

ATCHAFALAYA BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT UNIT INFORMATION*

Name of Unit: Sixmile Lake**

Location and Boundaries: Located in the southwest portion of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway, and extends southerly from Myette Point. The unit excludes Six Mile Lake and is bordered on the west by the West Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee, on the south by the flood protection levee extending easterly from Wax Lake Outlet to the vicinity of Three Island Pass, and on the north and east by Cypress Pass.

Issues: Loss of aquatic habitat through sedimentation and associated conversion to forested habitat is the primary issue facing this water management unit. Primary inflows are from the main channel of the Atchafalaya River through Six Mile Lake. The primary outflows from the unit are through Wax Lake Outlet and the Atchafalaya River main channel.

Strategies: A sediment management plan for the Atchafalaya Basin is currently being developed through a contract administered by the Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, with involvement by the state's Atchafalaya Basin Program. Recommendations to be provided in that plan may identify measures to reduce sedimentation in the Sixmile Lake Water Management Unit, as well as other Atchafalaya Basin water management units.

Implementation Status: The above-referenced sediment management plan is scheduled to be completed in early 2012. Of those five recommended WMUs, two of them (Buffalo Cove and Henderson Lake) were selected as pilot WMUs for initial federal implementation. Those pilot units must be completed and monitored for a period of time with evidence provided in a letter report to the Corps' Chief of Engineers of the successful operation of the pilot units.

Available Funding:

Federal: None. The Sixmile Lake Water Management Unit (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, and the Sixmile Lake WMU was not one of those.

State: The above-referenced sediment management plan is being formulated with state funds.

Additional Funding Needed: Funding needs 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.

** The Sixmile Lake WMU is sometimes referred to as Grand Lake WMU.