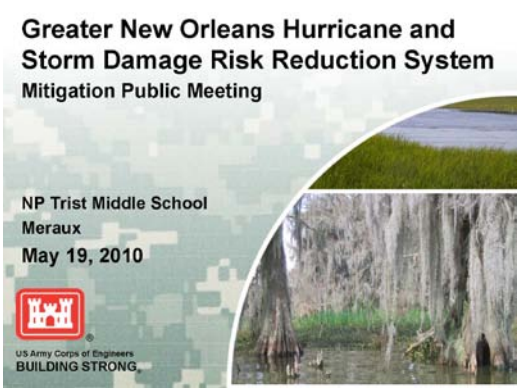
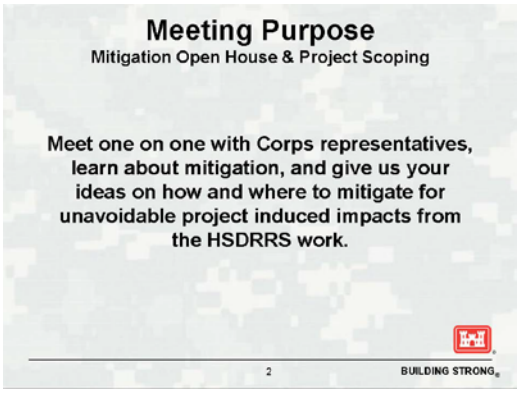
US Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District

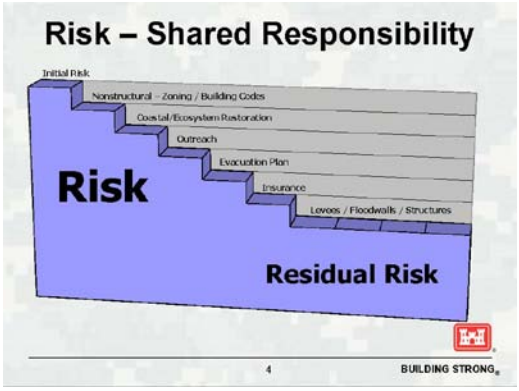
Public Meeting Summary

Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Mitigation Public Meeting
May 19, 2010

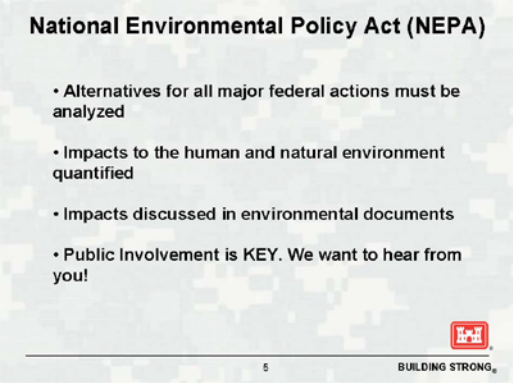
Location	NP Trist Middle School 1 Pirates Cove, Cafeteria Meraux, LA 70075
Time	Open House 6:00 p.m. Presentation 6:30 p.m., followed by a discussion
Attendees	Approx. 17
Format	Open House Presentation
Handouts	• HSDRRS Mitigation Fact Sheet (May 2010) • Mitigation Fact Sheet (May 2010)
Facilitator	Ken Holder, Public Affairs



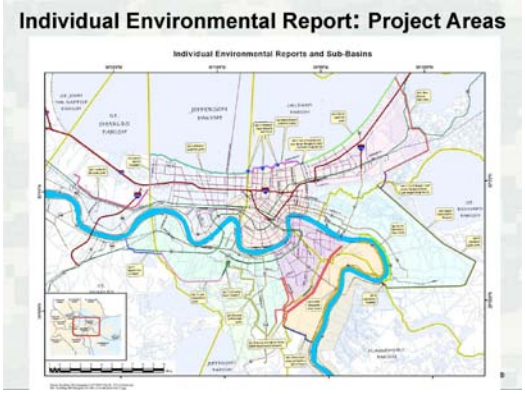




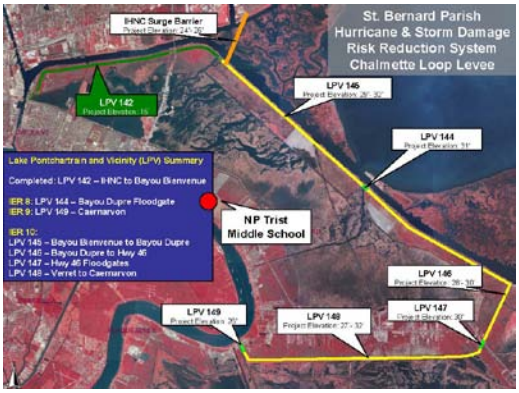
Ken Holder: We buy down risk through a number of activities. We have our initial risks and then through our zoning and local laws we can bring it down. Coastal restoration will bring down risk a little bit further. Talking to people and getting feedback on what you think will work also helps us to buy down risks. Of course, having a good evacuation plan, insurance and finally floodwalls, levees and other structures are also important for reducing risk. The most important thing to get out of this slide is that no system will completely protect you, there is always residual risk.



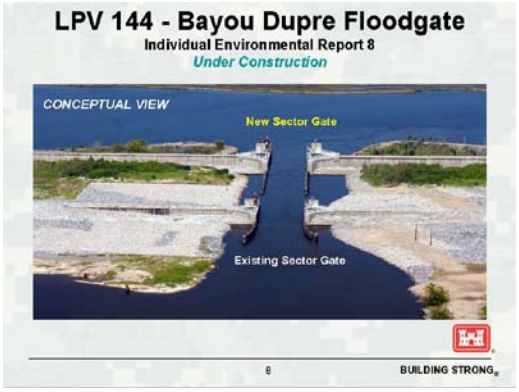
The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is one of the reasons why we are here. Alternatives for all major federal actions have to be analyzed. Part of the NEPA process is to find out what impact the process will have on people and of course, the natural environment. The impacts will be discussed in the environmental documents, and public involvement is key. So we want to hear from you!



These are the project areas of the hurricane system separated by individual environmental reports. Chris, I will turn this over to you.



Chris Gilmore: My name is Chris Gilmore and I'm the senior project manager for the Hurricane Protection Office for St. Bernard Parish. We have three IERs in St. Bernard Parish: IER 8, IER 9 and IER 10. IER 8 covers the Bayou Dupre Floodgate. IER 9 covers LPV 149, which is the Caernarvon Floodwall. IER 10 covers everything else from Bayou Bienvenue to the Bayou Dupre stretch of levee. The Bayou Dupre to Highway 46 stretch of levee is LPV 147 and the Verret to Caernarvon stretch is LPV 148.02.



For LPV 144, we are rebuilding the Bayou Dupre Floodgate. The existing floodgate is at elevation 15.5. The new floodgate is going to be at elevation 32, so we are essentially doubling the height of that floodgate itself. This is a conceptual view of the project. We are currently under construction. Bayou Dupre is now closed to marine traffic and will be closed until next summer. Construction is due to be completed on that new floodgate before June 1, 2011.

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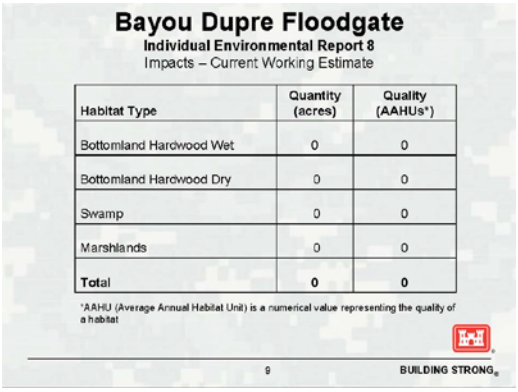
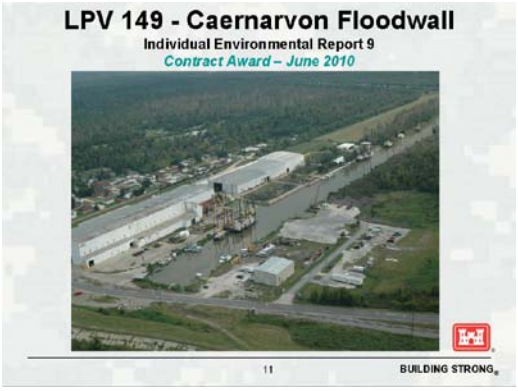
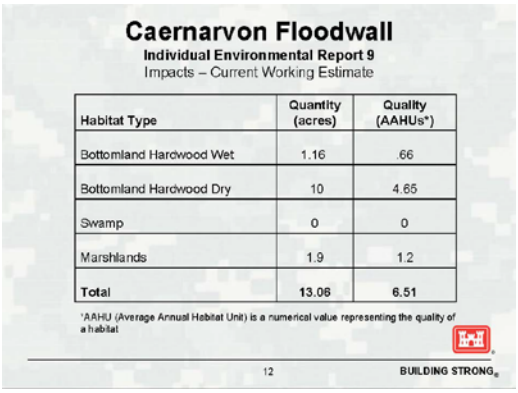


Because it's replacing an existing feature, we have no mitigation impacts for the Bayou Dupre Floodgate project.

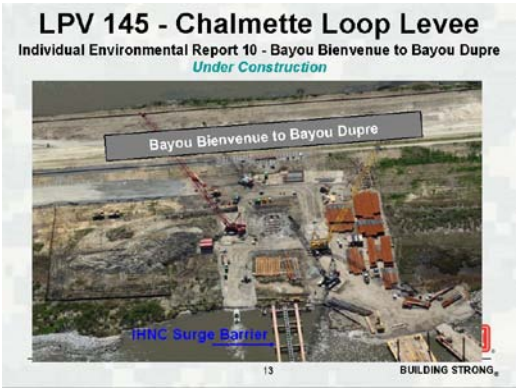
LPV 149 is the Caernarvon Floodwall. This project features a T-wall with a sector gate in the Caernarvon Canal that continues on with the T-wall tying into the Mississippi River Levee. We will have a floodgate at Highway 39, a floodgate at the railroad and we will be constructing an emergency access road over the Mississippi Levee for when those two gates are closed. This is the last contract we have in St. Bernard Parish that has not been awarded yet. It has been advertised and we are looking to have this contract awarded late this month or early June.



This shows you where the new sector gate is going to go.

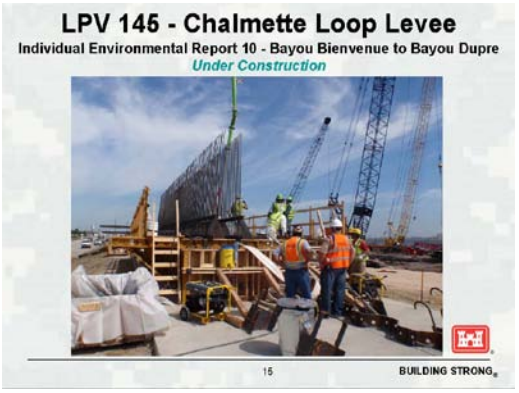


For the Caernarvon Floodwall project we are going to cross some virgin property so we are going to impact some of the various habitat types for a total of a little over 13 acres of area impacted. This equates to about 6.51 AAHU, which is an average annual habitat unit. That's basically a measure of the function and the value of the habitat that we are impacting.

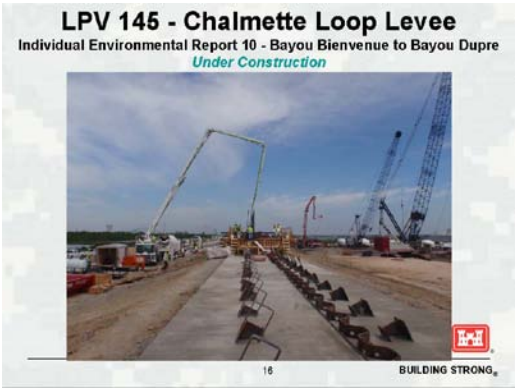


This is LPV 145, the Chalmette Loop Levee, and again this project stretches from Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre. It consists of the construction of a T-wall on top of the existing levee. This contract has been awarded and we are under construction. We actually have a T-wall in place as of Monday. We are pouring concrete and driving steel as we speak.

These are some construction photos of LPV 145. This image is looking south toward Bayou Dupre. We have a sheet pile cutoff wall that extends about 30 feet down, and H-piles on either side that are about 115 to 125 feet long.

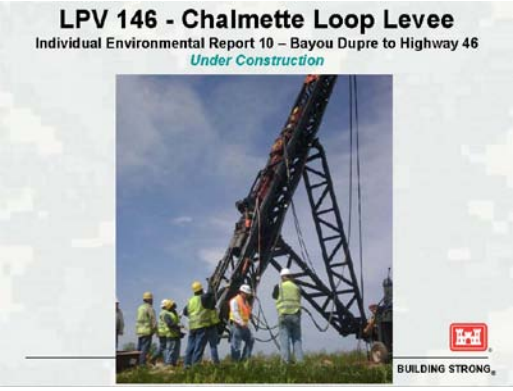


This is what the T-wall is going to look like. The man in the foreground of the photo is a little over six feet tall so you can see the T-wall is pretty substantial in height, and that is on top of a 20 foot levee.

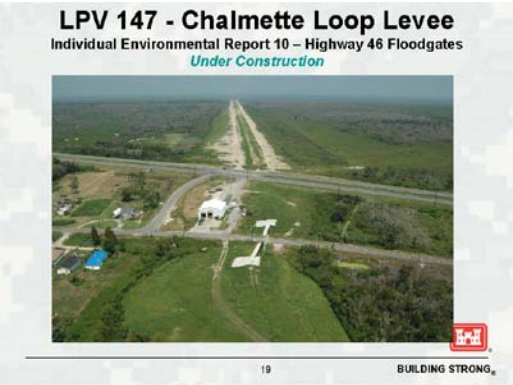


Again, these are just some construction photos.

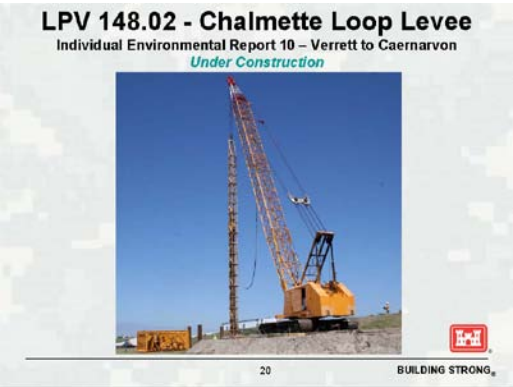
LVP 146 stretches from Bayou Dupre to Highway 46. This is the same alternative. We are constructing a T-wall on top of an existing levee. We are currently under construction, driving steel H-piles and sheet piles. This is a construction photo showing a steel H-pile being driven into the ground. This reach does not have a T-wall in place yet, but they are very close to forming one and pouring concrete.



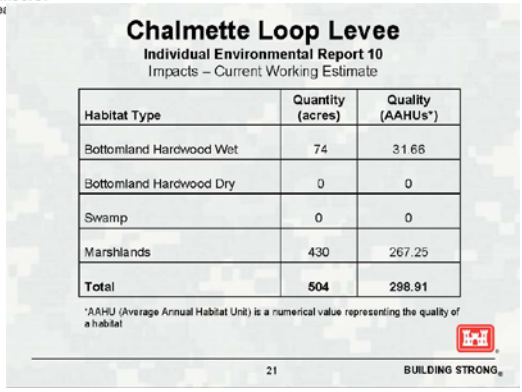
This is another construction photo showing H-piles being driven in the Chalmette Loop Levee project.



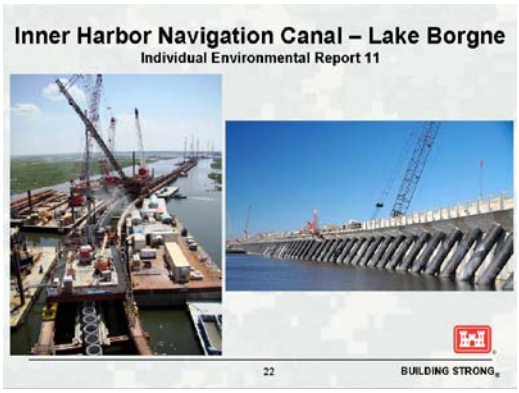
This is LPV 147, a short little reach right around Highway 46, right across from the Verret Fire Station. This project consists of construction floodgates across Highway 46. A feature of the LPV 146 project that would actually impact LPV 147 is the construction of an emergency access gate. During an evacuation or storm event the floodgates in that area will close. However, the people in lower St. Bernard Parish will still be able to evacuate and get out of lower St. Bernard into the protection system. The project has been awarded. The current schedule projects construction complete in February 2011.



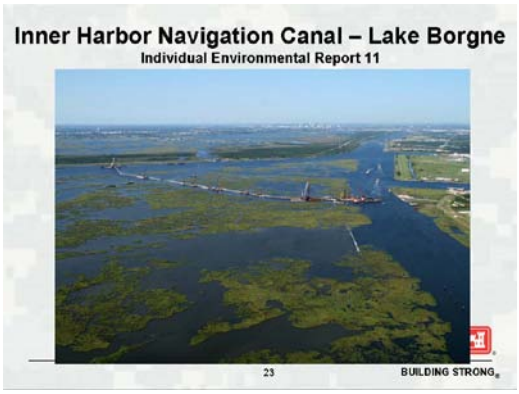
LPV 148.02 is the Verret to Caernarvon reach. This contract has been awarded. The contractor will be mobilizing to the project site very soon. He will be constructing access roads and setting up his office trailers. He has placed his first order of steel, H-piles, and sheet piles to be delivered very soon. This is a picture of a pile test that is currently ongoing.



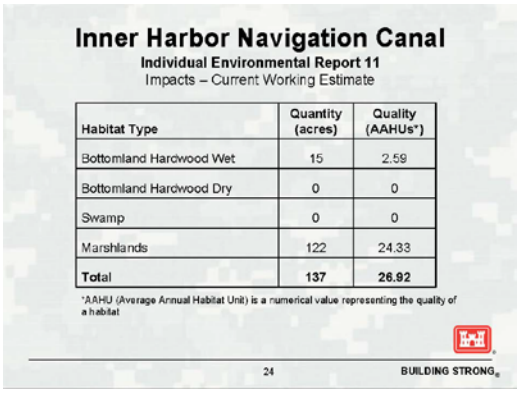
For the three reaches that make up the Chalmette Loop Levee, we have a total impact area of 504 acres, broken down here by habitat types.



Another project we have that ties into St. Bernard Parish and New Orleans East is the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier (also called the Lake Borgne Barrier). These are some construction photos showing the construction.

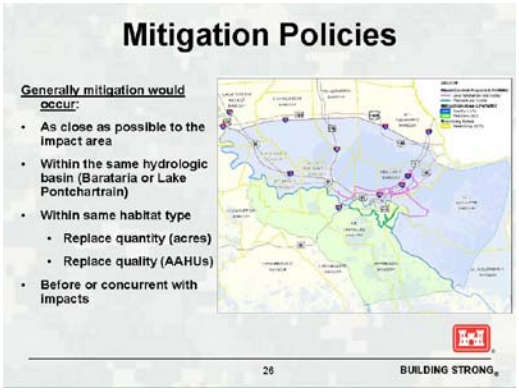


This is a good picture showing the surge barrier tying in the LPV 145 reach in St. Bernard Parish and the LPV 111 reach in New Orleans East. The project is well under construction. It's actually almost complete.



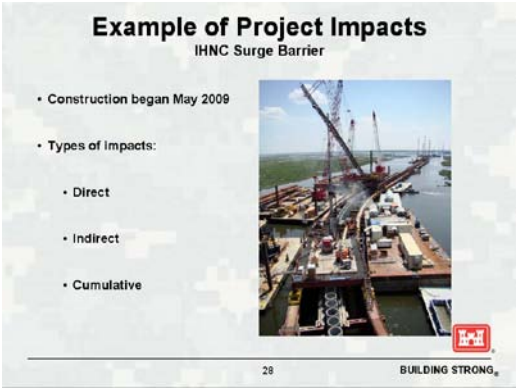
Again, these are the habitat types we've impacted with the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal project. A total of 137 acres will be mitigated for.

There are several components of the mitigation process. We want to try to avoid any impacts on natural resources, and if we can't avoid, we want to minimize any impact to the natural environment. If we have to impact a natural environment, we want to compensate for anything that we can't avoid. We will put together mitigation plans in our IERs and we have discussed proposed mitigation in all our IERs, especially 8, 9 and 10 for St. Bernard Parish and all the others throughout the system. Mitigation is a funded feature, so we do have the funds to do this work.



Generally, mitigation would occur as close to the impact area as possible. If we impact St. Bernard Parish we would like to do the mitigation close to St. Bernard, if not in St. Bernard, if we can. We want to stay within the same hydrologic basin, which is the Lake Pontchartrain Basin for us. And we attempt to mitigate within the same habitat type, replacing the quantity and quality of the impacted areas. Ideally, this would all happen before or concurrent with impacts.

We have a couple of examples of mitigation projects. This is one in Terrebonne Parish, a non-federal levee. In 2009, we constructed 6.5 miles of levees. To mitigate our impacts, we are creating marsh land and we have purchased credits in a bottomland hardwood bank.



There are three main types of impacts for which we must mitigate: direct, indirect and cumulative. As an example, the direct impacts for the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Surge Barrier project would be dredging a channel through the marsh to build the wall pictured here. Indirect impacts for this project are the marine traffic going through this canal that we've dredged. Wave wash is widening that channel so we are going to mitigate that as well. Then there are the cumulative impacts of the system as a whole and all that will be mitigated for.

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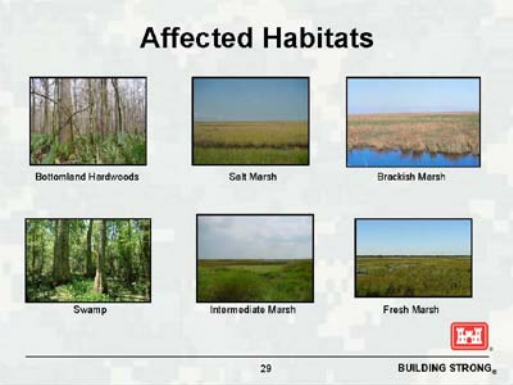
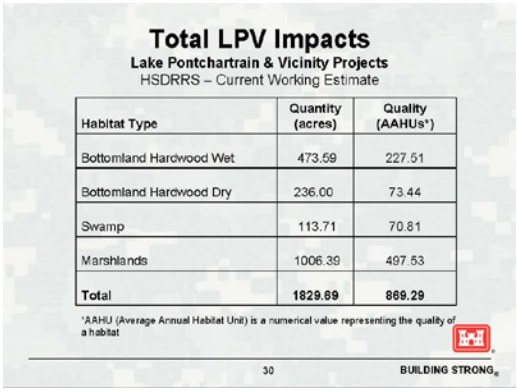
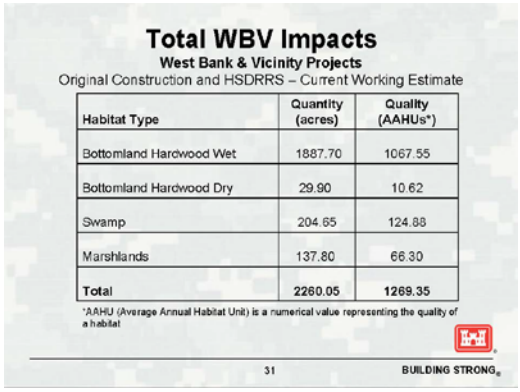


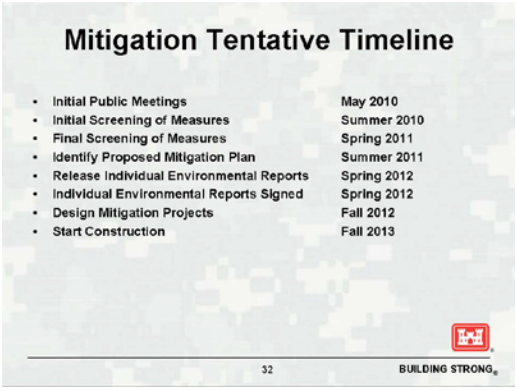
Here are the different types of affected habitats. We have bottomland hardwood, brackish marsh, salt marsh, swamp, intermediate marsh, and fresh marsh. Every project is not going to impact all six types; these are just the possible areas for mitigation.



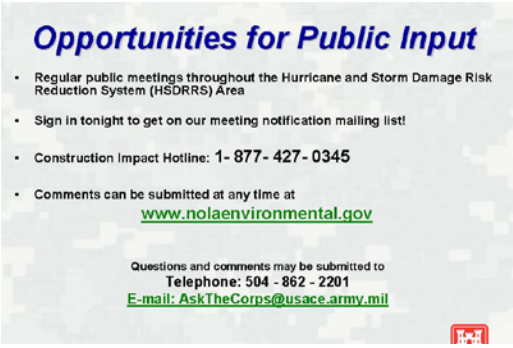
Here are the total Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity impacts, which total to about 1,800 acres.



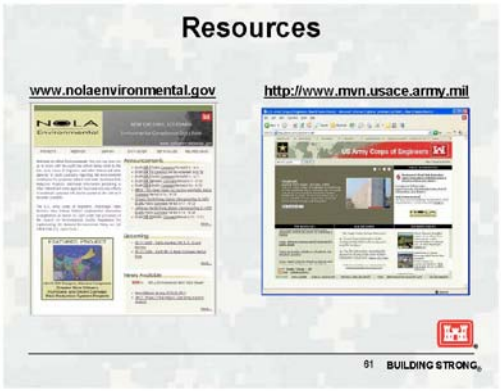
One thing we also want to mention for the Westbank and Vicinity projects - We are mitigating the entire system, not just St. Bernard or Lake Pontchartrain, but the whole risk reduction system. For the Westbank we have a total of about 2,200 acres that will be mitigated.



We are starting our public meetings now and I believe we have another one Monday in New Orleans East. Initial screening of the measures is projected for this summer and the final screening of the measures will be in the spring of 2011. Then we will identify the proposed mitigation plan next summer and release the individual environmental reports in the spring of 2012. At that point we will get the IER signed. In the fall of 2012 we will work to design the mitigation projects. Construction will be in the fall of 2013.



There are plenty of opportunities for public input. We have regular meetings throughout the hurricane system and will continue to have them. Make sure you sign in tonight so you can join the mailing list. We also have a construction impact hotline: 1-877-427-0345. Our goal is to respond within a 24-hour period. Our website can be accessed at www.nolaenvironmental.gov. There is an "Ask the Corps" number: 504-862-2201, and an email: askthecorps@usace.army.mil that you can use to get information as well.

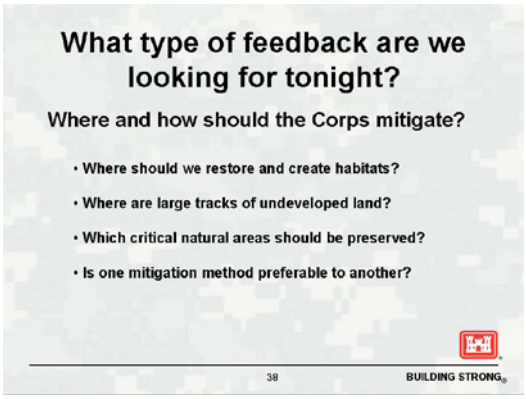


If you want some additional information again there's www.nolaenvironmental.gov and then the Corps of Engineers New Orleans District website is listed here: www.mvn.usace.army.mil.

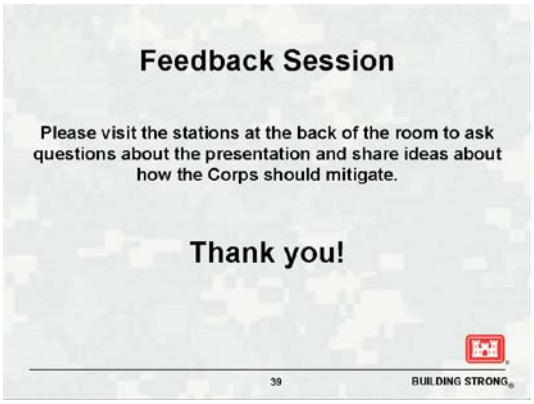
We are also on the various social networking sites. There's Twitter, Flickr and Facebook. St. Bernard Parish has its own Facebook site and they have quite a few construction photos.

These are the direct links to our various social networking sites.

We have upcoming public meetings on Monday at 6 PM and Wednesday, May 26th at the American Legion in St. Rose.



Ken Holder: We are going to ask you today to please share your feedback with us and how best we should mitigate for the impacts that Chris talked about. At the back of the room we have a couple of stations set up and we ask you to please go and visit them and talk with the environmental managers. So please talk with our environmental managers and feel free to share anything that would help us serve you. As you are going through the areas you might consider where we could restore and create habitats, where there are large tracks of undeveloped land, which critical natural methods should be preserved and is one mitigation method preferable to another.



Thank you very much.