

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION*

Name of Water Management Unit: Pigeon Bay

Location and Boundaries: Located in the east-central part of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway. Bordered on the north by Upper Grand River, on the west by the Atchafalaya Basin Main Channel (including Blind Tensas Cut, Lake Mongoulois, and Bayou Chene Cut), on the south by Bayou Sorrel, and on the east by the East Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee.

Issues: Poor water quality in the Bayou Pigeon area of this unit has resulted in fish kills and poor fishing. Inflows are primarily from the south (nothing from Upper Grand River on the northern boundary) and extensive interior spoil banks and natural levee accretion has impeded sheet flow.

Strategies: The current strategy includes opening Location Canal south of the pipeline along the Upper Grand River extension to increase freshwater flow into the area north of the Bayou Sorrel Oil Field.

Implementation Status:

The Atchafalaya Basin Research and Promotion Board, as part of the FY 2011 Annual Plan, approved and allocated \$550,000 for engineering, design and construction for the project to open Location Canal to allow flow to the area north of the Bayou Sorrel Oil Field. Action is being taken to identify and enter into agreements with landowners and to contract for engineering services for that project work.

Available Funding:

Federal: None. The Pigeon Bay 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 those thirteen WMUs were recommended for federal improvements by the Corps of Engineers as part of the ABFS project; the Pigeon Bay WMU was not one of those recommended for federal improvements.

State: \$550,000 is available for project "Open Location Canal into Swamp North of Bayou Sorrel."

Additional Funding Needed: Additional funding needs for this unit will be identified in the Annual Plan development process.

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