

Coastal Restoration in Louisiana

***Town Hall Meeting
Jefferson Parish West Bank
Council Chambers
Feb. 25, 2010***



US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®



Agenda

- Welcome – President Steve Theriot, Jefferson Parish
- Remarks
 - Marni Winters, Jefferson Parish
 - Brian Fortson, St. Tammany Parish
 - Albertine Kimble, Plaquemines Parish – Coastal Zone
 - William McCartney, St. Bernard Parish – Coastal Zone
 - Mike Merritt, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – West
 - Carlton Dufrechou, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East
- Presentation – Col. Alvin Lee
- Discussion



Coastal Restoration in Louisiana

***Col. Alvin Lee
District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District***



**US Army Corps of Engineers
BUILDING STRONG®**

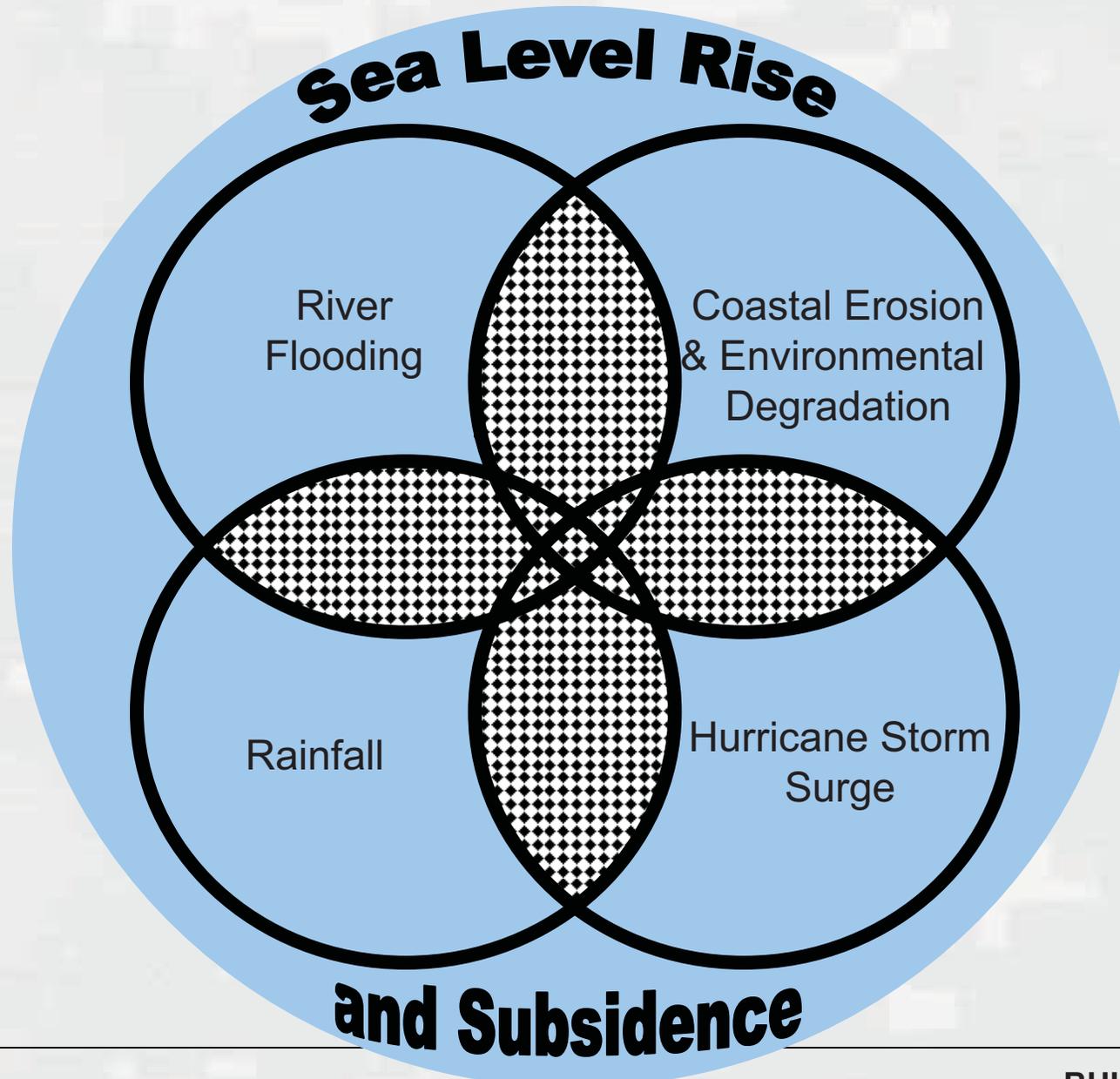


USACE New Orleans Mission

- Public safety is the Corps' #1 priority
- Flood risk management mission
- Navigation mission
- Ecosystem restoration mission
 - New Orleans District is engaged in ecosystem restoration
 - To date constructed:
 - 25,000 acres of land through beneficial use of dredged material
 - 4 Mississippi River diversions
 - More than 25 miles of shoreline protection



The Four Major Flood Risks in Coastal LA



BUILDING STRONG®

Coastal Restoration Efforts

- New Orleans District is actively engaged in ecosystem restoration and planning
 - Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act
 - Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
 - Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA)
 - Louisiana Coastal Protection & Restoration (LACPR)
 - MRGO Ecosystem Restoration
 - Southwest Coastal Louisiana
 - Freshwater diversions and river management
- All efforts focus on environmental sustainability and balance of interests

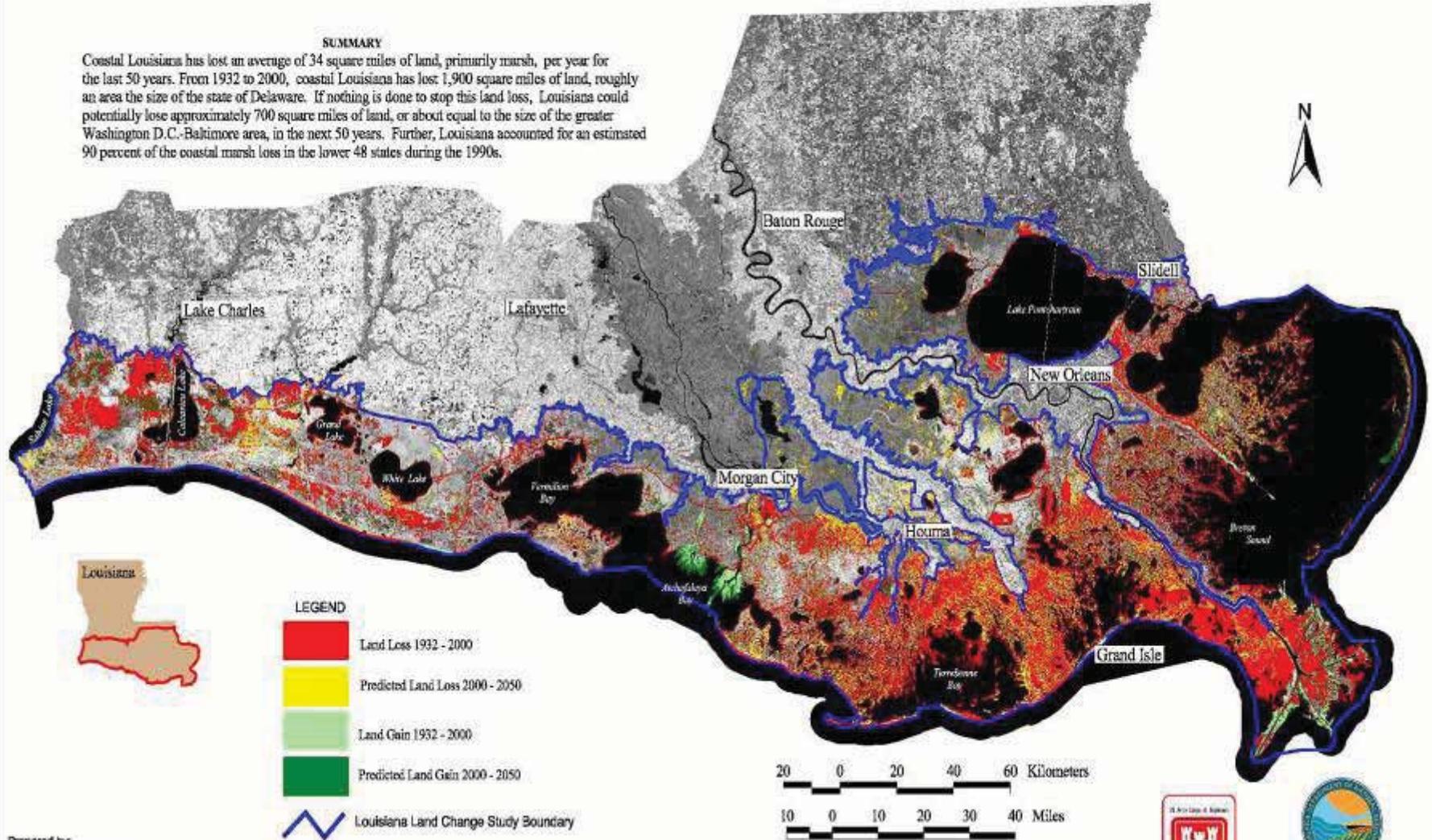




100+ Years of Land Change for Coastal Louisiana

SUMMARY

Coastal Louisiana has lost an average of 34 square miles of land, primarily marsh, per year for the last 50 years. From 1932 to 2000, coastal Louisiana has lost 1,900 square miles of land, roughly an area the size of the state of Delaware. If nothing is done to stop this land loss, Louisiana could potentially lose approximately 700 square miles of land, or about equal to the size of the greater Washington D.C.-Baltimore area, in the next 50 years. Further, Louisiana accounted for an estimated 90 percent of the coastal marsh loss in the lower 48 states during the 1990s.



Prepared by:
U.S. Geological Survey
National Wetlands Research Center
Lafayette, LA

Background is 2000 Thematic Mapper pancromatic band.



Map ID: USGS-NWRC 2003-03-005

Coastal Louisiana's Importance to the Nation

- Coastal Louisiana is a vital economic resource for the Nation
 - Produces \$67 billion in oil & gas annually
 - Ranks 1st in the country in crude oil
 - Ranks 2nd in the country in natural gas production
 - Commercial fishing comprises about 1/4 of the Nation's total fishing industry
- Louisiana's coastal zone is home to ports that carried over 467 million tons of waterborne commerce (2008 data)
- Resources are threatened by disappearance of Louisiana's coastal ecosystems
- Loss of wetlands increases storm surge risk
- ***Above all, protecting coastal Louisiana is about protecting the people, the culture, and a way of life that is uniquely Louisiana***

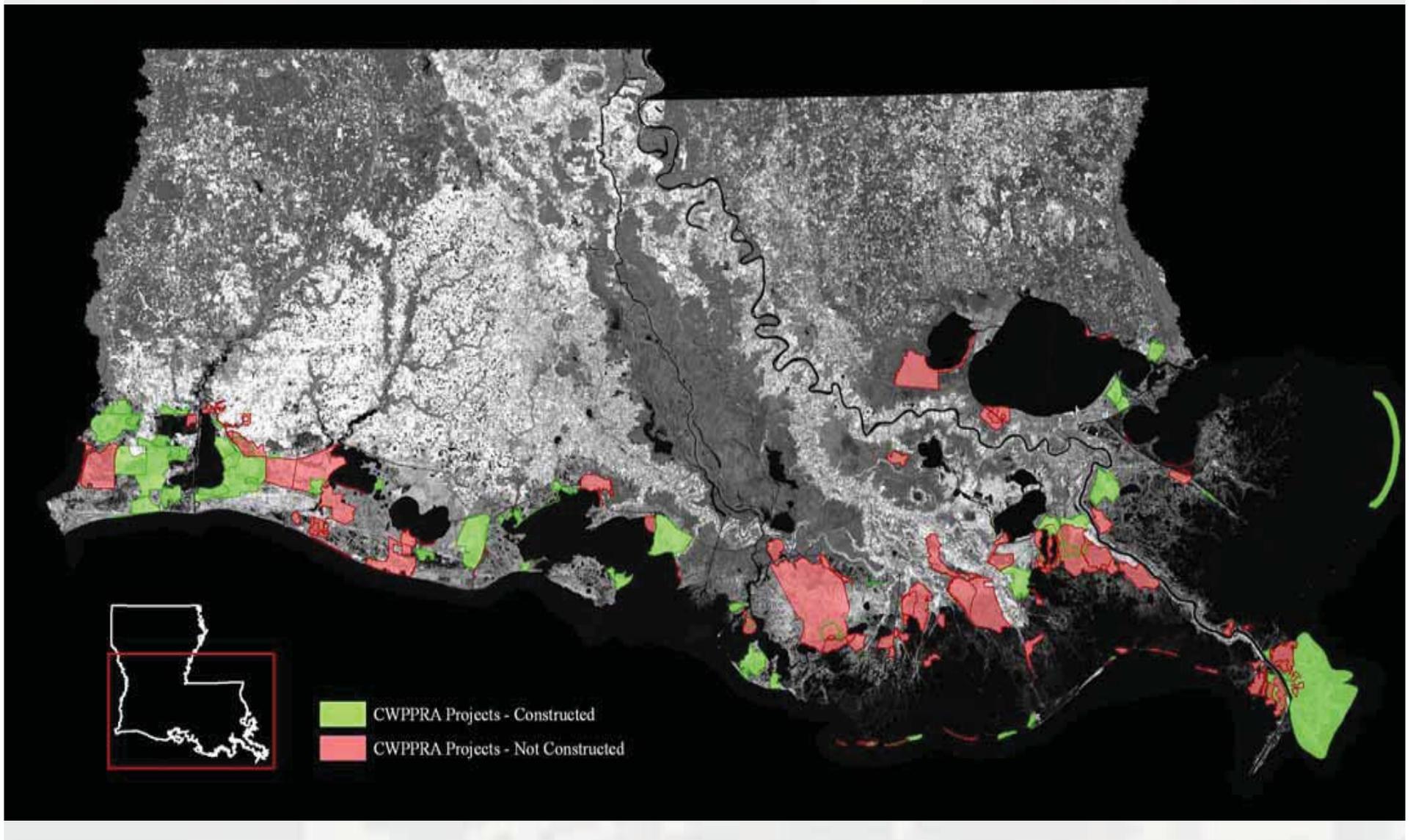


Integrated Water Resources Management

- Complex National Problem
- Shared responsibility between Corps, Federal Partners, the States of LA and MS, and local governments
- Teamwork to derive and implement nationally beneficial solutions
- New perspective on land and water management requiring difficult decisions and tradeoffs
- Emphasis on efficiencies to achieve more within existing resources



Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

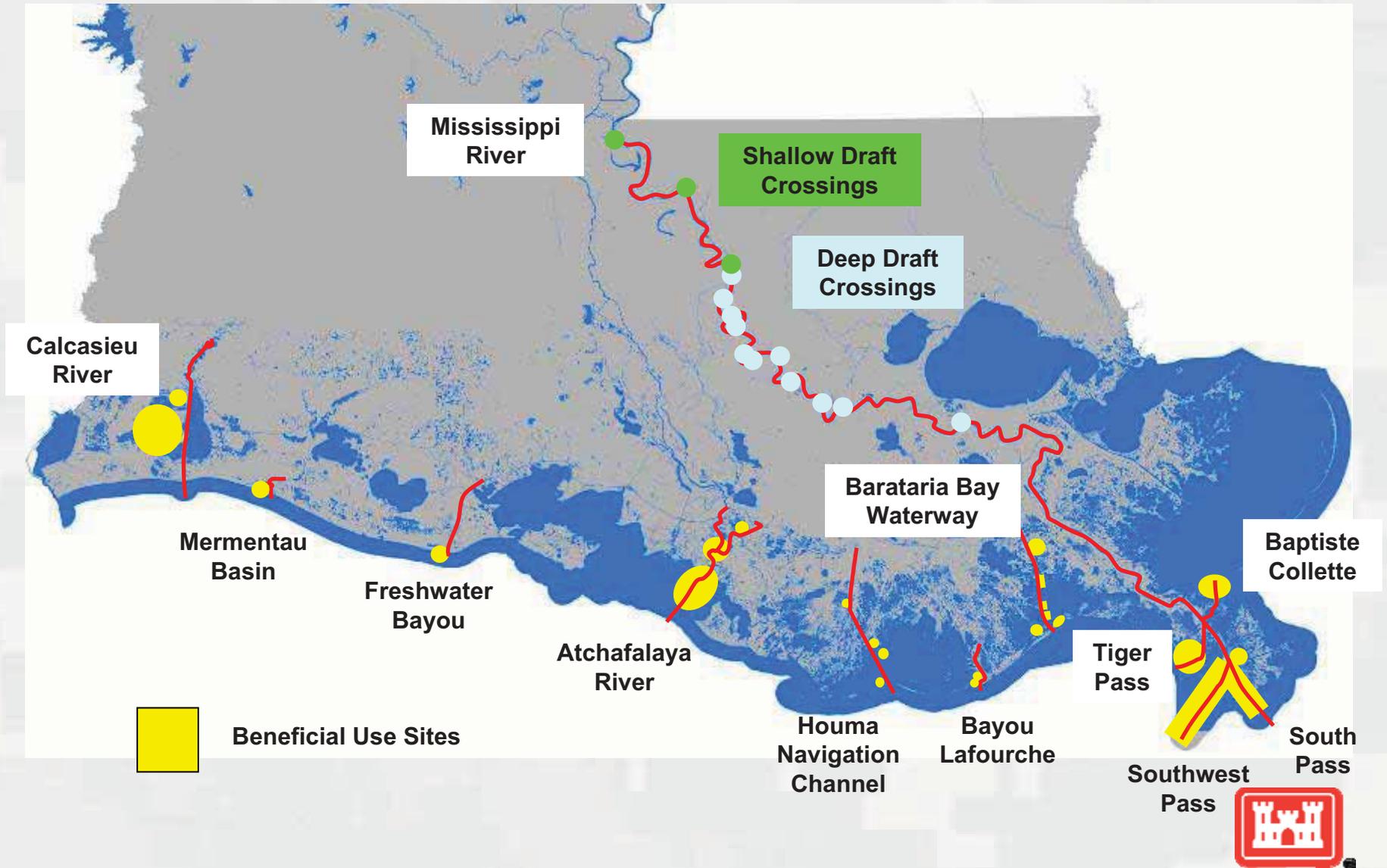


CWPPRA Current Status

- 144 projects in various stages of implementation
 - ▶ Includes planning, engineering and design (E&D), construction, and post construction operations and maintenance
- 82 projects constructed
- 15 projects currently under construction
- 47 projects are in E&D phase and scheduled for construction in FY10 or later



Beneficial Use of Dredged Material



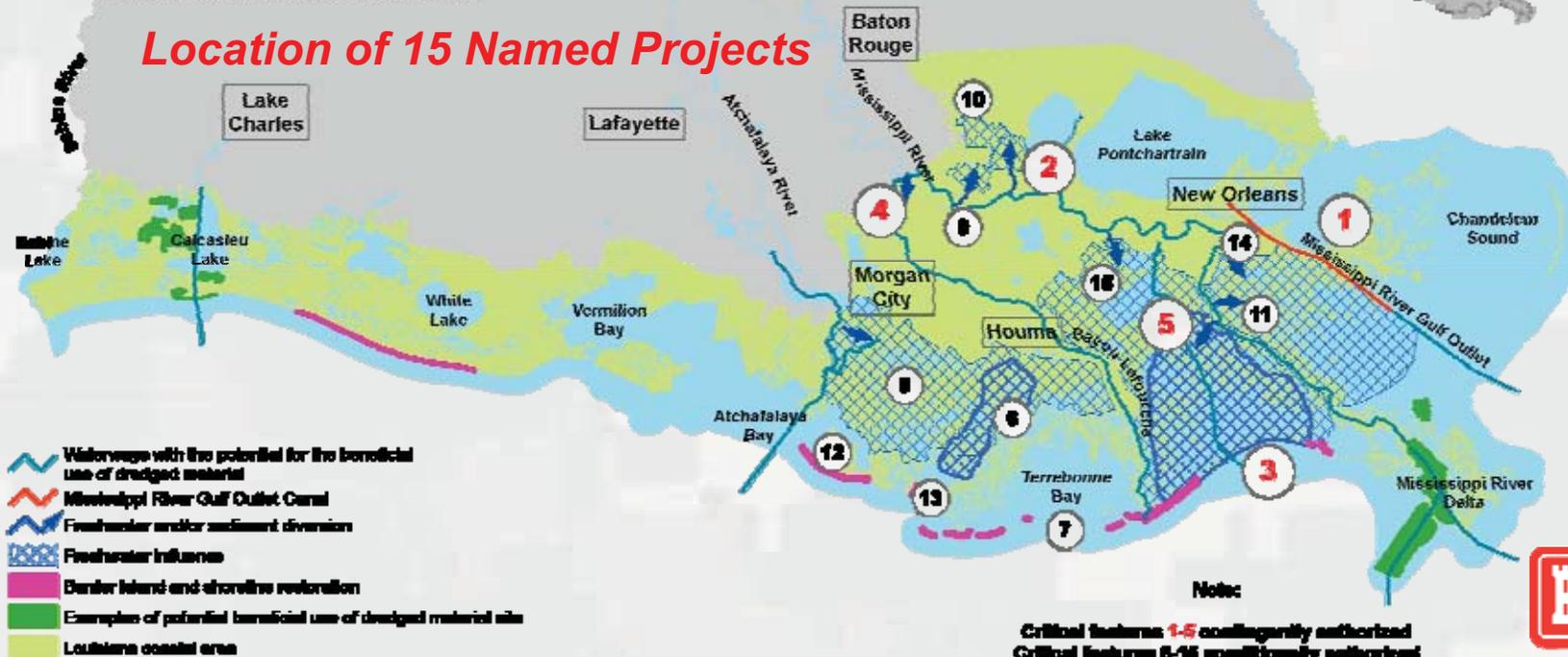
Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA)

Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration WRDA 2007 Title VII

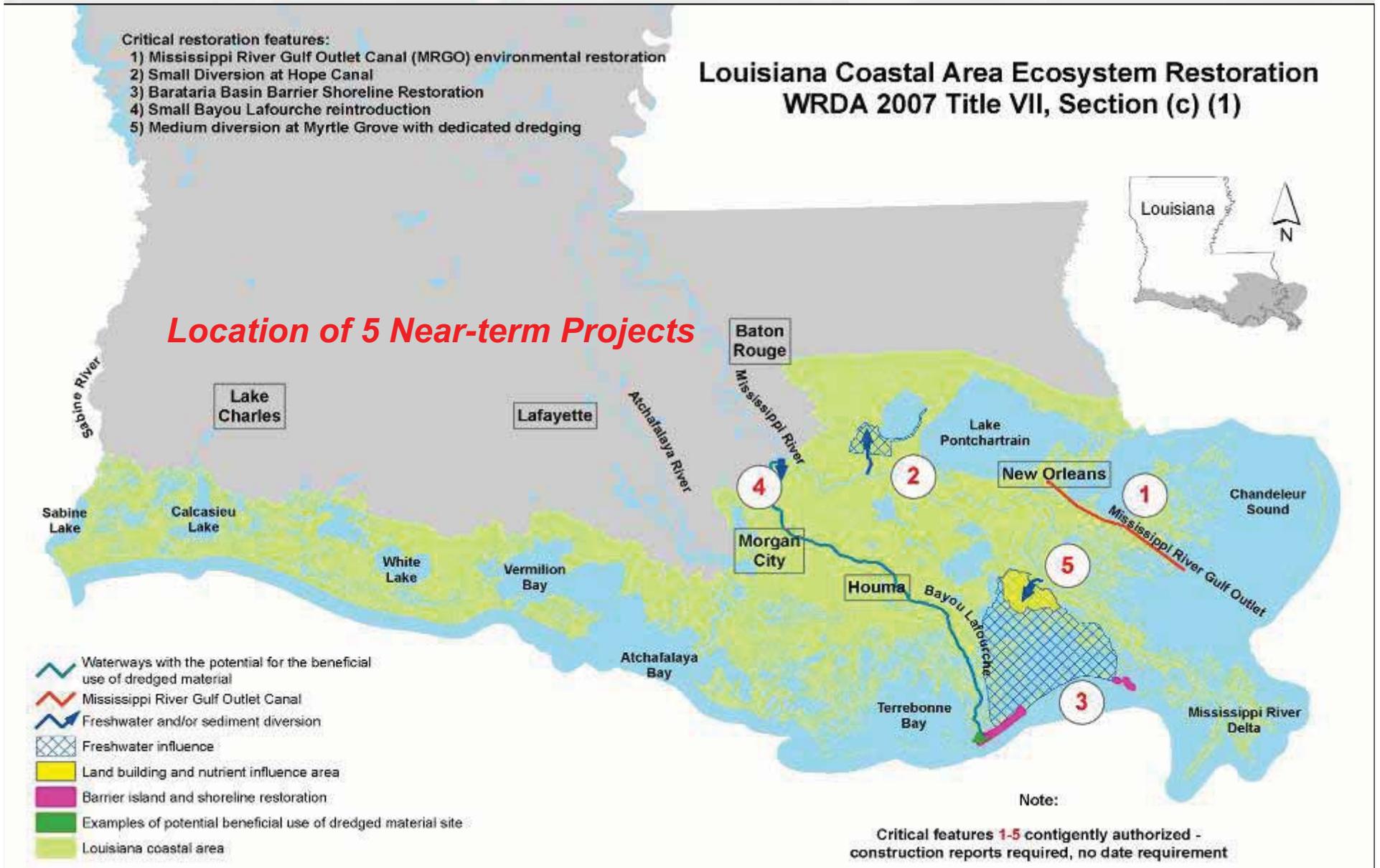
Critical restoration features:

- 1) Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Canal (MRGO) environmental restoration
- 2) Small Diversion at Hope Canal
- 3) Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration
- 4) Small Bayou Lafourche reintroduction
- 5) Medium diversion at Myrtle Grove with dedicated dredging
- 6) Multipurpose operation of the Houma Navigation Lock
- 7) Terrebonne Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration
- 8) Convey Atchafalaya River water to northern Terrebonne marshes
- 9) Small Diversion at Convent/Blind River
- 10) Atchafalaya River Diversion Canal Modification
- 11) Medium Diversion at White Ditch
- 12) Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island
- 13) Land bridge between Caillou Lake and the Gulf of Mexico
- 14) Modification to the Caernarvon diversion
- 15) Modification to Davis Pond diversion

Location of 15 Named Projects



LCA: 5 Near-Term Projects



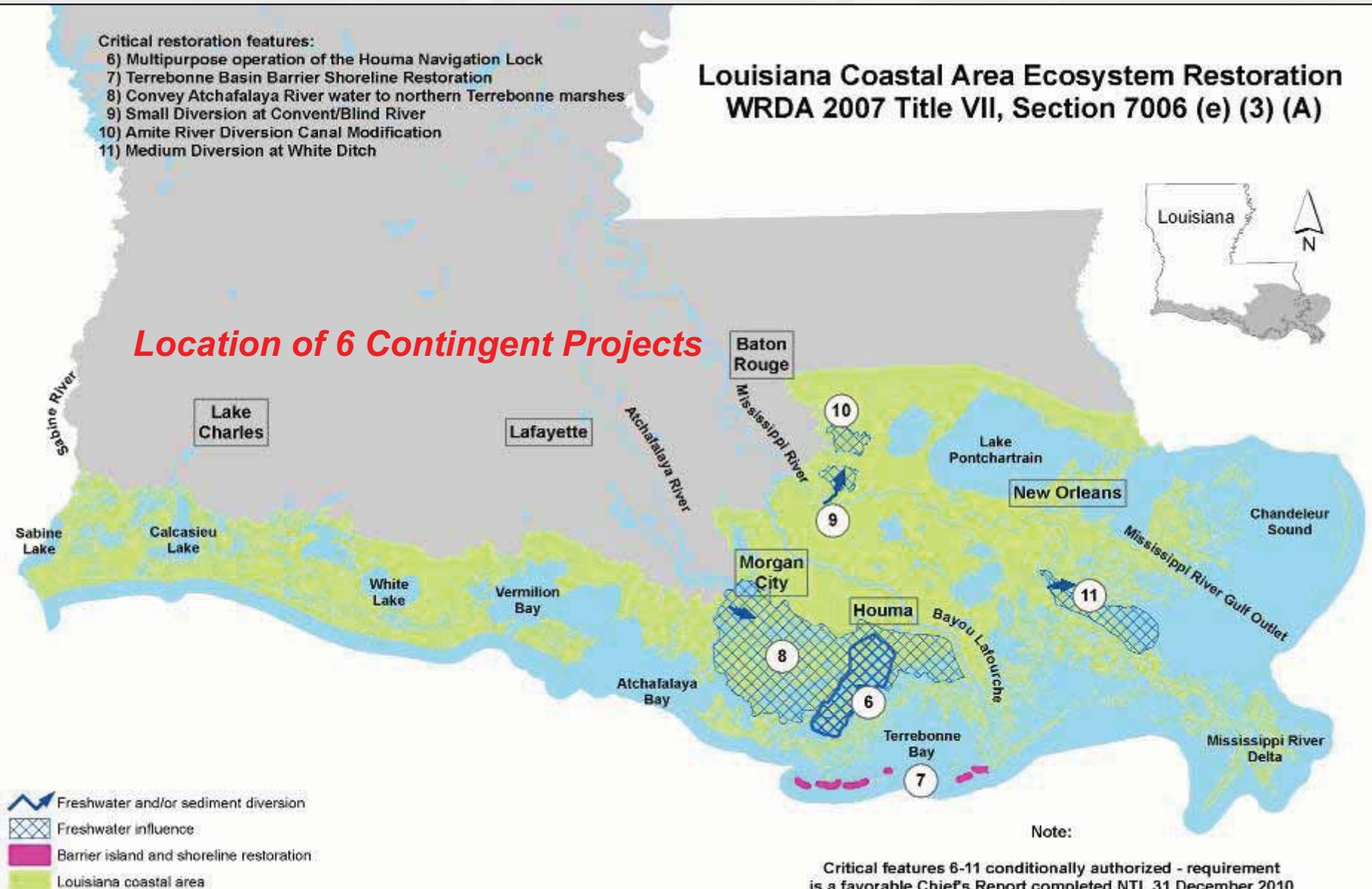
LCA: 6 Contingent Projects

Critical restoration features:

- 6) Multipurpose operation of the Houma Navigation Lock
- 7) Terrebonne Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration
- 8) Convey Atchafalaya River water to northern Terrebonne marshes
- 9) Small Diversion at Convent/Blind River
- 10) Amite River Diversion Canal Modification
- 11) Medium Diversion at White Ditch

Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration WRDA 2007 Title VII, Section 7006 (e) (3) (A)

Location of 6 Contingent Projects



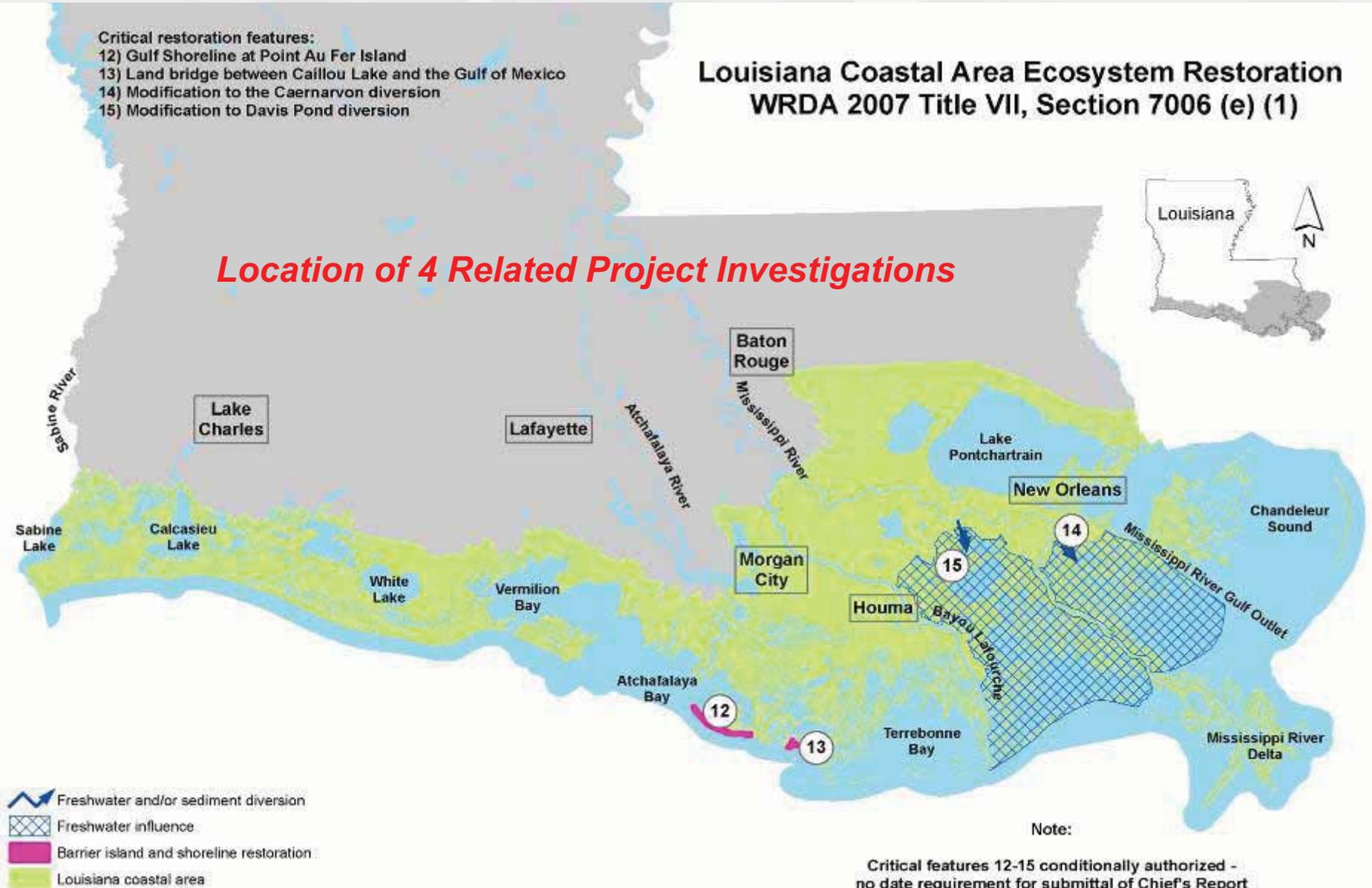
LCA: 4 Related Project Investigations

Critical restoration features:

- 12) Gulf Shoreline at Point Au Fer Island
- 13) Land bridge between Caillou Lake and the Gulf of Mexico
- 14) Modification to the Caernarvon diversion
- 15) Modification to Davis Pond diversion

Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration
WRDA 2007 Title VII, Section 7006 (e) (1)

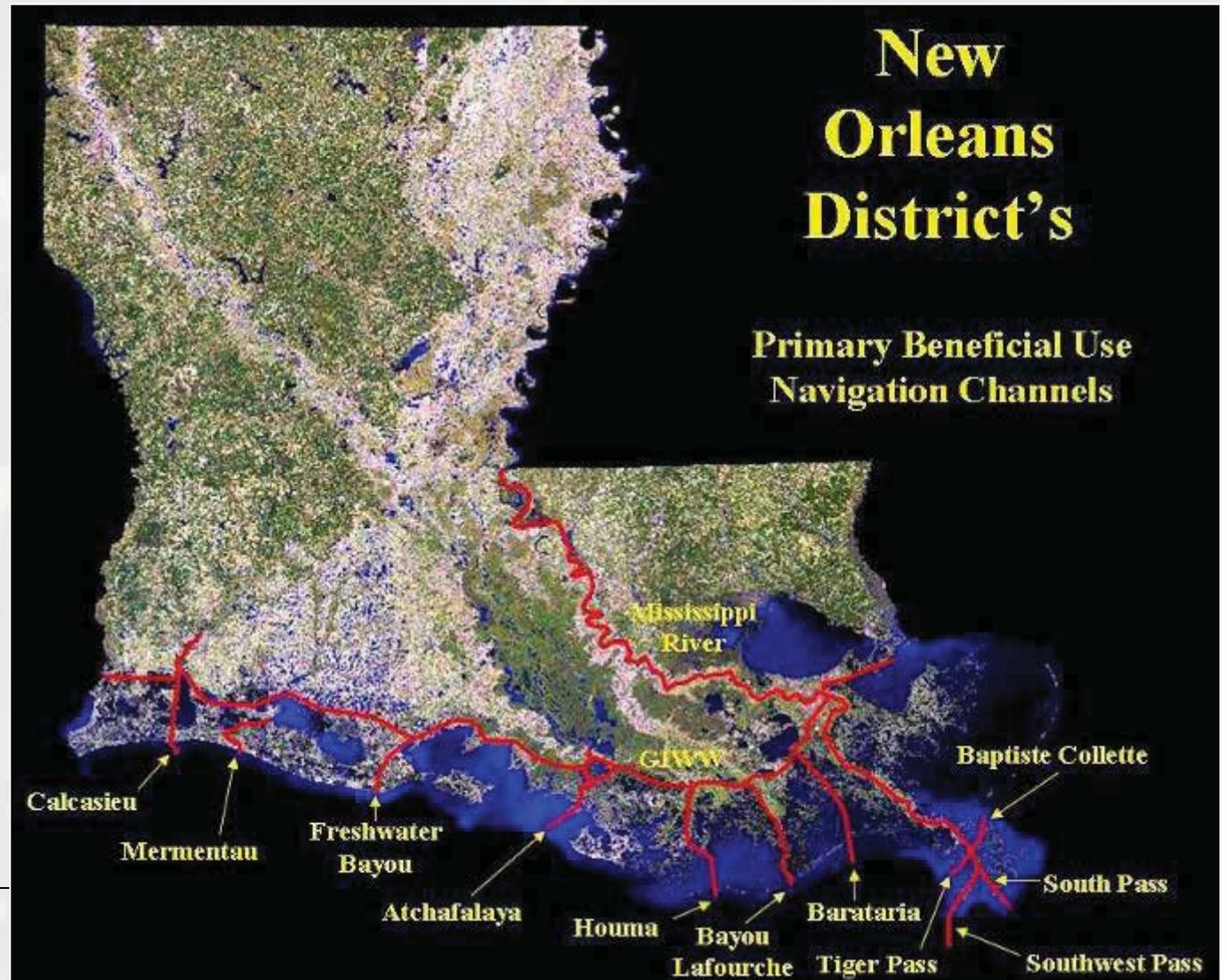
Location of 4 Related Project Investigations



LCA: BUDMAT Program

A program for the beneficial use of dredged material from Federally-maintained waterways in coastal Louisiana.

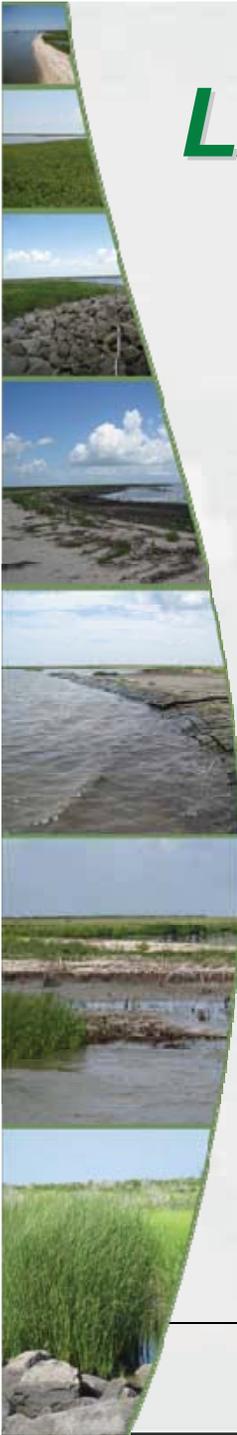
- First construction scheduled for FY11
- Project identification underway
- Funds for construction are subject to annual appropriations



LCA: BUDMAT – Section 204

- List of projects ideally suited to meet BUDMAT objectives and schedule
- Includes projects currently being studied under the Continuing Authorities Program (Section 204)
- Projects, subject to approval and cost share negotiations with the State, are:
 - ▶ Atchafalaya River, Shell Island Pass
 - ▶ Calcasieu River, Mile 5 to 14
 - ▶ Houma Navigation Canal, Wine Island
 - ▶ Houma Navigation Canal, Cat Island Pass
 - ▶ Barataria Bay, Bar Channel



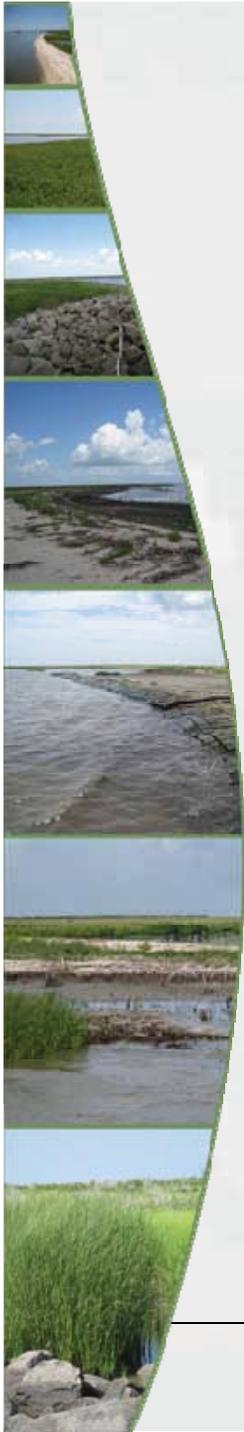


LA Coastal Protection & Restoration

- LACPR identified a variety of alternatives for increased levels of risk reduction
- Focus on five planning units across the Louisiana coast
- Plans include one or more of three types of risk reduction measures:
 - structural
 - nonstructural
 - coastal restoration

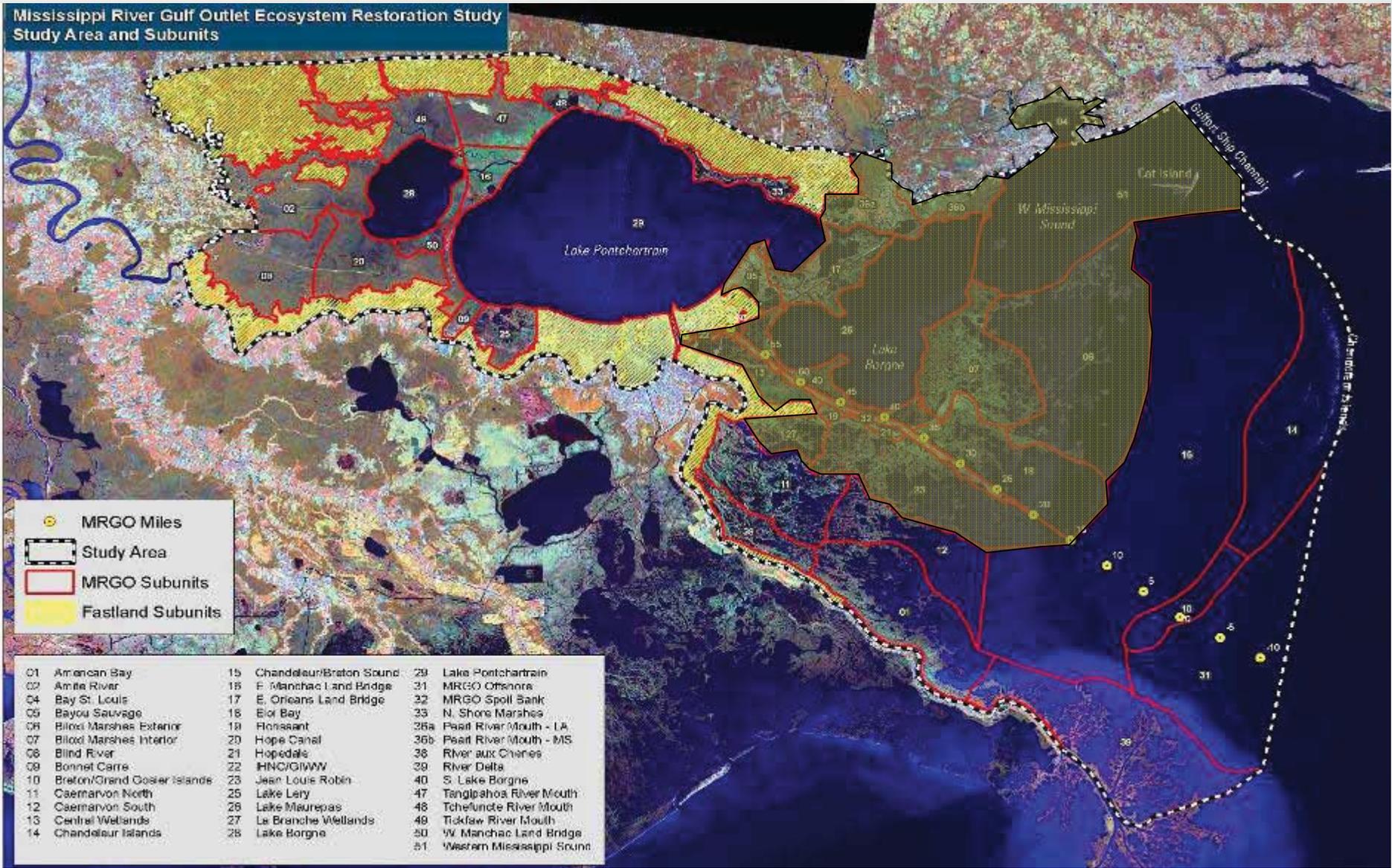


Greater New Orleans Area Projects In Your Area



Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) Ecosystem Restoration

Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem Restoration Study
Study Area and Subunits



MRGO Ecosystem Restoration

- Comprehensive ecosystem restoration plan for areas affected by MRGO channel
- Addresses restoration of ecosystems and natural features to reduce/prevent damage from storm surge
- MRGO closure structure complete
 - ▶ Positive salinity changes recorded

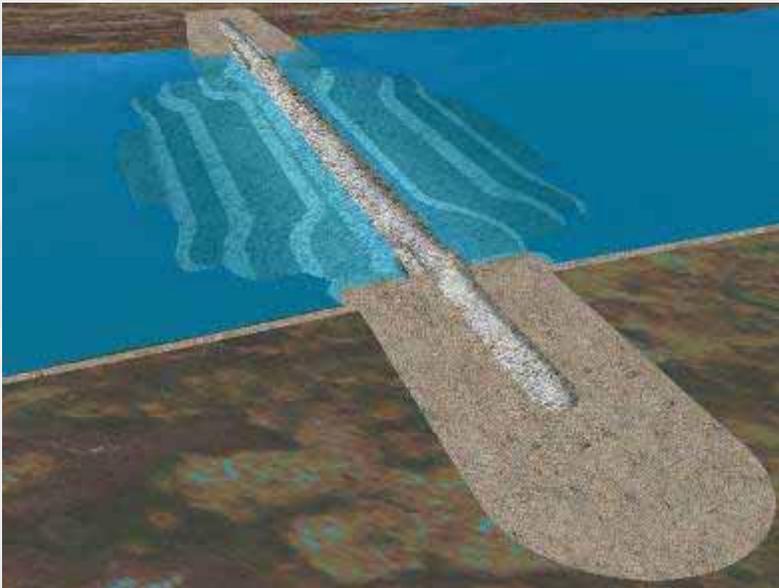


MRGO Ecosystem Restoration

- Developing feasibility analysis and Environmental Impact Statement to support future construction
- Proposed plans and associated environmental impacts will be published May 2010
- Proposed plan will be available for 45-day public comment period



Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Closure



- MRGO closure structure complete
- Positive salinity changes recorded



Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

HDDA Dredging - Delta National Wildlife Refuge



FY 1995



FY 2008

Estimated 1,942 Acres Created

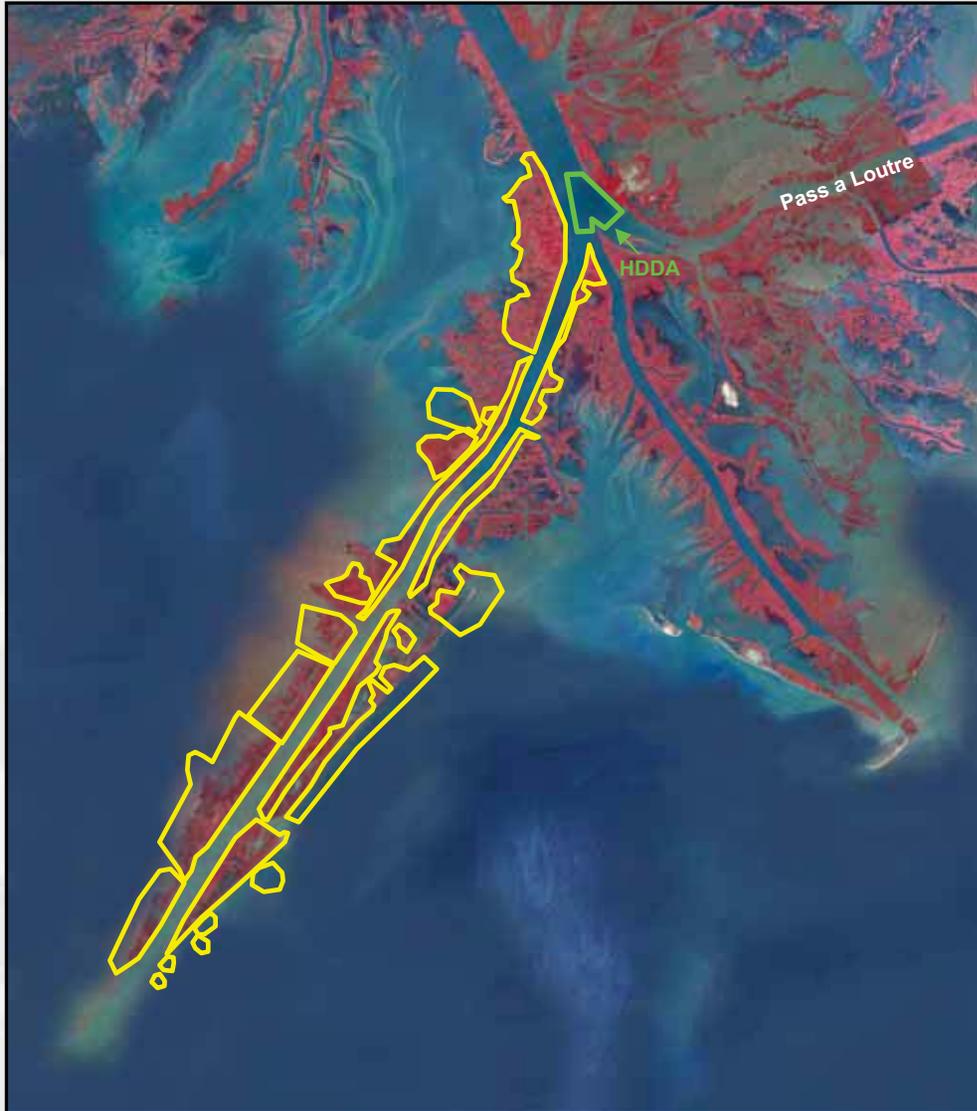


BUILDING STRONG®

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

HDDA Dredging - Delta National Wildlife Refuge





Beneficial Use of Dredged Material
**Mississippi River
Southwest Pass**

**Pre 2009 – Estimated
8,500 Acres**



BUILDING STRONG®



Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Mississippi River South Pass

**Pre 2009 – Estimated
2,400 Acres**

**Proposed 2010-2011
Placement**



Caernarvon Freshwater Diversion



Davis Pond Freshwater Diversion

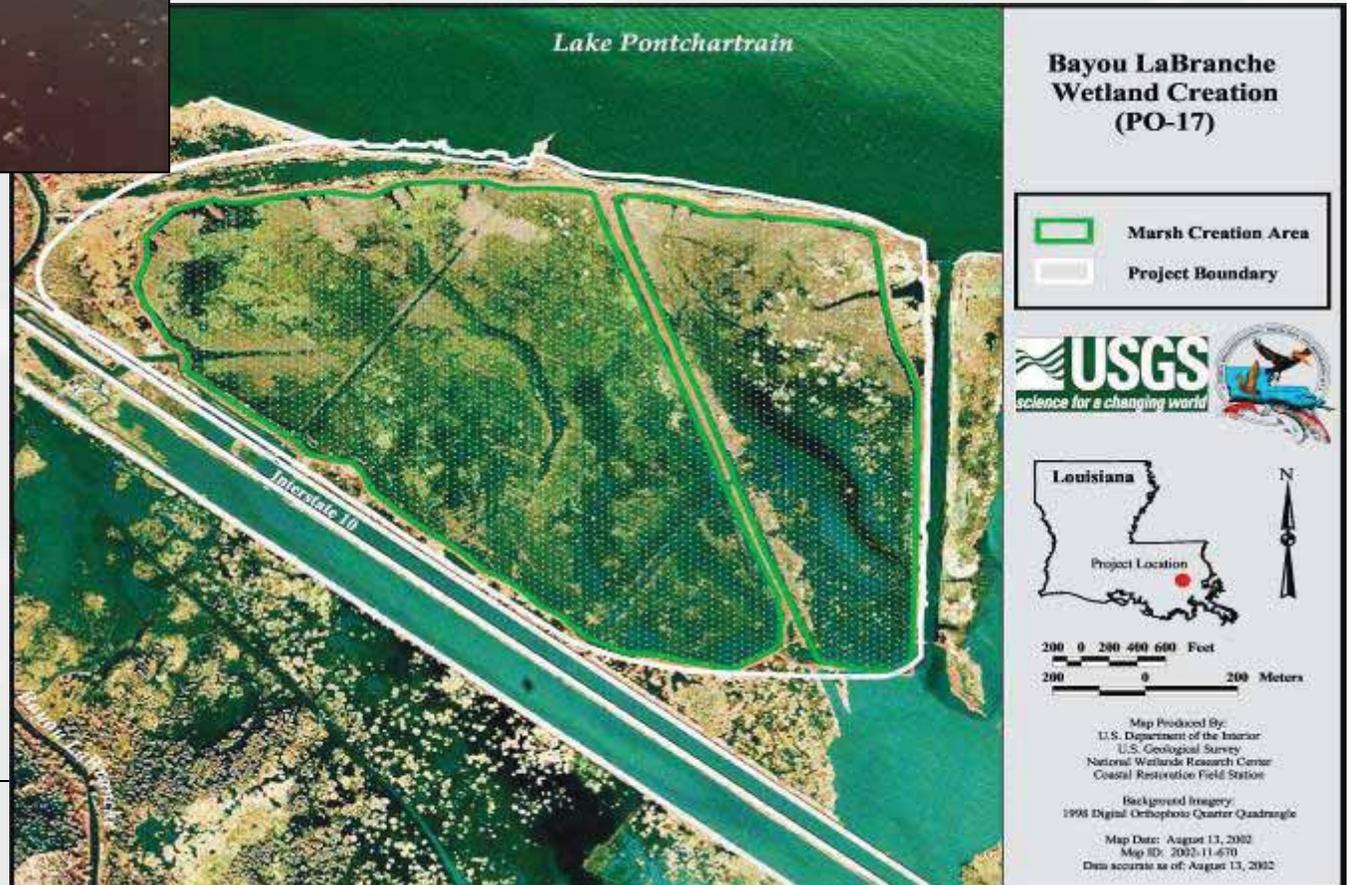


Bayou LaBranche Wetland Creation



- CWPPRA Project
- Construction completed in 1994

- Marsh creation in Bayou LaBranche wetlands in St. Charles Parish



Bayou Chevee Shoreline Protection

- CWPPRA Project
- Construction completed in 2001
- Shoreline protection near Bayou Chevee in Orleans Parish



Path Forward

- Public engagement is key
 - Corps of Engineers
 - Congressional representatives
 - State representatives
- Shared responsibility
- Nationwide issue
- Landmark year for coastal restoration



Opportunities for Public Input

- **Make sure to sign in tonight to get on our meeting notification mailing list**
- **Questions and comments may be submitted to:
Telephone: 504-862-2201
[E-mail: AskTheCorps@usace.army.mil](mailto:AskTheCorps@usace.army.mil)**



Resources

www.nolaenvironmental.gov

NOLA Environmental
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA
Environmental Compliance Data Bank
www.nolaenvironmental.gov

PROJECTS | MEETINGS | LIBRARY | DATA VIEWER | GET INVOLVED | RELATED LINKS

Welcome to NOLA Environmental! This site has been set up to share with the public the efforts being made by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal and state agencies in south Louisiana regarding the environmental compliance for proposed federal and state Hurricane Risk Reduction Projects. Additional information pertaining to other federal and state agencies' hurricane recovery efforts in southeast Louisiana will also be posted on the site as it becomes available.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District implemented Alternative Arrangements on March 13, 2007 under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR § 1506.11). Learn more...

FEATURED PROJECT
USACE-MVNY Emergency Alternative Arrangements
Greater New Orleans
Hurricane and Storm Damage
Risk Reduction System Projects

Announcements

- Draft IER 7 Public Comment Period 5/6 - 6/4
- Draft IER 13 Comment Period extended to 5/18
- Draft IER 5 Public Comment Period 5/4 - 6/3
- Draft IER 16 Public Comment Period 5/1 - 5/30
- Draft IER 6 Public Comment Period 4/24 - 5/23
- IER 6 - The Clean Water Act Section 404 Public Notice Comment Period 4/24 - 5/23
- Orleans Parish Pump Station Stormwatering EA #474 Drafts Public Comment Period 4/17 - 5/23
- Jefferson Parish Pump Station Stormwatering EA #475 Drafts Public Comment Period 4/14 - 5/20
- Draft IER 10 Public Comment Period 4/13 - 5/12

Upcoming

- 05/11/2009 - Public Meeting IER 6, 9, 10 and below
- 05/17/2009 - Draft IER 10 Public Comment Period Ends

Newly Available

NEW NOLA Environmental Basic Data Viewer

- News Release 06 May 09 Draft IER 5
- IER 5 - Phase 2 Final Report: Operating Scenario 05/05/09

<http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans District - Microsoft Internet Explorer, provided by USACE, New Orleans District

US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

ABOUT US | SERVICES | BUSINESS | CAREERS | EXPERIENCE | PRESS ROOM | CONTACT US | LINKS

Floodwall
Building more bigger, stronger, better. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is partnering to work ahead of time to minimize the hurricane and storm damage risk reduction system (DWR) by 2015. To this end, the Corps is using valuable resources learned to construct more resilient levees and floodwalls.

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Learn more about what the Corps is doing to reduce risk. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Emergency Information
[Food Supplies](#), [Disaster Response](#), [Flood Information and More...](#)

NOLA Environmental
Did you miss a meeting? No problem! Find presentations, presentations and more...

TOP HEADLINES

Document contains a link to [Waterway](#) [News](#)

ASK THE CORPS

The Corps wants to hear from you! Do you have information on the closing of Industrial Lock on August 1, 2009 for 60 days?

FEATURED VIDEOS

Meet Orleans Complex
Learn more about the alternative under construction to reduce risk on the Waterway. [Watch it.](#)

Hurricane & Storm Damage Risk Reduction Centers
From levees to canals, stations, find all the about system features.

Home | Contact Us | Search | DM
US Army Corps of Engineers

HOME | DISCLAIMER | PUBLIC INQUIRY | EMERGENCY AND SECURITY | FOIA | INFORMATION QUALITY ACT | ACCESSIBILITY

