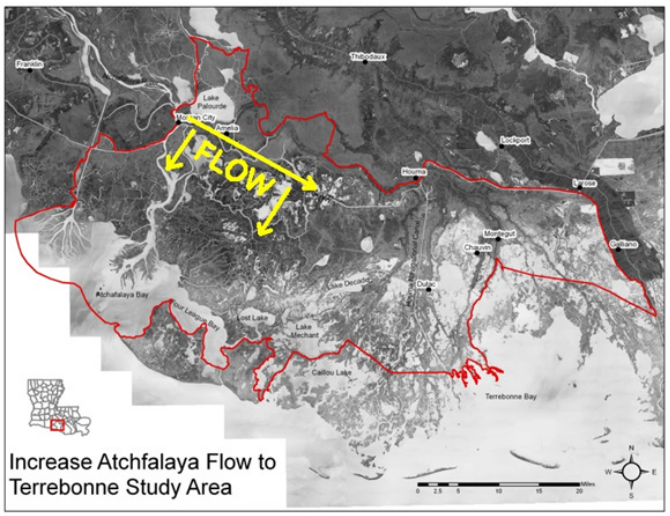
NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

LOUISIANA

Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne: Engineering & Design

This project will initiate the design and critical environmental regulatory review required to construct a river diversion to utilize freshwater and sediment from the Atchafalaya River and dredged material to build, sustain, and maintain wetlands within the Terrebonne Basin. Once constructed and operated, this diversion project will restore freshwater influence in this basin and reduce wetland loss by as much as approximately 17,000 acres over 50 years.

The wetlands of Terrebonne Parish now experience the highest rate of land loss in all of coastal Louisiana. Starved of the historical freshwater, sediment, and nutrient supply that sustained them, Terrebonne Parish wetlands are expected to lose in excess of 146,000 acres of wetlands by 2050 with no further restoration action. The Louisiana Coastal Master Plan identified this project as a unique means to harness the Atchafalaya River to stem the dramatic erosion in this area of Louisiana's fragile coast.



Conveying freshwater east into the upper reaches of the Terrebonne Marshes will help sustain and restore some of the most threatened areas of Louisiana's fragile coast as pictured in the above graphic.

AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT:
Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA)

AWARD AMOUNT:
$16,367,400

PARTNERS:
United States Army Corps of Engineers

LOCATION:
St. Mary and Terrebonne Parishes, Louisiana

AWARD DATE:
November 2016

STATUS:
Active

PROGRESS UPDATE:
Preliminary modeling, analysis, and review are ongoing. Geotechnical data collection is comlete.

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about GEBF and view a comprehensive project map go to **www.nfwf.org/Gulf**