

## **ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION\***

**Name of Unit:** Beau Bayou

**Location and Boundaries:** Located in the west-central portion of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway. The unit is bordered on the northwest and west by Lake Long and Bayou L'Embarras; on the southwest by Grand Bayou, on the southeast by Lake Fausse Pointe Cut, Bayou Gonsoulin, Alligator Bayou, and Bayou Chene, and on the east and northeast by Bayou Chene Cut, Spice Island Chute, Tensas Bay and Devil's Cut.

**Issues:** Lack of river inflows from upper end of unit, along with blockage/impairment of sheet flows by canal spoil banks and oilfield access roads contributes 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 are from the south through Bayou Darby. During periods of high water flow may also come from the north through the pipeline canals off Spice Island Chute and the Main River Channel. Minor inflows may occur through Little Bayou de Plomb. The primary outflow is also through Bayou Darby and to a small extent through Little Bayou de Plomb.

**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:** Engineering and design has been initiated on a large restoration project by an engineering firm on contract to St. Martin Parish (see below).

### **Funding:**

**Federal Funds Available:** St. Martin Parish has been approved to receive \$4,707,000 in Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds for extensive restoration work in the Beau Bayou Swamp Water Management Unit (WMU). Design work has been initiated by an engineering consultant firm under contract to St. Martin Parish.

**State Funds Available:** The State's Atchafalaya Basin Program is providing technical assistance to St. Martin Parish in the design of the CIAP-funded project in this WMU.

**Additional Funding Needed:** No estimates of additional funding needs are currently available.

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