

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION*

Name of Water Management Unit: Bayou Des Glaises

Location and Boundaries: Located in the east-central part of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway. Bordered on the north by Interstate Highway 10, on the west and southwest by the Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel and the Atchafalaya Basin Main Channel, on the south by Upper Grand River, and on the east by the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

Issues: The levee along the Atchafalaya River prevents river inflows into this water management unit except via backwaters from the south, and low dissolved oxygen levels limit aquatic habitat and associated fisheries values there. In addition, the north-south flow of water was severely curtailed by the closure of several natural waterways (such as Brown Bayou) when the canal between two I-10 spans in Iberville Parish was dug. This hydrologic change has adversely affected water quality and crawfish and finfish habitat in the northern sections of the Bayou Des Glaises Water Management Unit (WMU).

Strategies: The current strategy includes measures to reestablish flow by clearing Brown Bayou to the I-10 Canal. Other proposals include excavation in the banks of the Work Canal south of I-10 to facilitate distribution of flows into this management unit, dredging the mouth of Brown Bayou south of I-10, and dredging high spots in bottom of the Work Canal and the I-10 canal to facilitate north to south flows into the Bayou Des Glaises WMU. In addition, the FY 2012 Annual Plan proposes constructing and improving measures to provide freshwater input on the east side of the Work Canal, and improving the current drain in the southeast corner of this unit, to benefit water quality and ecological conditions.

Implementation Status:

The Atchafalaya Research and Promotion Board approved and allocated \$50,000 for engineering and design for opening Brown Bayou to the I-10 Canal as part of the FY 2011 Annual Plan. Preliminary design work is underway.

Available Funding:

Federal: None. The Bayou Des Glaises 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) project. Only five of the thirteen WMUs were recommended for federal improvements by the Corps as part of the ABFS project; the Bayou Des Glaises Unit was not one of those.

State: \$50,000 for engineering and design for opening Brown Bayou to the I-10 Canal.

Additional Funding Needed: No estimates are currently available; construction funding needs will be identified during engineering and design.

* Focus is on measures needed for maintaining, restoring and/or enhancing the Basin's aquatic and wetland habitats