

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION*

Name of Water Management Unit: Cocodrie Swamp

Location and Boundaries: Located in the west-central part of Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway. Generally bounded on the north by the Butte La Rose ridge, on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, and on the east by Bayou La Rompe, Lake Long, and Bayou L'Embarras.

Issues: Lack of river inflows from upper end of this unit, along with blockage/impairment of sheet flows by canal spoil banks and oilfield access roads, contribute to low dissolved oxygen levels, inadequate flooding of swamps, and reduced habitat values for finfish and crawfish. Sedimentation has also reduced the extent of swamps and aquatic habitats and further contributed to reduced north-south sheet flow and to poor water quality. Primary hydrological inputs from the north are from the Lake Henderson WMU into the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee canal and Bayou La Rose at Butte LaRose. These waters enter the interior of the unit near Catahoula Lake through portions of old Bayou Crocodile, and western canals. Primary inflow from the east comes through the Panotec Canal. Primary outflows are through the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee canal to the south at Grand Bayou.

Strategies: Implement projects to restore beneficial riverine inflows to the unit while minimizing sediment introduction. Reduce sheet flow impairment by gapping canal spoil banks and oilfield access roads. Those measures are needed to address water quality problems and improve aquatic habitat.

Implementation Status:

The Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board, as part of the FY 2011 Annual Plan, approved and allocated \$1,082,500 for engineering, design and construction of the Cocodrie Swamp Project. That project will enhance water circulation and water quality in that unit for sport and commercial fisheries. Action is now being taken to identify landowners and to contract for engineering services for designing that project.

Available Funding:

Federal: None available at this time. The Cocodrie Swamp Water Management Unit (WMU) is 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 Cocodrie Swamp 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: \$1,082,500 for engineering, design and construction of the Cocodrie Swamp Project..

Additional Funding Needed: Additional funding needs will be determined via the Atchafalaya Basin Program Annual Plan development process.

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