



FACT SHEET: HSDRRS Mitigation

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

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. **See map on reverse.**

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 HSDRRS LPV and WBV projects

Habitat Type	LPV Acres	WBV Acres
Bottomland Hardwood	422	698
Swamp	167	278
Marshlands	458	120
Total Acres	1,047	1,096

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

Project status

The Corps' ongoing mitigation efforts include periodic Individual Environmental Report (IER) status meetings. There have been seven meetings 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 finalizing potential mitigation sites that fulfill the legal requirements for HSDRRS mitigation. For HSDRRS LPV and WBV, recently completed activities include: Data Collection (Jun 2011); Assembled Alternative Plans (Aug 2011); and Identified Proposed Plan (Nov 2011). Future HSDRRS LPV and WBV milestones include: Release IERs for Public Review (Oct 2012), Final Design (Feb 2013), Start Real Estate Acquisition (Mar 2014), and Issue Construction Contract(s) (Mar 2014).

For more information, please visit nolaenvironmental.gov.

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