

## ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION\*

**Name of Unit:** Flat Lake

**Location and Boundaries:** Located in the southeast portion of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway. The unit is bordered on the east and south by the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the southwest and west by east by Six Mile Lake and the Atchafalaya River Main Channel, and on the north by Little Bayou Pigeon. The unit also includes a peninsula encompassing the area between Grand Lake and the Atchafalaya River Main Channel, extending generally northerly from the mouth of Little Bayou Pigeon along the east side of Grand Lake and Keelboat Pass to Flat Lake Pass, and then to the east bank of Lake Chicot at Bayou Sorrel.

**Issues:** The Flat Lake and Upper Belle River Water Management Units (WMUs) have been adversely affected by blockage of water movement by sedimentation and spoil deposition, thereby degrading water quality (low oxygen levels) and loss and degradation of aquatic habitat.

**Strategies:**

Identify, prioritize and implement specific projects to improve water quality and reduce sedimentation on of waterways and lakes in these water management units. Primary hydrological inputs are through School Board Canal, Indigo Bayou, and Salt Mine Bayou, from the north, Coon Trap from the west, through Williams Canal from the east and from the south through Cross Bayou. Primary outflows are through Keelboat Pass, and multiple outlets into Little Bayou Pigeon including Cross Bayou.

**Implementation Status:** The Atchafalaya Basin Program's Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Plan project titled "East Grand Lake (EGL) Project" has been used to develop projects proposed for the Flat Lake and Upper Belle River water management units in the FY 2012 Annual Basin Plan. The funding of those projects in the upper region of those units is the first step in developing the plan to realign water flow patterns and strategically redirect sediment in the East Grand Lake Project area. Additional Annual Plan cycles will be needed to identify and fund projects for the western and lower regions of that complex of water management units, as described in the summary report (located at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/atchafalaya/East-Grand-Lake-Summary-Report.pdf> ).

As part of the FY 2011 Annual Plan Process, the Research and Promotion Board allocated \$250,000 for engineering, design and construction of the "Bayou Fourche" project.

**Available Funding:**

Federal: None available at this time. The Flat Lake WMU was one of the 13 water management units identified in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) 1982 Feasibility Report for the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (ABFS). Of those 13 WMUs, the Corps recommended five of them (including the Flat Lake WMU) for federal improvements. Of those five WMUs, the Buffalo Cove and Henderson Lake units were selected as pilot WMUs for initial implementation; those two pilot units must be completed and monitored for several years before federal funds are budgeted for improvements to other WMUs.

State: \$250,000 is available for engineering, design and construction of the “Bayou Fourche” project. \$700,000 provided for planning of the East Grand Lake Project area (Flat Lake and Upper Belle River WMUs) as part of the FY2010 Basin Annual Plan.

Additional Funding Needed: Future funding needs for additional projects will be identified as part of the Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan development process.

\* Focus is strictly on measures needed to address issues related to maintaining, restoring and/or enhancing the Basin’s aquatic and associated wetland habitats.