to effectively provide for the protection and restoration of coastal ecosystems. The Near-Term Plan to restore the Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem will guide the restoration effort for the next ten or so years. The studies and projects will be developed through a public involvement process and working closely with other Federal Agencies and the State of Louisiana.

ISSUES: Required funding for FY05 of \$12 million.

General Investigations

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA Study

Status:

- Further processing of the draft LCA Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration study report, dated October 2003, has been put on hold by the Administration pending agreement on how to redirect and refocus the study objectives on the most critical ecological needs and develop a near-term program of specific, cost-effective projects to address the needs versus a comprehensive plan.
- Study was initiated in May 1999 based on the Louisiana Coastal Area Authority of 1967.
- The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study is currently underway and is evaluating all 9 coastal basins and will develop a plan of implementation for restoration projects in the Louisiana Coastal Area.
- The LCA Ecosystem Restoration Study is based on the findings of the Coast 2050 Plan, which identifies long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration strategies to preserve and protect coastal Louisiana.
- In FY 05, funds will be used to complete the LCA Barataria Basin study efforts: (1) Wetland Creation and Restoration, and (2) Barrier Shoreline Restoration.
- FY 05 funds will be used for the initiation of the (1) LCA Barataria Basin Hydrologic Restoration study, (2) LCA Mississippi River Hydrologic Restoration and Management study, (3) Water Management in the Chenier Plain Study, and (4) Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration study.
- FY 05 funds will be used to initiate scoping efforts for plan implementation studies of the most critical projects identified in the LCA Ecosystem Restoration Near-Term Plan.
- Funds required for FY 05 will be used to (1) formulate the LCA Science and Technology Program, (2) initiate the Chenier Plain Beneficial Use Study, and (3) initiate the Mississippi River Beneficial Use Study.
- FY 05 budget is \$8,000,000. FY 05 funds required is \$12,000,000.

Cost:

Total Study Cost	\$130 M
Federal Cost	\$65 M
Non-Federal Cost	\$65 M

Issues: Funding