



# FACT SHEET: Mitigation Projects

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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 compensate for such losses through compensatory mitigation. Compensatory mitigation is an important part of HSDRRS construction and could include habitat restoration, enhancement, or preservation.

## Project location

Generally, 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. Similarly, impacts generated from the West Bank & Vicinity (WBV) hurricane project will be mitigated in the Barataria Basin, between Bayou Lafourche and the Mississippi River.

## Project features

The HSDRRS mitigation project team is evaluating potential large scale mitigation plans east and west of the Mississippi River, near New Orleans, in cooperation with environmental resource agencies and non-federal sponsors. Currently, the plan is to compensate for four habitat categories impacted during development of the risk reduction system: wet and dry bottomland hardwood forests, swamps and marshlands.

## Current estimated habitat impacts from constructing the LPV and WBV hurricane projects

Habitat Type	LPV – Approximate Acres	WBV – Approximate Acres
<i>Bottomland Hardwood Wet</i>	292	1,966
<i>Bottomland Hardwood Dry</i>	54	30
<i>Swamp</i>	114	205
<i>Marshlands</i>	786	148
<i>Total</i>	1,246	2,349

\*To compensate for these impacts, the mitigation acreage may be larger than the impact acreage.

## Project status

The Corps' ongoing mitigation efforts include periodic Individual Environmental Report (IER) update meetings that began with five public input meetings in May 2010. The New Orleans District, in collaboration with its state and federal partners and stakeholders, is currently exploring potential mitigation sites that fulfill the legal requirements for HSDRRS mitigation. For LPV and WBV, initial screening of measures is complete (Jul and Aug 2010, respectively). Future milestones include: Two Public Meetings (Dec 2010), Data Collection (Apr 2011), Assemble Alternative Plans (Jun 2011), Identify Proposed Plan (Oct 2011), Draft IERs (Jan 2012), Final Design (Jun 2012), and Issue Construction Contracts (Jun 2013).

## LPV Project Impacts Pre-Katrina (Manchac) and LPV Task Force Guardian (Bayou Sauvage)

Mitigation for LPV Pre-Katrina and LPV TFG are being implemented separately from HSDRRS mitigation. Status of LPV Pre-Katrina: Conducted Value Engineering Study (Jun 2008), 95% Designed, Public Review of Environmental Assessment (Nov 2010), and Award Contract (Summer 2011). Status of LPV TFG: Planning Phase (98% Complete), Draft Project Information Report (Being Staffed at USACE Mississippi Valley Division), and Award Contract (Summer 2011).

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