



FACT SHEET: HSDRRS LPV ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION

Updated: 15 MARCH 2012

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Project purpose

The Corps is making a concerted effort to avoid and minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practical while developing the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). When habitat losses occur, the Corps will offset such losses through compensatory mitigation. Compensatory mitigation is an important part of HSDRRS construction and could include habitat restoration or enhancement.

Project location

Impacts generated from the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity (LPV) hurricane project will be mitigated in the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, between I-12 and the Mississippi River. **See map on reverse.**

Project features

The HSDRRS mitigation project team is evaluating potential large scale mitigation plans in cooperation with environmental resource agencies and non-federal sponsors. Currently, the plan is to compensate for five habitat categories impacted during development of the LPV risk reduction projects: wet bottomland hardwood forests, dry bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, brackish marsh and intermediate marsh.

*Current estimated habitat impacts from constructing HSDRRS LPV projects

Habitat Type	Quantity (Acres)	Quality (AAHUs**)
Bottomland Hardwood Wet	260	125
Bottomland Hardwood Dry	149	24
Swamp	210	115
Intermediate Marsh	206	92
Brackish Marsh	264	131
Total	1,089	487

*To compensate for these impacts, the mitigation acreage may be larger than the impact acreage. Impacts last updated in March 2012.

** AAHU (Average Annual Habitat Unit) is a numerical value representing the quality of a habitat.

Project status

The Corps' ongoing mitigation efforts include periodic Individual Environmental Report (IER) status meetings. There have been seven meetings pertaining to mitigation thus far, five in May 2010 and two in December 2010. The New Orleans District, in collaboration with its state and federal partners and stakeholders, is currently preparing an IER that describes the Tentatively Selected Plans and other alternatives, as well as advancing designs on the Tentatively Selected Plan projects.

Recently completed activities for HSDRRS LPV mitigation include: Assembled Alternative Plans (Aug 2011) and Identified Tentatively Selected Plan (Nov 2011). Future HSDRRS LPV mitigation milestones include: Release IERs for Public Review (Oct 2012), Final Design of Mitigation Projects (Mar 2013), Start Real Estate Acquisition (Mar 2013), Award Construction Contract (Nov 2013) and Complete Physical Construction/Initial Planting (Apr 2016).

For more information, please visit nolaenvironmental.gov.

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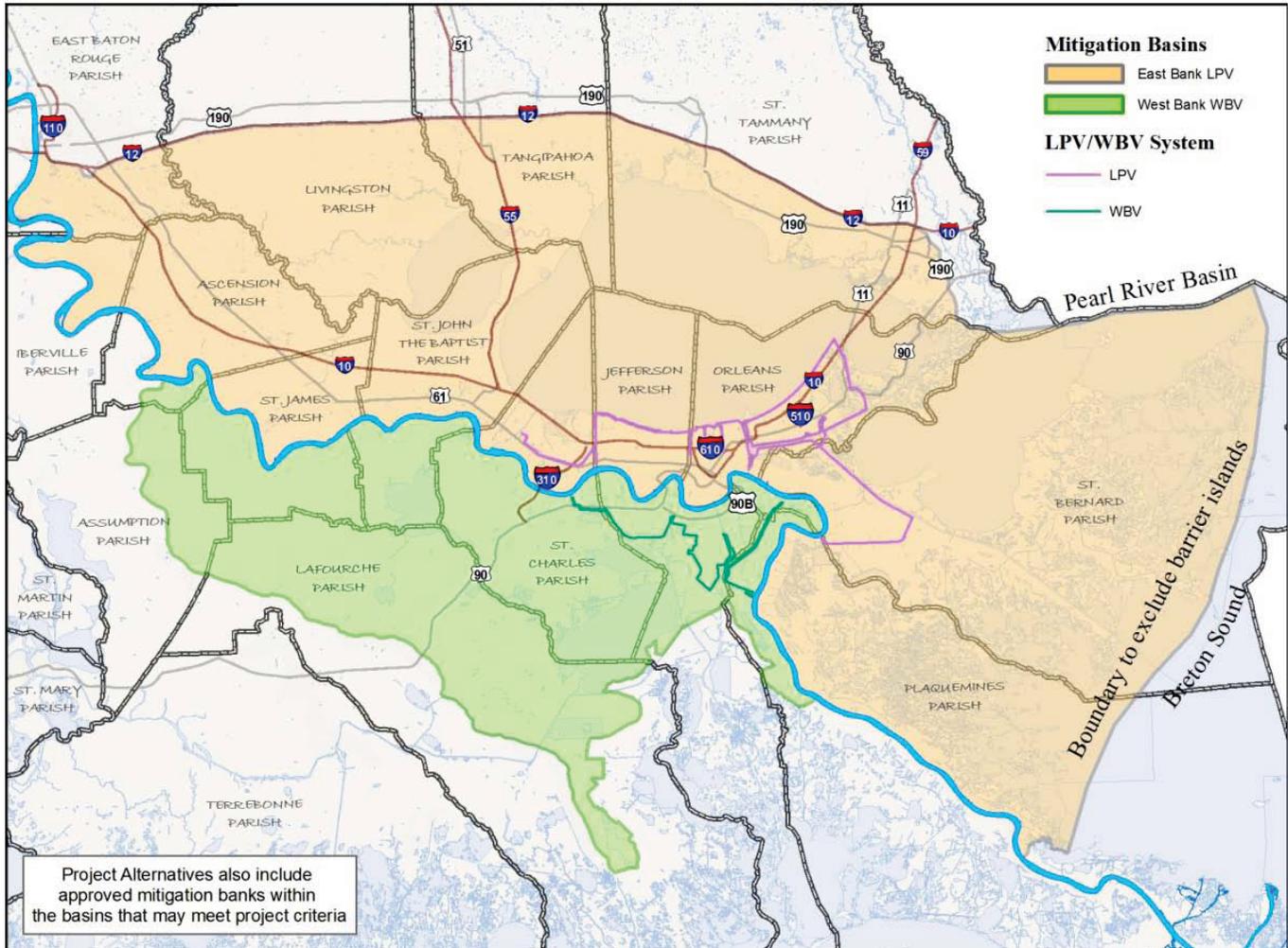
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Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity and West Bank & Vicinity Project Map



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