



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

## Project Fact Sheet

---

### **Official Project Name**

CAP - Lake Verret Ecosystem Restoration

### **Location**

Lake Verret is located in Assumption Parish, Louisiana. The study area is approximately 35 miles south of the state capital, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The study area is located approximately 6 miles southwest of Napoleonville, LA, just south of Pierre Part, LA and east of Belle River and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. Water bodies just to the south of the study area are Grassy Lake and Lake Palourde.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the study is to develop potential plans to improve water quality (by minimizing sediment input), increase aquatic habitat quality, and restore Lake Verret to a less-degraded system.

### **Background**

Historically, Lake Verret was part of the floodplain of the Atchafalaya River. The Flood Control Act of 1927 authorized the construction of the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee (EABPL). With the construction of the EABPL, the flow through Lake Verret was limited to drainage from rainfall runoff from surrounding areas. The small deltas formed at the mouth of several of the waterways leading into Lake Verret are indicative of the amount of sediment that is flowing into the lake. While no definitive studies or surveys over time have been made, local residents insist the lake depths have shallowed over successive generations, probably resulting in higher water temperatures. The increasing shallowness of Lake Verret has impacted fisheries habitat, as well as, the natural grasses and vegetation.

The lake has been highly valued for the recreation that it provides. However, water quality and aquatic habitat has been declining in the lake for a number of years. Extensive agricultural development of the upper parts of the watershed is a possible reason for the decline. A report titled "Environmental Impact Statement, Lake Verret Watershed, Ascension, Assumption, and Iberville, Parishes, Louisiana", was completed by the USDA, Soil Conservation Service, in 1978. That report described benefits to 55,300 acres of agricultural lands, land treatment measures necessary to treat 46,500 acres of agricultural lands, and land-use changes to create an additional 1,200 acres of open land area. That development has likely resulted in an excessive sediment load to the lake.

Historically, the lake has been used by local interests for recreational fishing, commercial fishing, and hunting. Area residents and users of the lake have stated that lake vegetation and associated fish numbers have declined and recreational fishing success has been greatly reduced.

**Authority**

Section 206, aquatic ecosystem restoration, Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

**Scope**

Several alternative plans would be evaluated during the feasibility phase such as increasing the lake depth by dredging, creating selected deeper areas, constructing sediment traps, extending/building shoreline, and construction of a jetty in the upper part of the lake for confining sediments to a certain area rather than being distributed all over the lake. Also, we would study preventive measures to address the agricultural runoff before it reaches the lake and possible its flow diversion through wetlands rather than directly into the lake.

**Partner/Sponsor**

Assumption Parish Police Jury