



Vol. I SEPTEMBER 2011

*Atchafalaya
National Heritage Area*

MANAGEMENT PLAN / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Front cover photo credit: Louisiana Office of Tourism



JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

POST OFFICE BOX 44243
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804

July 1, 2011

Dear Stakeholders:

I am pleased to present the *Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* developed by the Atchafalaya Trace Commission. The Plan is a model of collaboration among public agencies and private organizations. It proposes an integrated and cooperative approach for projects that will protect, interpret and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, historical and recreational resources of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The Plan outlines initiatives for the next 10 to 15 years that will strengthen the region culturally and economically.

We appreciate the input from the public and the help from the many agencies and organizations that participated in drafting this Plan. We welcome additional comments in this final review period, and we look forward to working with you as we implement this Plan.

With best regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Dardenne", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Jay Dardenne
Lieutenant Governor

Management Plan / Environmental Assessment
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area
Louisiana

Congress authorized the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area on October 6, 2006 with the enactment of The National Heritage Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-338). The legislation designates the Atchafalaya Trace Commission as the local coordinating entity and requires the completion of a management plan to guide the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA). This plan is intended to guide a coordinated effort, led by the Commission, to protect, develop, interpret, and promote the national heritage area's resources, in ways that reflect the area's national significance, for the benefit of current and future generations.

This plan examines four alternatives for managing the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area for the next 15–20 years. It also analyzes the impacts of implementing each of the alternatives.

Alternative A (no action) consists of the continuation of existing management and trends, and serves as the basis for evaluating the other alternatives. Under **alternative B**, natural resource protection and recreation, and the themes of “Adaptation and Survival” and “Influence of the Water on the Land and the People” would be the primary focus of management. Management under **alternative C** would focus on the protection and restoration of cultural resources, and the theme “Identity through a Cultural Blend” while providing some different visitor opportunities than alternative B. **Alternative D** (the preferred alternative) reflects the interrelationship of natural resources with culture and history and includes a focus on all three interpretive themes. As required by the legislation, an implementation plan and an interpretive plan are included in this document.

This *Management Plan / Environmental Assessment* will be released to the public for a 30-day comment period. The National Park Service will determine whether the environmental consequences of the preferred alternative require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

HOW TO COMMENT ON THIS PLAN

Comments on this Management Plan/Environmental Assessment are welcome and will be accepted for 30 days after the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability appears in the Federal Register, which is expected in spring 2011. To respond to the material in this plan, written comments may be submitted by one of several methods noted below. Commenters are encouraged to use the Internet if possible. Please submit only one set of comments.

Internet Website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/Atchafalaya>

Mail:

National Park Service, Denver Service Center – Planning Division
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area
PO Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Comments from the public, stakeholders, and government agencies will be accepted until August 1, 2011.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

While Louisiana is continually developing and changing, its residents and visitors look to cherished places for recreation and for connecting with nature, culture, and history. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, a 10,400-square-mile area of outdoor wonders and historic treasures, is one such place. The area, which begins at the junction of the Atchafalaya River and the Mississippi River and extends south through 14 parishes to the Gulf of Mexico, encompasses the nation's largest river swamp and a wide variety of cultural and recreational resources.

A comprehensive plan for a well-managed Atchafalaya National Heritage Area will set the stage to connect the great variety of resources within the heritage area and create support for local businesses, traditional artisans, and others, while increasing the quality of life for residents and enhancing the experiences of visitors.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan articulates a framework with specific recommendations to connect and enhance the heritage area's rich offerings. The plan is a result of extensive public input from citizens, governments, and other stakeholders who are deeply committed to preserving and promoting the heritage area's special character. The plan can serve as a model of public and private partnerships working together to implement policies that protect and connect the heritage area for future generations.

Establishing a vision and road map for managing the diverse resources well is the purpose, and the challenge, of this strategic management plan.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of this management plan for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to provide a framework to guide the Atchafalaya Trace Commission (the Commission) over the next 15-20 years. This plan identifies programs and strategies to protect, interpret, and promote the heritage area's cultural, historic, recreational, educational, scenic, and natural resources; identifies existing and potential public and private partnerships; includes a comprehensive interpretation plan; recommends criteria and sources for financial assistance; and fosters cooperative relationships between federal, state, regional, and local agencies. Informed by an extensive public participation process, the plan integrates the ongoing efforts of multiple partners over a broad region, helping to prevent duplication of activity and resolve conflicts of interest.

The strategies of the management plan are intended to guide a coordinated effort, led by the Commission, to protect, develop, interpret, and promote the national heritage area's resources, in ways that reflect the area's national significance, for the benefit of current and future generations. Because the plan's strategies are comprehensive and programmatic in scope, few specific projects are discussed. Implementation of certain strategies or actions outlined in the plan may require additional site specific assessment in the future as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The plan is designed to be flexible to adapt to varying factors, and the Commission is intended to be an actively engaged organization that reserves the right to reverse course or initiate new actions to mitigate unforeseen impacts or new opportunities presented by partners or funding opportunities. The Commission will

SUMMARY

continually monitor its accomplishments under the plan through regular evaluations of its projects and programs, consultations with state agencies and other partners, and an ongoing and active public engagement process including regular communications and recurring community forums.

Because implementation of the management plan will depend upon a number of factors—including levels of funding and actions by federal, state and local agencies, as well as nonprofit groups and private stakeholders—exact timeframes are not included in the plan.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PREFERRED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area preferred management plan presents a comprehensive strategy for future management and protection of the heritage area's diverse historic sites, unusual natural habitats, and cultural traditions.

Vision

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a truly fascinating and “foreign” place here in the middle of the U.S. culture. The area manages to be authentic and real, while offering outstanding amenities for residents and visitors who seek a relaxed but active break from the everyday.

Mission

The mission of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to build understanding and identity, raising local, regional, and national awareness of the Atchafalaya region; to strengthen the fabric of the place; to expand economic opportunities and to increase the community collaboration and involvement within the parishes that constitute the heritage area while supporting a healthier Atchafalaya ecosystem and enhancing natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

Goals

The overarching vision for the heritage area is supported by four goals:

Goal 1: Enhance interpretation and awareness of the heritage area's key stories

Goal 2: Support sustainable cultural economic development opportunities in the heritage area

Goal 3: Increase appreciation for cultural resources

Goal 4: Increase appreciation for natural resources

Interpretive Themes

Three interpretive themes have been identified. Each theme is connected to a variety of resources that represent the themes in various depths.

Theme 1 - Adaptation and Survival: The early settlers acquired living skills unique to the environment.

Theme 2 - Identity Through a Cultural Blend: The region's identity evolved from a blend of many cultures.

Theme 3 - Influence of the Water on the Land and the People: Water is the distinctive influence on life in this area: through the ages it has created ever-changing landscapes, contributed to subtle and catastrophic natural events, and has been subjected to a long history of human manipulation; this relationship continues to evolve today through increased recreation and conservation efforts.

THE ALTERNATIVES

Alternative A (no action) consists of the continuation of existing management and trends, and serves as the basis for evaluating the other alternatives.

Under **alternative B**, natural resource protection and recreation, and the themes of “Adaptation and Survival” and “Influence of the Water on the Land and the People” would be the primary focus of management.

Management under **alternative C** would focus on the protection and restoration of cultural resources, and the theme “Identity through a Cultural Blend” while providing some different visitor opportunities than alternative B.

Alternative D reflects the interrelationship of natural resources with culture and history and includes a focus on all three interpretive themes.

The Preferred Alternative

The Commission’s preferred alternative for the future management of national heritage area is the Heritage Connection: Nature, Culture, History and Recreation. (Alternative D in the Environmental Assessment)

SUMMARY

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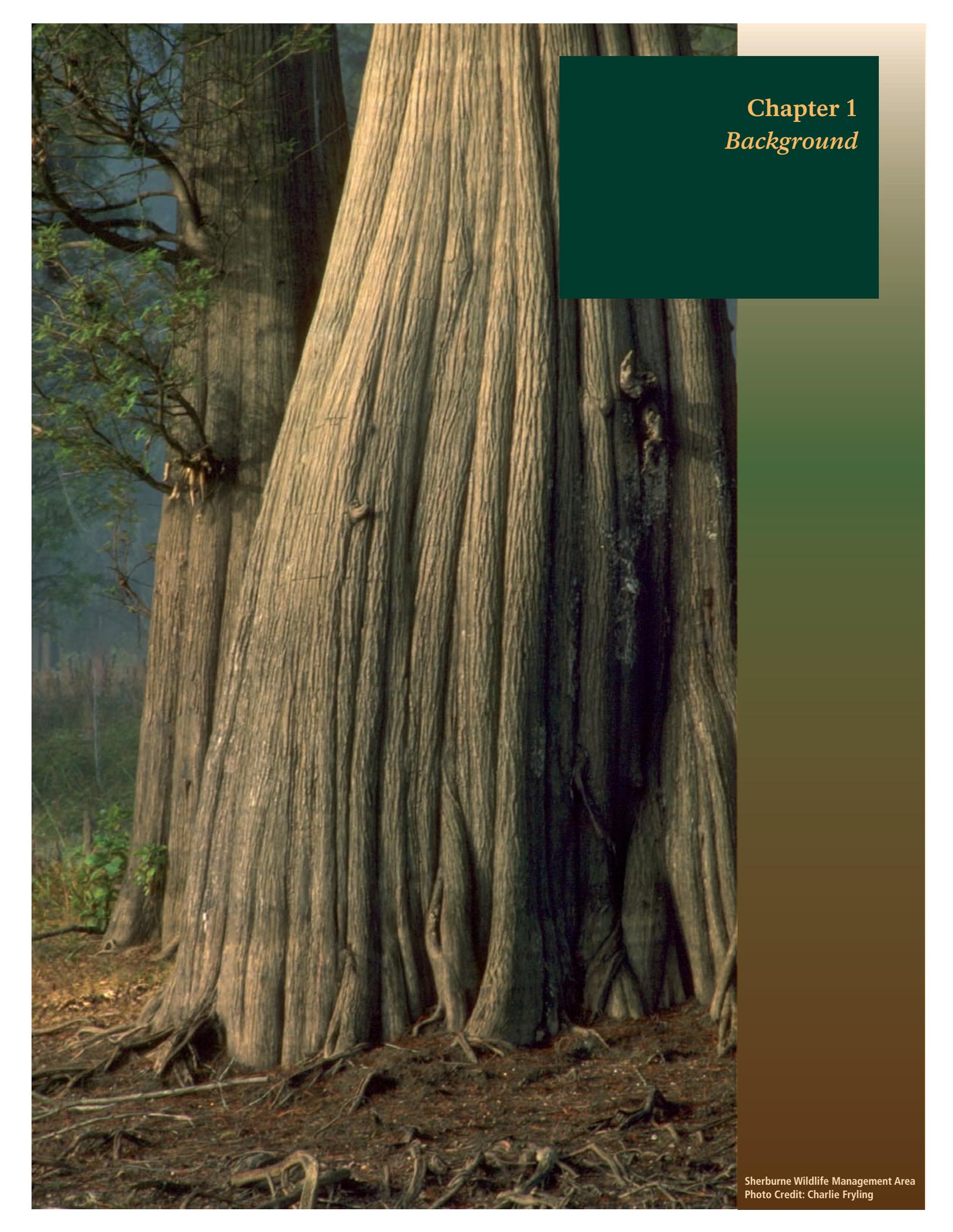
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Chapter 1 *Background*

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Atchafalaya
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

AMERICA'S FOREIGN COUNTRY

ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA
1051 NORTH THIRD STREET, P.O. BOX 94291
BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9291
T 225-219-0768 F 225-342-1051

BRAND STATEMENT

Our country's landscape is rich and mysterious. It is filled with twisting bayous, backwater lakes, vast marshes, and America's largest river swamp. We have fields of sugar cane and cotton, ancient live oaks and towering cypress. Alligators, raccoons, and even bears roam our lands while 270 species of birds take to our skies. From our waters come catfish, shrimp, and the crawfish that make us so well known.

From this bounty, our country has created food unique to the entire world. Our cuisine is an intricate mixture of European as well as African and Native American descent using ingredients such as roux, picante, the trinity – onion, bell pepper and celery, filé, and tasso. We eat boudin, gumbo, étouffée, and gateau sirop.

With food comes celebration. Our country's musicians have inspired the world of rock and roll, country, gospel and rockabilly. Our native music is a complex melding of culture to create the Cajun rhythm and the staccato of zydeco. We use the *frottoir* and the accordion, the triangle and the fiddle. We dance the two-step, the waltz, and the jig.

The music and food are emblems of our country's rich culture. From the Diaspora of L'Acadie in Canada and colonial French influence comes our French speaking tradition. This melded with our deep Native American and African American roots created our Cajun dialect. Ours is a history of man and nature in an often-foreboding and always majestic environment. Our history and culture remain intact and we celebrate it with a *joie de vivre* unmatched in other lands. Our country is vast and varied but we share the story of water and swamp, man and survival around the river we call the Atchafalaya, still traveling our waters as did our forebears.

We invite you to journey through our country and explore our mysterious landscape, dine on our rich cuisine, celebrate with our music, and immerse yourself in our culture. Our country requires no passport, because our country is right here in America.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area,
America's Foreign Country

The Atchafalaya Trace Commission (Commission) is the coordinating entity of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area that was previously known as the "Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area" when it was a state heritage area.

DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

NOTE:

This document is offered in two volumes: volume one contains general information about the national heritage area, background information regarding the planning effort, a short description of the preferred alternative, an implementation plan that could be applied to any of the alternatives, and an interpretation plan that would also apply to any of the alternatives. Limited hard copies are available of volume one; it is also available online and is also available on a compact disc.

Volume two contains the environmental assessment, including a more complete discussion of all of the alternatives, a description of the affected environment, an analysis of the environmental impacts, and a description of the consultation and coordination activities associated with this planning effort. No hardcopies of volume two have been printed. It is available online and on the compact disc.

VOLUME ONE

Chapter One: Background

This chapter sets the framework for the entire document. It discusses the National Heritage Area Program and the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area more specifically. An overview of the history of the Atchafalaya region and culture, significance of the area, and legislative requirements, including those that guided this plan, are included.

Chapter one covers the foundation for planning and management which includes vision, mission, goals and interpretive themes for the heritage area. The chapter also details the planning opportunities and issues that were raised during public scoping meetings and initial planning team efforts.

This chapter concludes with a description of the applicable laws and policies to which the plan must adhere.

Chapter one also discusses other key government plans at the federal, state, and local level, how this plan relates to them, and how the Commission is working with other agencies on mutual goals and interests.

Chapter Two: Preferred Management Focus (Preferred Alternative)

This chapter describes the key points of the preferred management focus—Heritage Connection: Nature, Culture, History and Recreation—including the concepts, related interpretive themes, and potential partners. This alternative is further explained and analyzed in chapter five of volume two.

Chapter Three: Implementation Plan

This chapter discusses the specific strategies, performance goals, and related timing for implementing of any of the management alternatives. Actions are organized based on the heritage area goals. Guidance for selecting projects, including implementation principles, criteria and best management practices are also included. This chapter also lists current and potential partners and existing and potential sources of funding. Finally, evaluation criteria is presented.

Chapter Four: Interpretation Plan

The interpretation plan developed with the State of Louisiana includes more details about the interpretive themes and associated stories, as well as sites and resources related to those themes. An analysis of resources and strategies for reaching various audiences are also included.

Appendixes related to volume one are found at the end of volume one.

VOLUME TWO

Chapter Five: Management Alternatives, Including the Preferred Alternative

This chapter begins with a discussion of the scope of the environmental assessment—specifically what issues and impact topics are or are not analyzed within this document. Then there is a description of the no-action alternative (Alternative A). Three other alternatives for managing the heritage area are presented next: Alternative B: Focus on Natural Resources and Related Recreation, Alternative C: Focus On History and Current Cultures, and Alternative D: The Heritage Connection: Nature, Culture, History and Recreation. Alternative D is the preferred alternative.

Chapter Six: Affected Environment

describes those areas and resources that would be affected by implementing the actions contained in the alternatives. It is organized according to the following topics: natural resources, historic and cultural resources, recreational resources, scenic resources, socioeconomic conditions, and

visitor market characteristics. Chapter Six also includes threats to resources and recommends future studies.

Chapter Seven: Environmental Impacts analyzes the impacts of implementing each alternative. The analysis covers each topic described in Chapter Five. Methods used for assessing the intensity, type, and duration of impacts are outlined at the beginning of the chapter. The chapter includes a summary table of the four alternatives, including the no action alternative, and the environmental consequences of implementing them.

Chapter Eight: Consultation and Coordination describes the history of public and agency coordination during the planning effort, including Native American consultations, and any future compliance requirements. It also lists agencies and organizations that will be receiving copies of the document.

Additional Appendixes, References, and a list of Preparers and Consultants are found at the end of volume two.

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

A national heritage area is a nationally distinctive landscape shaped by natural, cultural, historic and recreational resources that is recognized by the U.S. Congress. A heritage area tells a nationally important story through its geography, its manmade structures, and the traditions that have evolved within its landscape.

National heritage areas are managed by a local coordinating entity in partnership with various stakeholders. These stakeholders include individual citizens; local, state, and federal governments; nonprofit groups; and private sector groups. Together these stakeholders work to preserve the integrity of their distinct landscape and local stories so that future generations will understand their relationship with the land. This collaborative approach does not compromise traditional local control over and use of the land.

Using this approach, national heritage areas are based on their constituents' pride in their history and traditions and their interest and involvement in retaining and interpreting their special landscapes. Heritage areas work across traditional boundaries in order to collaboratively shape a plan and implementation strategy that preserves the area's unique and distinct qualities.

For more information, visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageareas/FAQ/INDEX.HTM>

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA AND A NATIONAL PARK

A national heritage area is not a unit of the national park system; no land within the heritage area is owned or managed by the

National Park Service (NPS), unless some land was previously set aside as a unit of the national park system, or if in the future, some land independently qualifies as a park unit. If land within the established boundaries of a national heritage area is owned by the federal government, it is as a result of prior legislation establishing the site, such as a military installation, a national forest, etc. The federal government does not acquire land, manage land, or impose land use controls through the establishment of a national heritage area. Rather, national heritage areas accomplish their goals through partnerships with governments, organizations, businesses, and individuals. Thus, NPS involvement is advisory in nature. The National Park Service provides technical, planning and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas. The National Park Service is a partner and advisor; decision-making authority is retained by the local people and communities. However, the National Park Service will continue to play a role in review of the management plan and evaluation of progress in implementing the management plan. The National Park Service also has discretion regarding National Heritage Area Program funds.

HISTORY OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PROGRAM

Since 1984, Congress has created forty-nine national heritage areas, stretching from the Essex National Heritage Area in Massachusetts to the newly designated Kenai Mountain-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area in Alaska.

In the first ten years of the federal program, Congress typically designated historic transportation corridors. Among the first designated areas—and now firmly

established—are Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, Path of Progress National Heritage Tour Route, the Quinebaugh and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, and the Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor.

These initial heritage areas largely reflected preservation planning, resource conservation, and economic development concerns regarding how to revitalize older industrial corridors.

In 1996, Congress approved nine new designations, half of which continued the focus on corridors. The other half, however, reflected the influence of local activists who pushed for a different approach to designate large regions united by shared heritage and connected historic patterns. The Rivers of Steel National Heritage Area focused on the folkways, industrial history, and labor history of the greater Pittsburgh region. Silos and Smokestacks National Heritage Area looked at the interplay of agriculture and industry in northeast Iowa. Cane River National Heritage Area focused on connections and interplay, this time between Louisiana's Creole and African American cultures. The largest heritage area was the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area, where citizens, historians, and officials insisted on state boundaries to define a program to better protect, interpret, and enhance resources and stories from the Civil War through Reconstruction.

More recently, Congress has designated both corridors and areas as national heritage areas. There has been a trend toward designated larger areas reflecting historic themes and patterns: aviation history in Dayton, Ohio; the American Revolution in New Jersey; Abraham Lincoln in Illinois; and the Mormon pioneer experience in Utah. Four recent efforts—Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, the Great Basin Natural Heritage Route, and the Gullah/Geechee

Cultural Heritage Corridor—created a single heritage area encompassing resources and stories from multiple states.

HISTORY OF THE ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

"Atchafalaya" is an American Indian word meaning "long river." The Atchafalaya Basin and region is among the most culturally rich and ecologically varied regions in the United States. It is home to the widely recognized Cajun culture as well as a diverse population of European, African, Caribbean, and Native American descent. The stories of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area are emblematic of the broader American experience. Here there are opportunities to understand and witness the complicated, sometimes harmonious, sometimes adversarial interplay between nature and culture. The history of the United States has been shaped, in part, by the complex interaction of its people working with, against, and for nature. Within the Atchafalaya, a penchant for adventure, adaptation, ingenuity, and exploitation has created a unique cultural legacy.

In response to congressional direction, the National Park Service prepared a special resource study on the Atchafalaya Basin. The focus of this study was six parishes: Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, Iberville, Iberia, and St. Mary. The study evaluated the resources of the area for national significance, examined how resources were protected, and looked at the suitability and feasibility of including the area in the national park system. The study also explored how basin resources could be protected, interpreted, and used for public benefit.

In 1998, the NPS Atchafalaya Basin Special Resource Study was released (September 1998). That study determined that, based on the NPS *Criteria for Parklands*, the resources of the Atchafalaya Basin do not fully meet the requirements necessary for the creation of a separate, independent unit

of the national park system, largely due to flood management requirements. The study did find the Atchafalaya Basin to be an outstanding example of a natural resource, possesses exceptional value in illustrating and interpreting many key natural and cultural themes of our nation's heritage, and offers exceptional opportunities for recreation, public use and enjoyment, and scientific study.

During the development of the special resource study, thirteen of the fourteen parishes in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area were designated a Louisiana state heritage area in 1997 and a state plan was developed for the area. While the study included the area in the Atchafalaya Basin, the state broadened the area to 13 parishes when creating the state heritage area. With the conversion of the basin to a floodway, much of the population moved from the basin to the surrounding parishes and continued their unique lifeways outside the Atchafalaya Basin.

As a result of the findings in the special resource study, four years of successful operations under the state management plan, and many years of local work and support from the Louisiana Congressional delegation, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was designated on October 6, 2006 with the enactment of The National Heritage Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-338). (See "Appendix A: Legislation.")

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area stretches across 14 parishes in south-central Louisiana: Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Concordia, East and West Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Terrebonne. The National Heritage Act of

2006 gave the existing Atchafalaya Trace Commission, an agency of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism under the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the authority to oversee the development of a federal management plan and to coordinate the implementation of its recommendations. The Commission is composed of 14 members appointed by the governing authority of each parish within the heritage area, with terms not to exceed three years.

For the complete text of the National Heritage Act of 2006, visit the following website:

<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/billtext.xpd?bill=s109-203> and scroll down to subtitle B.

ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA TIMELINE

- 1997** The state legislature recognizes the area as a state heritage area and the Atchafalaya Trace Commission is established
- 1998** National Park Service releases its *Atchafalaya Basin Special Resource Study*
- 2001** A state management plan for the area is presented for public input
- 2002** The state legislature adopts the state management plan
The state legislature creates the "Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Development Zone Tax Credit Program"
- 2006** Congress designates Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

HERITAGE AREA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was a state heritage area for nine years before designation as a national heritage area. A management plan was developed in 2003, and since then, the Atchafalaya Heritage Area Commission and the Louisiana Office of Tourism have been working toward implementing that plan, and have prioritized implementation of best practices developed by the Alliance for National Heritage Areas. The following projects and programs have been completed or are on-going as of the writing of this plan. The heritage area has also worked with partners to reinvigorate a signature event, *Experience Atchafalaya Days* and to implement a heritage area development zone tax credit program.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Achieved national heritage area designation
- Developed a brand and graphic identity package
- Created regional map and brochures
- Designed specialty tours (some have been completed, more will be developed)
- Designed web site (currently on third update)
- Partnered to develop and produce Experience Atchafalaya Days festival
- Obtained grants in support of cultural festivals
- Created program to preserve local heritage and traditional enterprises: the Atchafalaya Heritage Development Zone, incorporating a tax credit program
- Published an educational and promotional DVD

ON-GOING PROJECTS

- Launch of sign planning and Phase 1 of sign development
- Management of Atchafalaya Heritage Development Zone Tax Credit Program
- Assisting partners in trail development:
 - Interpretive wetland trail near the Atchafalaya Welcome Center in partnership with Little Leaf Louisiana and Louisiana Department of Natural Resources
 - Bayou Teche paddling trail in partnership with 3 parishes and a nonprofit paddling group.
- Working with Commission's Education Committee on initial project of adding school educational/field trips to web site
- Researching in-school curriculum needs
- Management of traveling exhibits
- Working with youth on various projects including under-served youth awareness and restoration efforts
- Collaborating with National Park Service to highlight sites and events within the heritage area related to the 150th anniversary of the Civil War

EXPERIENCE ATCHAFALAYA DAYS

To date, one of the key outreach efforts for the heritage area has been *Experience Atchafalaya Days*. The success of this popular event showcasing the natural and cultural resources of the Atchafalaya

National Heritage Area is a testimony to the grass-roots power of a dedicated group of volunteers.

Experience Atchafalaya Days first began in 2002 with Louisiana's governor designating October as "Atchafalaya Month." Spear-headed by volunteer groups, the event continued for a few years, but eventually was discontinued.

In 2009, one of the original groups, Friends of Atchafalaya (FOA) partnered with the heritage area to revive *Experience Atchafalaya Days*. Friends of Atchafalaya is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting conservation and awareness of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway, which is America's largest river swamp and located centrally within the national heritage area. With a grant from the Louisiana Office of Tourism and support from several state agencies and nonprofit groups, *Experience Atchafalaya Days* kicked off on October 1, 2009, celebrating Atchafalaya Month. Nearly two dozen events were created for Atchafalaya Month, and recognition and promotion were provided for over 50 previously planned area events which supported the missions of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and Friends of Atchafalaya. October 2010 saw an enhanced, even more successful version of *Experience Atchafalaya Days*.

During *Experience Atchafalaya Days*, events and activities reach out to varied audiences to increase awareness of the environment, acquaint participants with the natural resources, cultural resources, and recreational opportunities in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, and inform citizens of government agencies' projects. A variety of adventures, classes, presentations, and recreational activities are offered by individuals and organizations for interested residents and visitors. Among outdoor activities offered are swamp and bayou kayak expeditions, moonlight canoe trips, eagle and other birding trips, archaeology outings, hiking trips, litter pick-ups, old

"putt-putt" boat rides, and evening wildlife watching.

For those more interested in history and culture, there are book signings; cemetery tours; traditional craft demonstrations; art and photography exhibits and classes; and presentations and lectures covering intriguing topics such as native plant use, creating a backyard wildlife habitat, the coast and the Wetlands, the art of kayak fishing, living in a swamp, and more. In addition, existing cultural and agricultural events occurring in October that reflect heritage area themes enjoy additional promotion through *Experience Atchafalaya Days*; these including Creole, Cajun, French Food, Sugar Cane, Gumbo and other festivals. The multitude of events allows a variety of audiences to be reached, and the month-long calendar of activities allows for word-of-mouth marketing among niche markets.

ATCHAFALAYA HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Atchafalaya Heritage Area Development Zone tax credit program is designed to stimulate economic development within the 14-parish Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The program aims to support and sustain authentic cottage industries—the very fabric of the heritage area's culture and identity.

The program targets small businesses, with no more than twenty full- or part-time employees, that interpret, access, develop, promote, or reinforce the unique character and characteristics of the heritage area. Eligible businesses include bed and breakfasts; camping; houseboats and recreational vehicle facilities; museums, including living museums and interpretive facilities; artists and crafters of authentic or locally made products; authentic food packaging, production, and harvesting; music production and instrument making; historic homes, house museums, and historic sites; boat, canoe, kayak, and bicycle rentals;

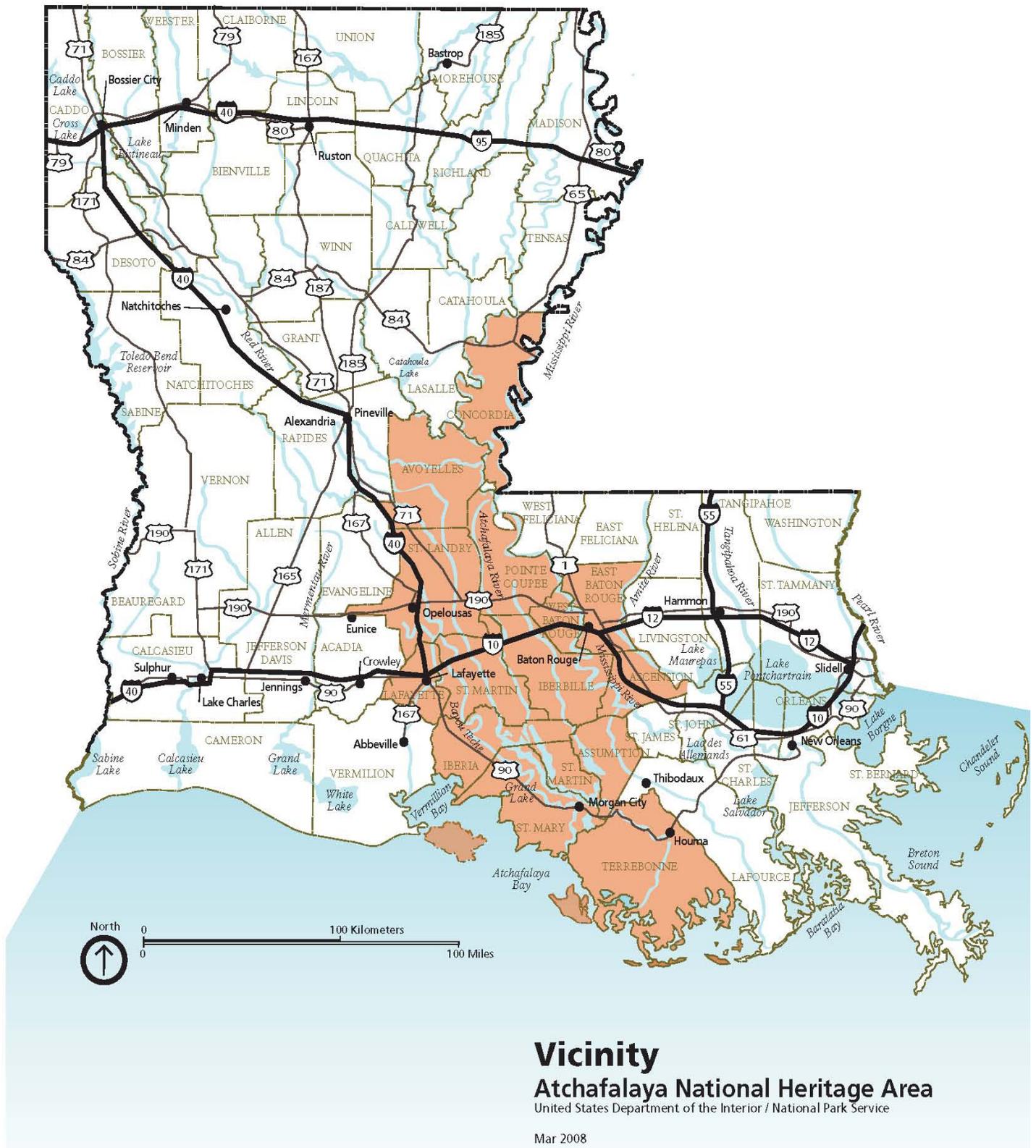
CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND

wild and scenic sites; hunting, fishing, and birding guide services; tour planning and cultural guide services; swamp, airboat, helicopter, plane, and balloon tours; retail facilities of authentic products; and agricultural tours. Hotels, motels, restaurants, gaming facilities, churches, and housing are not eligible.

Since the program's inception, 29 businesses have qualified for and received the award: a

nature videographer, 8 artists, a musician, a taxidermist, 9 bed and breakfast inns, 2 product retailers, a seafood processor, an author, a nature photographer, an agricultural tour guide, a fishing charter service, and an outdoor outfitter. Through 2010, \$48,000 worth of tax credits have been awarded. The program is due to sunset January 2012.

Figure 1. Atchafalaya National Heritage Area



OVERVIEW OF THE REGION, PEOPLES, AND HISTORY OF THE ATCHAFALAYA BASIN

REGIONAL DESCRIPTION

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a national treasure of history, culture, and nature in south central Louisiana. This region is one of the most complex and least understood places in Louisiana and the nation. Yet, the stories of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area are emblematic of the broader American experience. Here there are opportunities to understand and witness the complicated, sometimes harmonious, sometimes adversarial interplay between nature and culture. The history of the United States has been shaped by the complex dance of its people working with, against, and for nature. Within the Atchafalaya region, a penchant for adventure, adaptation, ingenuity, and exploitation has created a cultural legacy unlike that of anywhere else in the world.

The current boundary encompasses approximately 10,400 square miles and consists of the whole of the following parishes in the State of Louisiana: Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, Lafayette, Pointe Coupee, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and West Baton Rouge. The heart of the heritage area is the Atchafalaya Basin. It is the largest river swamp in the United States—larger than the more widely known Everglades and Okefenokee Swamp. The Atchafalaya swamp is characterized by a maze of streams and bayous and at one time was thickly forested with cypress and tupelo trees. The Basin provides outstanding habitat for a remarkably diverse array of wildlife, including the endangered American bald eagle and Louisiana black bear. The region's unique ecology teems with life. The area is home to more than 85 species of fish, crawfish, and other crustaceans; wildlife

including alligators; and an astonishing array of migratory waterfowl, forest-dwelling mammals (such as deer, squirrel, and beaver), and other commercially important furbearers.

Well over 270 species of birds—some of them endangered—have been recorded in the Basin and its surrounding natural areas, from songbirds to waterfowl. Bottomland hardwood-dependent species breed here in some of the highest densities ever recorded in annual North American Breeding Bird Surveys. The Basin is also critical breeding habitat for species, including little blue heron and yellow-crowned night-heron; great and snowy egrets; swallow-tailed and Mississippi kites; and prothonotary, Swainson's, and Kentucky warblers.

The Basin additionally forms part of the Mississippi Valley Flyway for migratory waterfowl and is a major wintering ground for thousands of these geese and ducks. In general, the Atchafalaya Basin has a significant proportion of North America's breeding wading birds, such as herons, egrets, ibises, and spoonbills. Some of the largest flocks of Wood Storks in North America summer here; and the southern part of the Basin is home to a healthy population of bald eagles every winter.

The Atchafalaya River runs through the center of the Basin. In times of flooding, the river basin serves as the key in controlling floodwaters headed for Baton Rouge and New Orleans by diverting water from the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. The region's dynamic system of waterways and geology reveals a landscape that is at once fragile and awesome.

It is more than just a floodway, however, as the geology and natural systems of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area have fueled the economy of the region for centuries. For decades, cypress, cotton, sugarcane, crawfish, salt, oil, gas, and Spanish moss have been important sources of income for the region's residents. The crawfish industry has been particularly important to the lives of Atchafalaya residents, and Louisiana has become the largest crawfish producer in the United States. Unfortunately, natural resource extraction and a changing environment have drastically depleted many of these resources and forced residents to find new ways to make a living.

Over the past century, the Atchafalaya Basin has become a study of man's monumental effort to control nature. After the catastrophic Mississippi River flood of 1927 that left thousands dead and millions displaced, Congress decreed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) should develop an intricate system of levees to protect human settlements, particularly New Orleans. Today, the Mississippi River is caged within the walls of earthen and concrete levees and manipulated with a complex system of locks and floodgates. The Atchafalaya River and Basin, which parallel the Mississippi, serve as the primary floodway for high Mississippi waters that must be diverted and prevented from inundating Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Moreover, just like the Mississippi, this complex Atchafalaya floodway is encased by its own levee system, most notably the massive East and West Guide Levees that now define what is commonly referred to as the "Basin."

It should be noted, however, that historically, the Atchafalaya naturally flooded a much larger area, including the Bayou Teche Ridge to the west and the Mississippi and Bayou Lafourche ridges to the east. Although many of these areas now lie outside the levees (or "basin"), they still reflect much of the same ecology and clearly

have past lives as ancient Atchafalaya Basin. This is one of the reasons this heritage area covers such a large geographic area.

Moreover, manipulating the waters of the Atchafalaya has severely disrupted its delicate ecology. Recent threats include an overabundance of exotic floating and submerged plant species that threaten the commercial and sport fishing activities of the Basin. In addition, vast amounts of sediment from the diverted Mississippi River waters enter the Basin each year. The sediment buildup can be very rapid and concentrated, raising the level of the land in some areas of the Basin and filling in waterways.

Over the centuries, the ever-changing natural environment has shaped the lives of the people living in the Basin. Residents have profited from and been imperiled by nature. The popular cultural identity of the region is strongly associated with the Cajuns, descendants of the French-speaking Acadians who settled in south Louisiana after being deported by the British from Nova Scotia (formerly known as Acadia). Some 2,500 to 3,000 exiled Acadians repatriated in Louisiana, where they proceeded to reestablish their former society. Today, in spite of complex social, cultural, and demographic transformations, Cajuns maintain a sense of group identity and continue to display a distinctive set of cultural expressions nearly 250 years after their exile from Acadia.

Cajun culture has become increasingly popular outside of Louisiana. Culinary specialties adapted from France and Acadia—such as etouffee, boudin, andouille, crepes, beignets, and stews and sauces thickened with roux—delight food lovers well beyond Louisiana's borders. Cajun music has also "gone mainstream," with its blend of French folk songs and ballads and instrumental dance music, as well as more recent popular country, rhythm-and-blues, and rock music influences. While the growing interest in Cajun culture has raised appreciation for its unique traditions, many

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of the region's residents are concerned about the growing commercialization and stereotyping that threaten to diminish the authentic Cajun way of life.

While the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area may be well known for its Cajun culture, there is an astonishing array of other cultures within these 14 parishes. Outside of New Orleans, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is the most racially and ethnically complex region of Louisiana and has been for many years. Indeed, a long legacy of multiculturalism presents interesting opportunities to examine how so many distinct cultures have survived in relative harmony. There may be interesting lessons to learn from this area as our nation becomes increasingly heterogeneous. The cultural complexity of the region has created

a rich tapestry of history and traditions, evidenced by the architecture, music, language, food, and festivals that are unlike those of any other place. (Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism 2002).

Four regional maps of the heritage area have been developed that provide a sampling of the many resources and places of interest in the heritage area. These are found on the following pages.

These maps are

- Upper Atchafalaya
- Bayou Teche Corridor
- Between Two Rivers
- Coastal Zone



Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

America's Foreign Country

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

How do you say it? It's like starting a sneeze: ah-CHA-la-lie-ah

Upper Atchafalaya

Concordia, Avoyelles, and Pointe Coupee Parishes

The upper access point of the heritage area, this region is home to the Old River Control Structure. In times of high water, flood control starts here with water diversion to the Atchafalaya River. At almost every turn, one is greeted by a waterway: rivers, bayous, streams, lakes and canals abound. Vidalia offers one of the best accesses to the mighty Mississippi River in the state, and New Roads beckons boaters to beautiful False River.

Plantations, historic buildings, miles of cotton fields and lush countryside make the drive a memorable one. An abundance of state and national wildlife refuges and management areas provide many opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. One of the most diverse regions, there are communities with strong French Creole ties, the home of the Tunica Biloxi tribe and the home of the famed musicians Jerry Lee Lewis and Mickey Gilley!

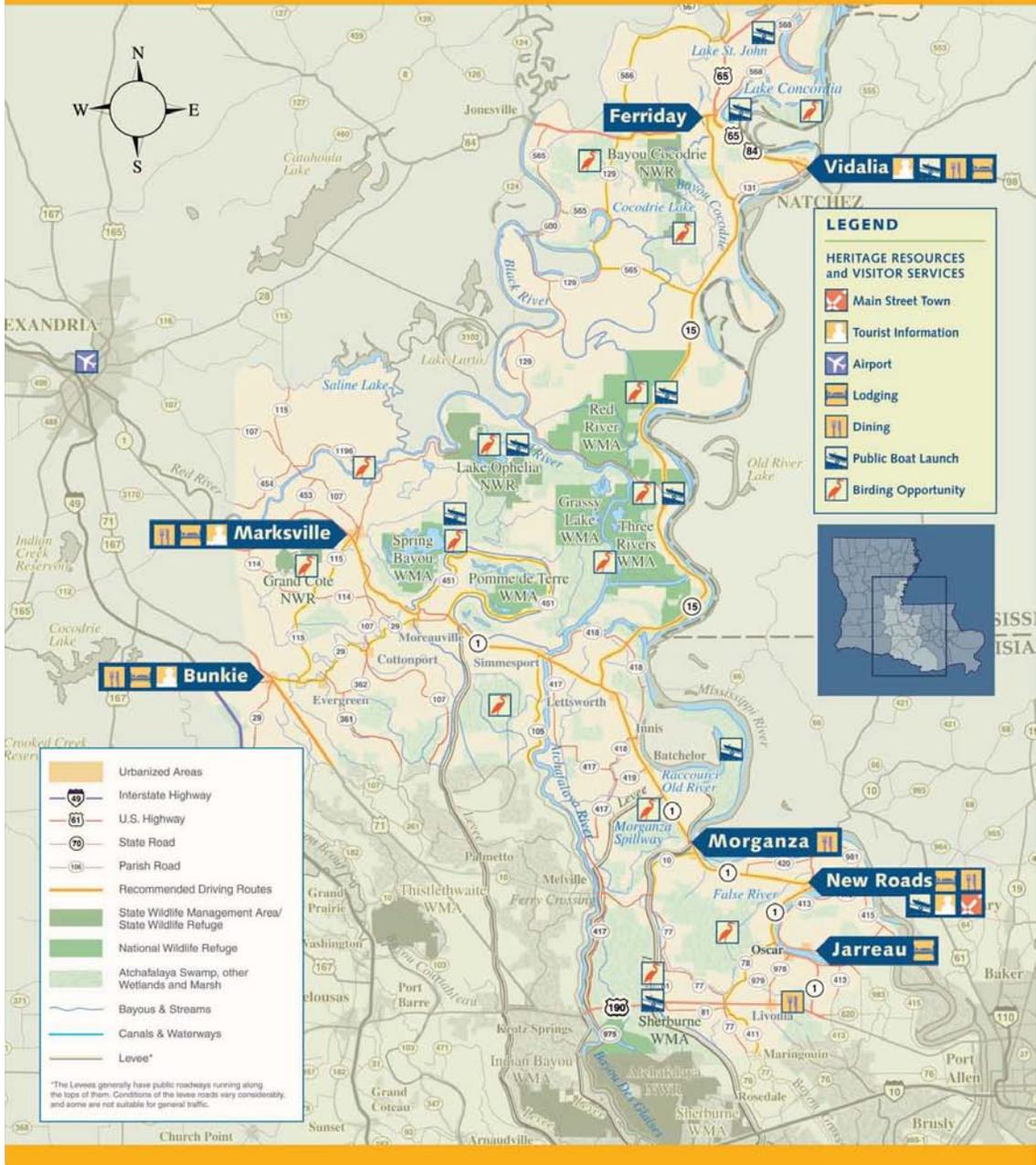
For visitor information:

VIDALIA - FERRIDAY AREA
<http://www.cityofvidalia.com> | 866-558-8222
 US 84 Welcome Center in Vidalia 318-336-7008

MARKSVILLE - MANSURA - BUNKIE AREA
<http://www.travelavoyelles.com> | 318-253-0585
 or 800-833-4195

NEW ROADS - MORGANZA - JARREAU AREA
<http://www.pctourism.org> | 225-638-3998

<http://www.atchafalaya.org>
<http://www.louisianatravel.com>





Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

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The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

How do you say it? It's like starting a sneeze: ah-CHIA-fa-lie-ah

Bayou Teche Corridor

Concordia, Avoyelles, and Pointe Coupee Parishes

The heart of Acadian Louisiana, the Bayou Teche Corridor region of the heritage area is a living testament of the rich, robust life of the Cajun culture. Home to two National Park Service cultural centers and countless, authentic museums, this is the region to trace the history and journey of our forebears. Enjoy traditional Cajun music, one-of-a-kind shopping on Main Street, and scenic gumbo, étouffée, or boudin in one of the many time-seated eateries.

Nature and wildlife lovers explore a unique river swamp eco-system with over 85 species of fish, 200 species of birds, alligators and black bear. The Atchafalaya Basin is bordered by levees and is approximately 150 miles in length, with its width varying along the course of the Atchafalaya River. Composed of bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, bayous and blackwater lakes and marshes, the lifeways of the people reflect the dramatic natural resources: hunting, fishing, crawfish farming and trapping are but a few examples.

For visitor information
OPELOUSAS-WASHINGTON-EUNICE AREA
<http://www.opelousas.com> | 877-948-8004
 Local Music: KBON, 101.1 FM Eunice
 KSLO, 1230 AM Opelousas | KOCZ, 103.7 FM Opelousas
BREAUX-BRIDGE-HENDERSON-ST. MARTINVILLE AREA
<http://atcj.com>
 I-10 Atchafalaya Welcome Center | 337-228-1094
LAFAYETTE-SCOTT-DUSON AREA
<http://www.lafayette.travel> | 800-346-1958 or 337-232-3737
 KRVS, 88.7 FM Lafayette
NEW IBERIA-AVIARY ISLAND-JEANRIEVILLE AREA
<http://www.louisianatravel.com> | 888-942-3742 or 337-365-1540
<http://www.atchafalaya.net>
http://www.navy.usmc.army.mil/PAO/BRO/indianbayou_Canoeing.pdf
<http://www.atchafalaya.org>
<http://www.louisianatravel.com>





Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

America's Foreign Country

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area
 How do you say it? It's like starting a sentence: ah-CHAH-fa-lee-ah

BETWEEN TWO RIVERS
 East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Ascension and Iberville Parishes

An American-Indian word, "Atchafalaya" means long river. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, widely referred to as "the South's last wilderness," stretches across 34 parishes in south-central Louisiana. Home to a diverse population of Europeans, Africans, Creoles and Native-American descent, it is among the most culturally rich and ecologically diverse regions in the United States.

Nature and wildlife lovers explore a unique river swamp ecosystem with over 45 species of fish, 200 species of birds, alligators and black bears. The entire basin is approximately 150 miles in length with its width varying along the course of the Atchafalaya River. Composed of bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, bayous and blackwater lakes and marshes, the lifeways of the people reflect the dramatic natural resources: hunting, fishing, crawfishing, farming and trapping are but a few examples.

In addition to its dynamic wildlife and scenery, the region is also recognized for its rich cultural heritage. It's well-known Cajun culture and other cultures are expressed through memorable cuisine, music, arts and folk traditions.

Roll past scenic cotton and sugar cane fields and bayous. Then visit the 3 other regions of the Heritage Area!

For visitor information:

BATON ROUGE AREA
<http://www.visitbatouge.com> | 800-527-6943 | 225-515-1825
 5000 Park Wisconsin Center • 225-542-3710
 Regional Maps: WEBB 903 FAX - New and FAB

DONALDSONVILLE - SORLENTO - GONZALES AREA
<http://www.ascensiontourism.com> | 888-575-7590

FORT ALLEN AREA
<http://www.visitfortallen.com> | 800-654-9761 | 225-344-2920

PLAQUEMINE - WHITE CASTLE - GROUSSE TETE - BAYOU SORRELL AREA
<http://www.visitbayouville.com> | 225-687-5198

GENERAL HERITAGE AREA INFORMATION
<http://www.visitatchafalaya.org> | 225-213-0768
<http://www.visitatchafalaya.com>

LEGEND

HERITAGE RESOURCES and VISITOR SERVICES

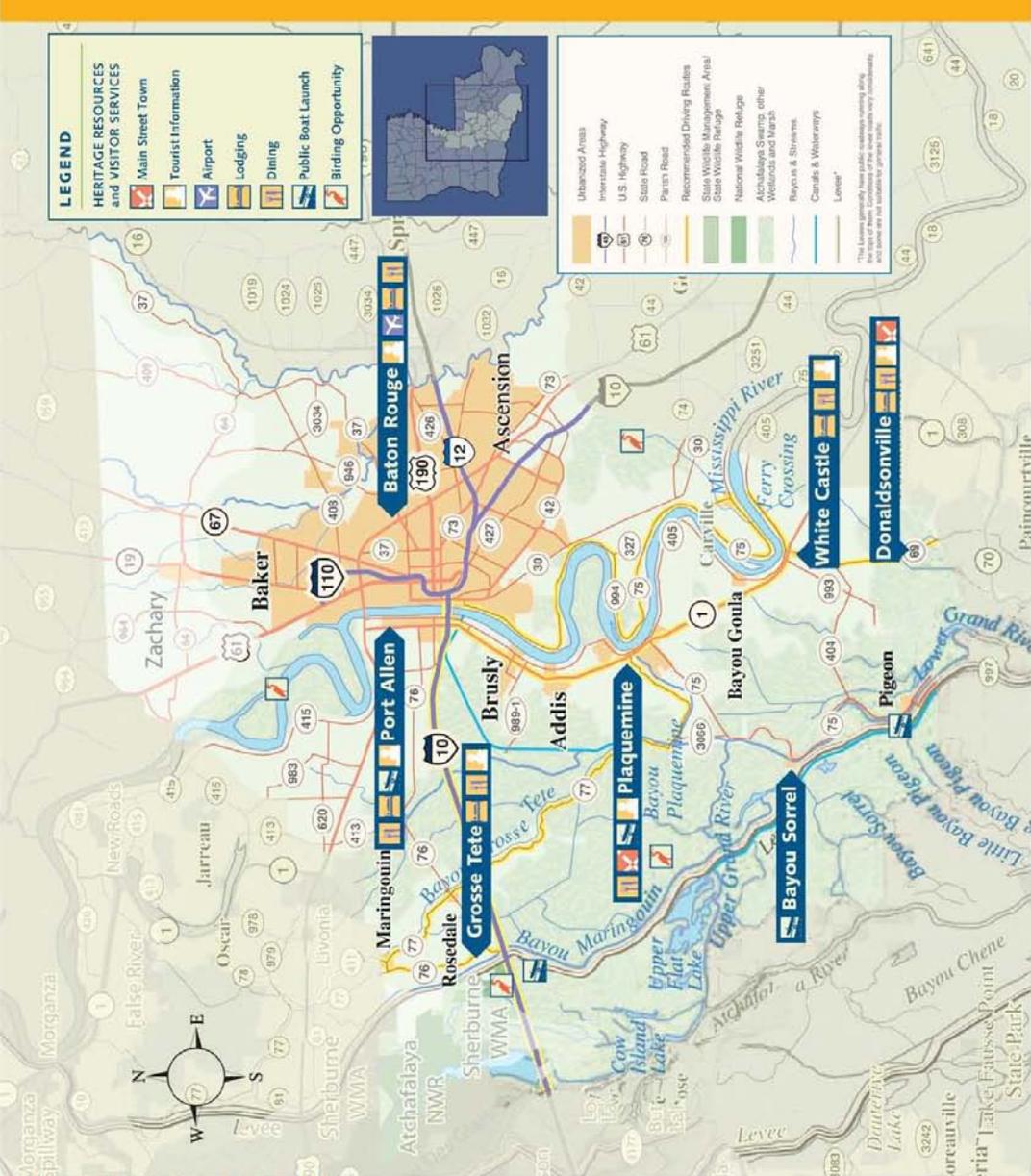
- Main Street Town
- Tourist Information
- Airport
- Lodging
- Dining
- Public Boat Launch
- Birding Opportunity

HERITAGE RESOURCES and VISITOR SERVICES

- Urbanized Area
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Road
- Parish Road
- Recommended Driving Routes
- State Wildlife Management Area
- State Wildlife Refuge
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Atchafalaya Swamps, other Wetlands and Marsh
- Bayou & Streams
- Canals & Waterways
- Levee

The Levee Authority has public easements running along the levees and is not suitable for private trails.







Atchafalaya

NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

America's Foreign Country

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

How do you say it? It's like starting a sneeze: ah-CHAY-ah-lee-ah

THE COASTAL ZONE

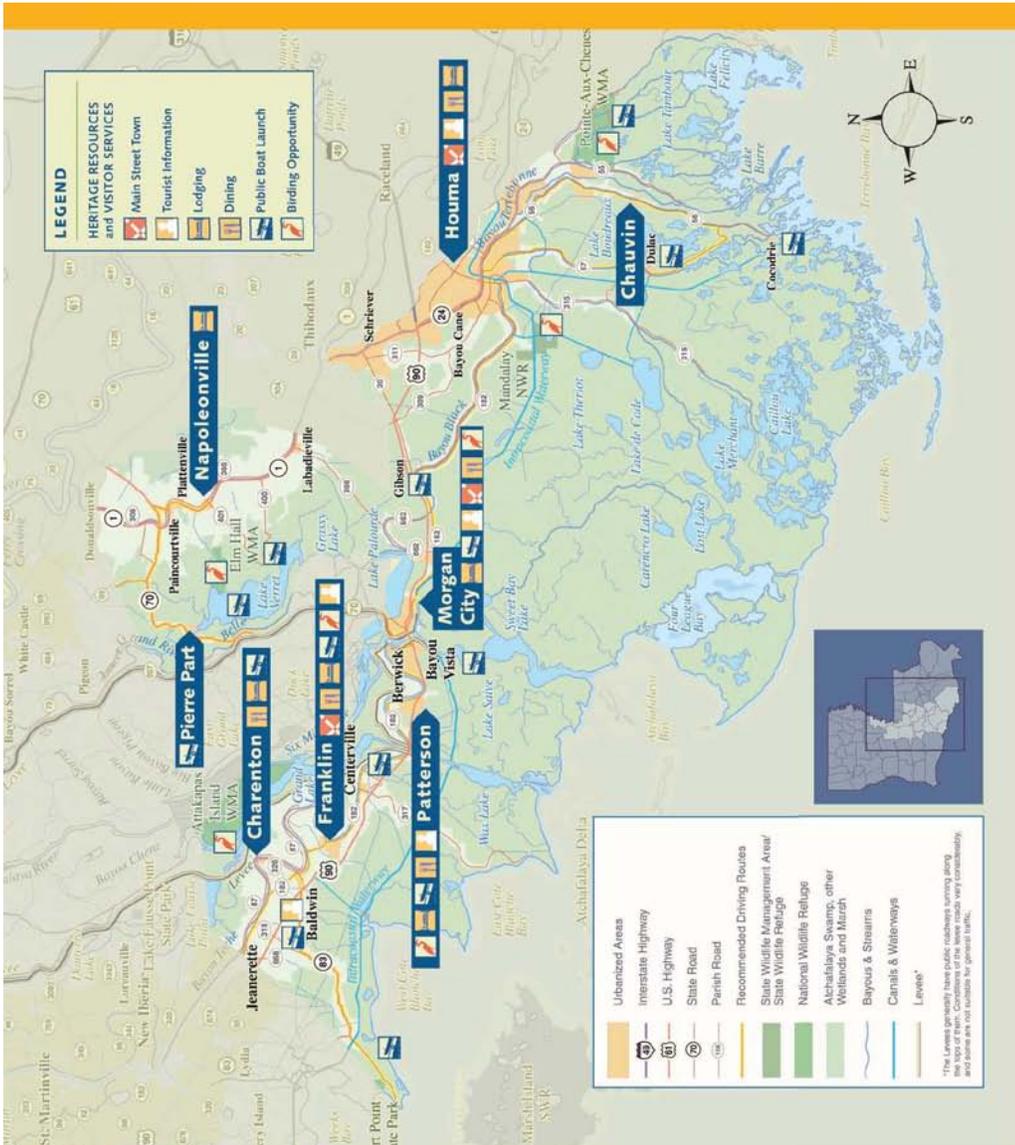
St. Mary, Assumption, and Terrebonne Parishes

The Coastal Zone is the heart of Louisiana fishing, shrimp and crab fishing, and is the source of the state's seafood industry. The area is home to some of the state's remaining old-growth forest and natural gas discoveries in the area began a petroleum boom that transformed the landscape and played a major role in the area's economics.

In addition to its dynamic wildlife and scenery, the region is also recognized for its rich cultural heritage. Home to Cajuns, Creoles and two Native American groups - the Houma and Chitimacha - the area abounds with tasty cuisine, music, arts and folk traditions.

The ecological drama of this area is as intriguing as it's cultural landscape. Convergence of a levee system years ago along the Mississippi River and the Atchafalaya Basin affects the normal flow of water, dramatically altering the delicate ecosystem. Levees, canals, silt deposit, saltwater intrusion and sea-level rise continue to challenge the Coastal Zone.

For visitor information:
 N-NAPOLEONVILLE-PIERRE PART AREA
<http://www.assumptioncoast.com/tourism> 985-369-7435
<http://www.assumpcoast.com/fishing/hunting>
 MORGAN CITY - PATTERSON - FRANKLIN - CHARENTON AREA
<http://www.ejlmcoast.com/home.html> 809-256-2931
 -or- 855-395-4905
 HOUMA - CHAUVIN - DULAC - COCOBRIE AREA
<http://www.houmaand.com> 804-688-2721/985-868-2732
 Regional Music: WLRZ 100.3 FM
 Paddling Information: www.ejlmcoast.com/paddling
 -or- www.louisiana.gov/boating
 GENERAL INFO:
<http://www.atchafalaya.org> 1-225-219-0768
<http://www.louisiana.gov>
<http://www.louisiana.gov>



LEGEND

HERITAGE RESOURCES and VISITOR SERVICES

- Main Street Town
- Tourist Information
- Lodging
- Dining
- Public Boat Launch
- Bridging Opportunity

- Urbanized Areas
- Interstate Highway
- U.S. Highway
- State Road
- Parish Road
- Recommended Driving Routes
- State Wildlife Management Area
- State Wildlife Refuge
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Achtafalaya Swamps, other Wetlands and Marsh
- Bayous & Strairs
- Canals & Waterways
- Levees*

*The Levees generally have public easements running along and some are not suitable for general traffic.

HISTORY OF PEOPLES AND CULTURE

Introduction

Principal sources used for preparation of this historical review include the following:

- Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Atchafalaya Trace Commission and Heritage Area, *The Atchafalaya Trace: Heritage Area Management Plan*, 2002;
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Commission, New Orleans District, Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System: Louisiana: Feasibility Study, Volume 3, Technical Appendixes, Appendix E, Social and Cultural Resources, 1982
- Benjamin D. Maygarden and Jill-Karen Yakubik, *Bayou Chene: The Life Story of an Atchafalaya Basin Community*, 1999
- National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, *Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana: Special Resource Study*, 1998
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, *Atchafalaya Basin: FY 2010 Draft Annual Plan*, Atchafalaya Basin Program, 2010

The environment in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area has exerted an exceptionally strong force upon humans and their lifeways. Most economic activities in the Basin—hunting, fishing, trapping, logging, Spanish moss gathering, oil extraction, and commercial catfish and crawfish farming—have been based directly upon available natural resources. Residents have profited from the Basin’s natural features, and they have also been imperiled by them. Large-scale population movements and resettlements have resulted directly from the dynamic nature of the Atchafalaya River. By almost any measure, in terms of geomorphology it is the most active region of its size in North America. This has worked as both a barrier to land-based travelers and as an asset for those using pirogues, bateaux (shallow-draft, flat-

bottomed boats), luggers, and steamboats. Humankind has had to accommodate its will to—and test its ingenuity against—the overriding and often deceptive power of the Atchafalaya River.

Native Americans

The Atchafalaya Basin’s cultural history goes back at least 2,500 years and perhaps more than 6,000 years when Native Americans were living in the Basin along natural levees and bayous—a time when the Mississippi River flowed down the course of the present-day Bayou Teche. Archeological research indicates that many mound sites and villages on natural levees and along bayous within the Basin date from AD 700-1700. It appears that the first widespread movement by people into the middle of the Atchafalaya swamp occurred around AD 500. Settlement remained concentrated on the high natural levees of the major rivers and large bayous.

In the upper portions of the Basin, villages began to develop at such places as Peche Rouge Nord, Charenton Beach, and Bayou Sorrel. At varying distances surrounding these large villages were smaller contemporary settlements. In the swamp’s southern portion, semi-permanent camps were established on elevated spots. Sites of activity such as temporary camps or perhaps sites used by small family units radiated from these semi-permanent camps. These types of settlement patterns existed when European explorers reached the area.

Native Americans harvested the area’s plentiful fish and shellfish and hunted reptiles, birds, deer, and small mammals. Indian tribes historically associated with the basin include the Chitimacha, Attakapas, Opelousa, Houma, Coushatta, Alabama, Tunica-Biloxi, Avoyel, and Taensas. Native American associations with the “great swamp” are evidenced by numerous present-day place names, including Atchafalaya (*hacha falaia* or “long river”), bayou (*bayuk*), Catahoula (*oka hullo*),

Chacahoula (*chukka hullo*), Plaquemine (*piakimin*), and Whiskey Bay (*oski abeha*).

The Chitimacha Indian tribe is the one identifiable group with the longest historical ties to the Atchafalaya Basin. The original tribal territory was a triangular trace of land subsuming the middle and lower Atchafalaya Basin. A tribal population of 4,000 has been estimated for the year 1650. More than 15 villages were clustered on Bayou Teche, Grand Lake, Grand River, Bayou Plaquemine, and Butte La Rose. The Chitimacha were accorded reservation status in 1925 and allocated 283 acres of land in the Charenton community, southwest of the Basin. At present, Chitimacha, Tunica-Biloxi and state tribe Houma continue to use portions of the national heritage area for traditional activities.

European Incursions

European incursions into what became Louisiana began with the expedition of Hernando De Soto in 1543. In 1682, Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de la Salle claimed the Mississippi River and the lands that it drained for France.

In 1703, the British won control over most of what was then known as Acadia (present-day Nova Scotia, Canada). Although the long-established population of French Acadian settlers agreed to live peaceably under British control, it refused to forfeit its religion. Seen as enemies by the British, the Acadians were forcibly expelled from Nova Scotia. Approximately, 8,000 French-speaking residents were removed to various colonies of the Eastern seaboard as well as to England, France, and other countries.

During the early 1700s, French settlers arrived in the Atchafalaya Basin to engage in fur trading with the Native Americans and launch raids into tribal areas to acquire slaves. By the time peace was reached in 1718, the Native American population had declined drastically as a result of warfare and the introduction of new diseases for which they had no immunity. Following British

victory in the Seven Years War (commonly known as the French and Indian War in the United States) in 1763, interned Acadians in Nova Scotia began to seek a *nouvelle Acadie*. In 1765, Acadians began moving to Louisiana and settling in New Orleans and along the Teche Ridge. In that year, Poste des Attakapas (present-day St. Martinville) was established by several hundred Acadian refugees who arrived in Louisiana via Santo Domingo. Upon establishing new settlements, the Acadians adapted to their new environment and developed skills—rudimentary farming, hunting, gathering, fishing, logging, and ranching—that allowed them to survive in the challenging, yet fertile, swamp.

Over time, the Acadians intermarried with other settlers of the area, including Hispanics, Old World and Canadian French, Anglo-Americans, Native Americans, and enslaved Africans, resulting in what ultimately became known as French Creole culture.

According to the “Louisiana Studies in Historic Preservation” website, the meaning of the word “Creole” has changed over time. Once it meant offspring of French aristocrats born in the New World. However, Louisianans have broadened the definition to include individuals of European descent, particularly descendants of the French and Spanish settlers. There are also “Creoles of Color”—Louisianans of mixed (mainly) French, African, Spanish, and Native American heritage.

Cajuns, the descendants of the Acadian exiles who make up a significant portion of south Louisiana’s population and have exerted an enormous impact on the state’s culture, are classified as an ethnic group. Many present-day residents in the Atchafalaya Basin area can trace their roots back to the Acadians; the unique Cajun heritage is expressed in the food, music, and traditions of the area. As Euro-American settlement in the area increased, remnants of the area’s decimated Native American population migrated to other areas. For

example, the Houma—who had resided on the east bank of the Mississippi River in the Pointe Coupee vicinity—migrated to the southeastern edge of the Atchafalaya swamp as a result of pressure from European settlement. Other Native American peoples were placed on reservations such as the Tunica-Biloxi Reservation in Avoyelles Parish during the late 18th century.

Growth During the 18th Century

After the portion of Louisiana that included the Atchafalaya Basin was ceded to Spain in 1766, a small Spanish settlement was established at New Iberia under the leadership of Don Francisco Bouligny in 1779. Although never substantial, immigration and settlement in the Atchafalaya Basin continued steadily throughout the Spanish period.

During the late 18th century, more than 3,000 Acadians arrived in Louisiana at the invitation of the early settlers. By the end of this period, rural Acadian communities had been established on Bayous Lafourche and Teche, on the Mississippi River below Donaldsonville, and at St. Gabriel, with smaller numbers scattered among St. Landry, Pointe Coupee, and East and West Baton Rouge parishes. During the early years, use of the Basin's abundant resources—hardwood forests, cypress swamps, bayous, and marshes—for subsistence and commerce bound the area's residents together, as logging, agriculture, and cattle farming became staples of basin life. A few settlers established themselves on the natural levees growing subsistence crops of pumpkins, maize, beans, and rice. These crops were supplemented with furs and other natural resources obtained from the swamp. Some planters cultivated cash crops of indigo and cotton, and some experimented with sugar cane. Enslaved Africans were brought to the Basin and by 1803, the area had a population of 3,746; its chief products included cotton, sugar, molasses, lumber, staves, shingles, and Spanish moss. The latter product, a

flowering plant that grows upon larger trees—commonly the Southern Live Oak or Bald Cypress—was used for various purposes, including building insulation; mulch; packing material; fiber; and mattress, furniture, and (later) automobile seat stuffing.

During the 18th century, planters and government officials occasionally freed slaves for exemplary public service (e.g., service in the Natchez War, 1729-30) or for long and faithful service. Increasingly, mistresses of French planters were freed, forming the foundation of a *gens de couleur libres* population. Some of these people moved to the Attakapas (St. Martinville) and Opelousas posts. Members of the Acadian, French Creole, and Black Creole groups intermarried with local Chitimacha, Attakapas, and other Indian populations, producing Creole-speaking, mixed blood populations.

Early access to and within the Basin was by water transportation. The two main routes prior to 1803 entered the swamp through Bayou Plaquemine on the Basin's eastern side. The northern route followed Bayou Plaquemine to Bayou Gross Tete and then along the Grand and Atchafalaya rivers and Bayou Courtableau to Bayou Teche at Point Barre. The southern route followed Bayou Plaquemine, Grand River, and Bayou Sorrel into Grand Lake. This route continued through the lake into Bayou Teche via the lower Atchafalaya River near present-day Patterson. Passage through Bayou Plaquemine depended on the level of the Mississippi River. About 1810, the Attakapas Canal between Bayou Lafourche and Lake Verret was completed, opening a new route into the Basin from the east.

Between 1791 and 1810, the Haitian Revolution and slave rebellion drove French and French Creoles into the newly established American territory of Orleans, which the United States had purchased from France in 1803. Throughout the American territorial period and the period of early

statehood, which was granted to Louisiana in 1812, the population along the natural levees of Bayou Teche grew rapidly. Some of these immigrants, including free people of color, moved westward, settling on both sides of the Atchafalaya Basin. Many of these families became successful farmers and ranchers, some holding slaves of their own. Typical households were composed of mixed-race populations, headed, generally, by a free person of color or a white person.

Inexpensive land prices fueled Anglo immigration westward between 1810 and 1865, as agriculture diversified and cash crops grew in importance. Still, the population growth remained along the natural levees—in particular in the areas around Bayou Teche. By the late 1810s, settlement continued on the high natural levees of Bayous Boeuf and Teche and began in the interior sections of the Basin such as Bayou Plaquemine. The lack of suitable lands for agricultural purposes and the difficulty of transporting products to markets, however, limited the area's exploitation.

Industry and Commerce During the 19th Century

The introduction of steamboats, with their shallow draft and maneuverability, helped to open the Basin to economic development. The first steamboats reached the Atchafalaya in 1819, with the *Louisianais* being one of the earliest. New Iberia became a center for steamboat operations. During high water periods in the late winter and early spring, steamboats operated in Bayous Plaquemine and Teche. The steamboats transported livestock, passengers, and cargo in and out of the Basin. Shoals and snags sank or damaged many of the vessels and violent thunderstorms in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in the sinking of many more. Despite these dangers and seasonal limitations, however, steamboats proved essential for the rapid development of the plantation system along the margins of the Atchafalaya Basin.

In 1825, interracial unions were forbidden by Louisiana civil code, increasing racism and resulting in a three-tiered caste system: White, free (mulatto) Creole, and Black. Most of the progeny of previous interracial unions was subsumed into the Creole category, although local Whites and Blacks also contained a large degree of blood from other races.

During the 1830s and 1840s, sugar cane became the area's major crop, resulting in a growing demand for agricultural land and accelerated growth of a plantation system based on Black slavery. During the 1840s Anglo planters and recent immigrants from the North began purchasing good farmland along the crests of the natural levees of the Mississippi River and Bayou Teche. Cash-strapped Cajun and Creole families sold out because of their inability to continue making tax payments. Many Cajuns and Creoles left their farms and moved into the Atchafalaya Basin. As swamp settlers, they underwent a period of readjustment, returning to fishing and trapping. Thus, they became largely isolated in the Basin, both by geography and their "French" cultural affiliation and Roman Catholic religious affiliation. Settlements were established on Bayous Grosse Tete and Sorrel and plantations on Bayous Chene, Crook Chene, and River de Plomb. About 30% of the settling population consisted of free people of color, and 5% were Native Americans (Maygarden and Yakubik 1999).

By the 1850s, the plantation society was in full bloom in the Atchafalaya Basin area, and wealthy planters evidenced upper class lifestyle and value systems dominated by leisure and recreation, travel, and conspicuous consumption. The plantation system extended not only to the Teche Ridge area but also to the adjacent levees of Bayous Black and Boeuf, the interior of the Basin, the natural levees of the Atchafalaya River north of Butte LaRose, Bayous Pigeon and Sorrel, and the Grand River.

In 1857, the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad was completed from

Algiers, on the Mississippi River across from New Orleans, to the Atchafalaya River at Berwick Bay. The railroad, which took five years to complete, resulted in land speculation in the Basin, reorganized the Basin's transportation and settlement, and sparked the development of what was to become the Atchafalaya Basin's major urban area, Brashear City. With completion of the railroad, regular steamboat service from Berwick Bay to Galveston was initiated by the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Company in conjunction with Cornelius Vanderbilt, a national shipping magnate.

During the first several decades of the 19th century, the Red River, a major tributary of the Atchafalaya and Mississippi rivers, was unnavigable because of a collection of fallen trees that formed a logjam known as the "Great Raft" over 160 miles in length. The logjam impeded the flow of water between the rivers and blocked navigation on the Atchafalaya River. As early as 1816 it was noted that the journey from the Gulf of Mexico to the Red River could be shortened by 127 miles if the Atchafalaya were rendered navigable. A substantial portion of this raft was removed between the late 1830s and 1850 greatly increasing the river flow and allowing navigation between the Atchafalaya, Red, and Mississippi rivers. Although commerce began to develop in the Atchafalaya Basin with the arrival of steamboats, more severe flooding also occurred. The "Great Raft" was finally cleared in 1855 by Captain Henry Miller Shreve. The Atchafalaya Basin itself was cleared of logjams by 1861, resulting in rapid enlargement of the Atchafalaya River channel, expansion of the wetland environment, and increased flooding of the area's newly established settlements, farms, and plantations.

The Civil War Years

During the Civil War, the fall of New Orleans and Baton Rouge to Federal forces in May 1862 put the Atchafalaya Basin in the front

lines of a new theater of war. That autumn, Union troops occupied the Bayou Lafourche country and the lower basin centered on Brashear City (now Morgan City), while also seeking a way to reduce the Confederate stronghold at Port Hudson and gain control of the lower Mississippi. Efforts along the river failed, and in April 1863 Union Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks led a land and naval offensive 18,000 strong up the Teche and Atchafalaya to destroy Confederate forces under General Richard Taylor in western Louisiana and stop the flow of reinforcements and supplies from Texas thus isolating Port Hudson and even Vicksburg upstream. (Frazier 2010)

The campaign proved successful. Federal forces drove the Confederates before them, fighting sharp battles at Bisland and Irish Bend in St. Mary Parish and pursuing the defeated army past Alexandria and driving most of the Texans to the Sabine River. The Union gunboat flotilla destroyed several Confederate vessels and captured the length of the Atchafalaya River opening lines of communications with Federal forces operating against Vicksburg. Banks, urged by many of his officers to push on to Shreveport, decided to instead focus his efforts on the Mississippi River and evacuated the region in late May 1863, crossing over at Simmesport after stripping the region of cotton, sugar, horses, beeves, and slaves and destroying the property of secessionist sympathizers. (Frazier, 2010)

In cooperation with Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's offensive against Vicksburg, Mississippi, Maj. Gen. Banks's army moved against the Confederate stronghold at Part Hudson on the Mississippi River. The military engagement at Port Hudson would become the longest lasting siege in American history. On May 27, 1863, after their frontal assaults were repulsed, the Federals settled into a siege that lasted for 48 days. Banks renewed his assaults on June 14 but the defenders successfully repelled them. On July 9, 1863, after hearing of the fall of Vicksburg, the Confederate garrison of Port

Hudson surrendered, opening the Mississippi River to Union navigation from its source to New Orleans.

The fighting at Port Hudson included one of the first major combat actions involving enslaved Africans as soldiers in the Civil War. On May 27, 1863, members of the Corps d’Afrique (more particularly members of the 1st and 3rd Regiments of the Louisiana Native Guards) bravely advanced over open ground in the face of deadly artillery fire. Although the attack failed, the Black soldiers proved themselves to both their Union commanders as well as their confederate adversaries through their ability to withstand the heat of battle. More than 600 Black soldiers were killed in the Union attempts to take Port Hudson, the last Confederate bastion on the Mississippi River.

Taylor took advantage of the Union move toward the Mississippi River by reoccupying the ravaged Atchafalaya Basin region in hopes of distracting enemy efforts against Port Hudson while at the same time exhibiting a show of force to threaten the Federal stronghold in New Orleans. He launched a cavalry raid across the Atchafalaya River and down the Mississippi River to the Bayou Lafourche region before converging with another Confederate column, successfully destroying most of the enemy presence in the area by the end of June 1863. (Frazier 2010)

The Confederate success west of the Mississippi River in the spring and summer of 1863 was quickly doomed by the fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson because Union forces were free to once again invade and occupy the Atchafalaya Basin and the area along its margins. The Texas Overland Campaign, a coordinated effort to crush Confederate resistance in the area (while also operating against lines of supply and reinforcements from Texas), bogged down in the fall of 1863, resulting in a series of small but brutal engagements and little else beyond extending Union control over most of the Atchafalaya Basin and additional destruction

of civilian farms, institutions, and law and order. (Frazier 2010)

In March 1864, the Union army tried again to erase the Confederate presence in Louisiana. Converging columns moved up Bayou Teche and Red River, meeting at Alexandria, supported by a massive naval flotilla of warships and transports. Pushing on to nearly Shreveport where this army hoped to be joined by a column from Arkansas, the Confederates ambushed Banks’ column and routed it at the Battle of Mansfield in early April, pursuing Banks back to Alexandria and ending the Union effort. The Federals quit the area in May, leaving towns and farms in flames along their path. After nearly a week’s worth of skirmishing punctuated by pitched battle at Yellow Bayou in Avoyelles Parish, the Union troops returned to their previous positions, with most of the units later transferring away to other theaters. For the next nine months, the Atchafalaya Basin saw reprisal violence and guerilla warfare, but no large invasions from either army. (Frazier 2010)

Recovery after the Civil War

Post-Civil War recovery in the Atchafalaya Basin settlements and plantations was slow during the remaining decades of the 19th century. The war had several major impacts on the sugar plantation system, including elimination of slavery, the primary labor source; destruction of homes, farm buildings, agricultural facilities, and crops as a result of the three Union invasions; and disruption of financing and marketing structures. African Americans did not return to the Basin in sizable numbers; thus, they were replaced by European and Anglo settlers.

In 1869, New York shipping and rail magnate Charles Morgan purchased the New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad, and Brashear City was soon renamed Morgan City. Morgan improved the rail link to New Orleans, and in 1874, he had a 10-foot-deep, 200-foot-wide channel dredged for 6 miles through the mud flats

and oyster reefs to the community. This permitted Morgan's oceangoing vessels access to rail facilities. Later in 1880, Morgan constructed a rail link which connected Berwick, Lafayette, Morgan City, and New Orleans. Morgan City grew, becoming a focal point for the area's economy. By the 1880s, the urban areas within and contiguous to the Atchafalaya Basin had become diversified as a result of improved rail and shipping links. Formerly almost totally dependent on agricultural products and related services, basin towns—especially Morgan City—were now serving as collection and distribution centers for agricultural products, lumber, fish and seafood, Spanish moss, pelts, and waterfowl. The extractive economy that had developed in the Basin funneled its products through Morgan City to New Orleans. The growth of the oyster industry was indicative of the area's potential, and was closely paralleled by increases in other economic pursuits.

Accelerated by the Civil War and postwar events, such as a devastating flood in 1874, the Atchafalaya Basin witnessed the emergence of a unique form of nonagricultural extractive economy centered on the seasonal exploitation of fish, alligators, migratory waterfowl, crabs, crawfish, turtles, frogs, Spanish moss, and fur animals in an annual round closely tied to changing water levels in the swamp and other ecological conditions. Swamp dwellers turned increasingly toward wild resources to supplement their subsistence garden foods, and some forsook the land and moved into houseboats that could be moved as water levels and fishing conditions changed.

During the post-Civil War decades, improved fishing methods led to development of permanent fishing villages in the Basin. Demand for Spanish-moss increased to provide stuffing for furniture and (later) automobile seats; bateaux equipped with towers were constructed to gather the moss, which was ginned and shipped to New Orleans.

Lumbering became a secondary source of income, and by 1870 most males in the Atchafalaya Basin were involved in "float" logging of cypress. New railroads permitted the transportation of cypress to national markets. Float logging had little impact on the massive stands of virgin cypress, but the invention of the steam-powered pullboat in 1889 and the overhead cableway railway skidder in 1892 resulted in full-scale industrial exploitation of the Basin's cypress resources. Additionally, the introduction of the circular saw and later—and more importantly—the band saw, allowed the timber to be processed at ever increasing rates. Saw mills and shingle mills were established along Bayou Teche and at Morgan City. In 1889, Louisiana sawmills produced 248 billion board feet of cypress lumber. Steam boats moved through the Basin, collecting lumber and sugar. Canals were constructed to permit access of the pullboats and steamboats to remote areas of the Basin for logging, drastically affecting the Basin's ecosystem. By 1925, the lumber boom was over; large portions of the Atchafalaya swamp had been clear-cut, resulting in the near extinction of its old growth cypress forests.

During the late 19th century, the tow-car was invented, permitting large-scale movement of fish to Morgan City. Italians, most of whom were Sicilians, arrived in the area as fruit peddlers and remained to become prominent farmers and merchants in towns such as Maringouin, St. Martinville, and Morgan City. The latter emerged as a boom town with seafood, freshwater fish, and lumber continuing as the mainstays in the Atchafalaya Basin through the turn of the century and well into the 1930s. The local shrimping industry got a boost in 1937 when offshore jumbo shrimping commenced. By 1940 Morgan City was claiming the title of Shrimp Capital of the World, and the channel through Atchafalaya Bay was re-dredged during the winter of 1939-40, largely because of increased traffic from shrimping activities and local political pressure.

The internal combustion engine was invented in 1907, permitting rapid and far-reaching transportation for fishermen, trappers, and independent loggers. Bateaux were fitted with inboard engines, known as “putt-putts” by the locals. Larger fish-boats transported catfish, buffalofish, and gaspergou, turtles, alligator skins, and furs to the local railheads. By 1912, open power boats were used to take children to school on a regular basis, dramatically increasing the educational level of the Basin’s population. Although floods periodically affected the settlements during the early 20th century, the area’s population recovered after each one.

Residents raised livestock and farm staples such as corn, potatoes, beans, cabbage, and fruit. Prohibition encouraged moonshiners in the Basin, where “white lightning” was sold openly in local stores. Cajun culture flourished in the Basin’s settlements. Fais-do-dos (dances), music supplemented by the German-derived accordion, *traiteurs* (Cajun traditional faith healers who combined Catholic prayer and medicinal remedies), and other Cajun folk customs became common place.

Atchafalaya Basin residents were evacuated during the great flood of 1927—the worst flood in the recorded history of the Lower Mississippi Valley—as water levels rose to seven feet above the tops of the Atchafalaya River’s natural levees. People living on houseboats remained in the area, but virtually the entire Atchafalaya Basin and its nearby communities and rural areas were covered by flood waters. As a result, the Flood Control Act of 1928 transformed the Atchafalaya Basin to a “spillway” and Atchafalaya Basin Guide Levee construction began the following year; this construction amounted to building large earthen embankments that would “guide” the river south toward the Gulf of Mexico and simultaneously prevent the river from flooding. Measures were undertaken to make the Atchafalaya River a better floodway including dredging a single channel through the delta above Grand

Lake, straightening levees, and extending levees between lower Grand Lake and the Gulf of Mexico. All of these measures resulted in making the Atchafalaya a floodway, but also led to ever increasing diversion of the Mississippi. Many residents attempted to return to their former ways of life, but the Great Depression that began in 1929 hindered redevelopment. Residents who remained in the area returned to their former multi-resource based subsistence practices. Henderson in St. Martin Parish was established and gradually became a local center for the fishing industry.

Post Depression Development

During the Great Depression, crawfish were eaten occasionally, but they did not become a commercial product until the 1940s. Although plentiful during the 1920s and 1930s, they were considered a subsistence food to be eaten when better food was unavailable. Construction of the great guide levees had the effect of draining the lands outside of the levee system for farmland while increasing the water levels inside the Atchafalaya Basin. These conditions produced a favorable habitat for crawfish species and resulted in the emergence of the crawfish industry during the 1940s and 1950s.

While crawfish have been eaten in Louisiana since before the arrival of the Europeans, the successful “mudbug” industry in the Atchafalaya Basin did not take off until the 1950s. As crawfish could be shipped to the cities in large volumes where the Cajuns adopted them as a symbol of their plucky determination and adaptability, towns such as Henderson became centers for the commercial shipment of increasingly larger volumes of crawfish to the new consumers, principally restaurant owners. High water in the Atchafalaya promoted large crops of crawfish, while low water depressed yields. To improve the unpredictability of nature, commercial crawfish farming was introduced in the Basin, extending the period during which crawfish were available in commercial amounts. In 1982, St. Martin

Parish contained some 20,000 acres of commercial crawfish ponds. While free trade and the introduction of imported Chinese crawfish exerted a negative impact on the industry's development in subsequent years, by 2008, crawfishermen harvested 14 million pounds of crawfish, making this the most profitable industry in the basin.

In 1950, Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to construct a control structure at the head of Old River to maintain the distribution of flow and sediment in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. In 1963, the Old River Control Structure began regulating water flow from the Mississippi and Red rivers into the Atchafalaya River. Ten years later, a catastrophic failure of the control structure during the height of a spring flood nearly resulted in the Atchafalaya River claiming over 70% of the Mississippi River flow, which would have changed the course of the Mississippi River once again. Due to the damage, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps of Engineers or USACE) built a new auxiliary structure designed to relieve some of the stress during high water. Today the Old River Control Structure directs 30% of Mississippi River flow into the Atchafalaya River.

Oil exploration in the Atchafalaya Basin interior was underway by 1928, and the Herton Oil Company completed an oil well in the Jeanerette area of Iberia Parish in 1935. By 1940, widespread seismographic and drilling activities were conducted throughout the Basin and in the coastal marsh south of the Teche Ridge. Offshore drilling was initiated with the first producing offshore well in 1947. During the 1940s and 1950s, the oil-drilling industry made rapid advances, and oil-related industries soon became the dominant economic activity in the lower Atchafalaya Basin and adjacent offshore areas. Wealth generated by this new industry resulted in the urban growth of cities such as Lafayette, Morgan City, and Baton Rouge. Many Cajuns who lived in and around the Basin area were attracted to

economic and employment opportunities in these growing urban areas resulting from the petroleum industry.

The Modern Era

Large numbers of Vietnamese began arriving in the Atchafalaya area during the 1970s. Laotians also arrived and settled on New Iberia. Both groups quickly took over the seafood-processing industry from the native Cajuns in Pierre Part, Henderson, and Morgan City. Many prospered, soon owning more property than most of their Cajun neighbors and becoming well educated.

In 1970, the first Atchafalaya Basin Commission was established. During the remainder of the decade boat ramps were built, recreational facilities were planned, and the state began purchasing land for state parks. In 1973, the Interstate 10 elevated expressway over the Basin was completed, improving the area's transportation and enhancing the area's access for tourists and recreational enthusiasts. Congress enacted the Multipurpose Plan in 1985, authorizing the Corps of Engineers to spend \$250 million, subject to future appropriations, to preserve and restore the basin's ecosystem.

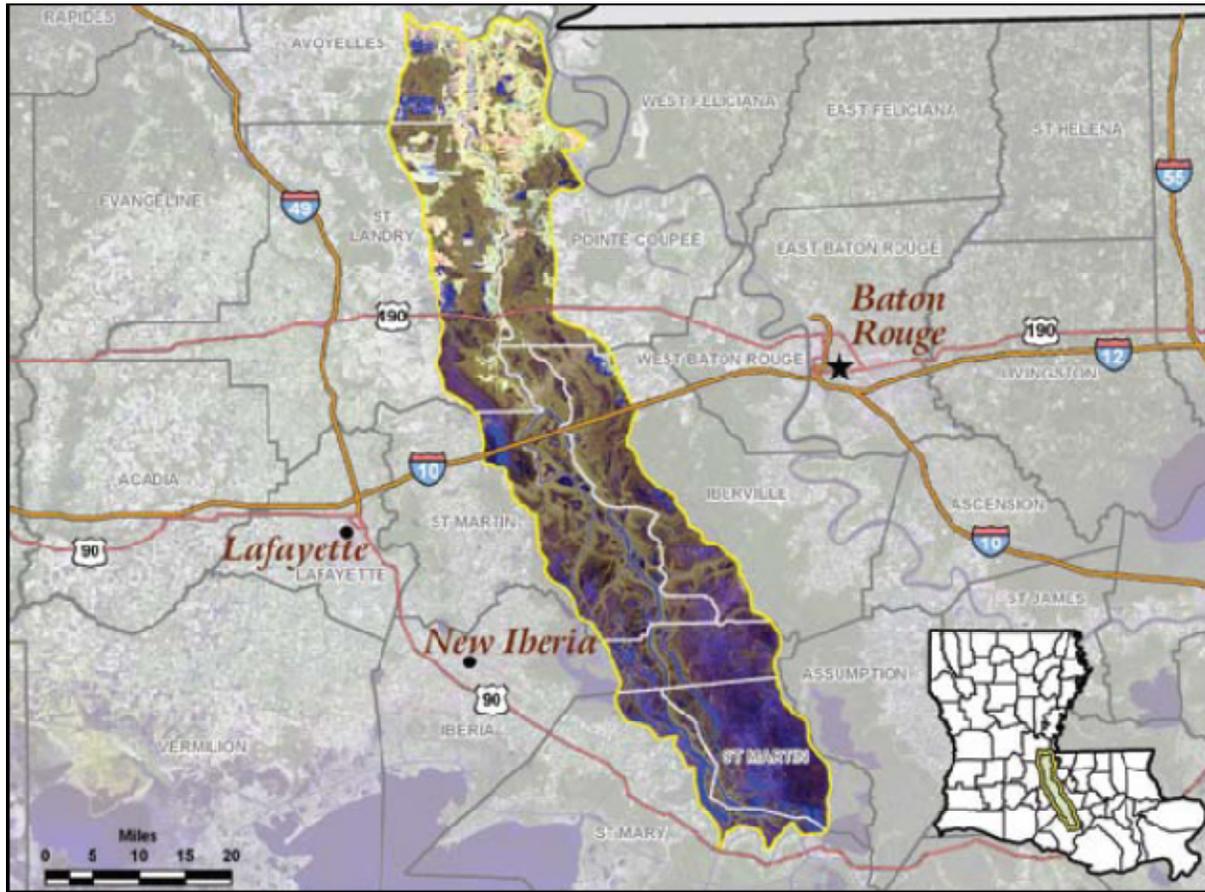
In 1996, in response to an expanded focus on the ecology of the Atchafalaya Basin, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), was named lead state agency in the development of a plan to protect and develop the Atchafalaya Basin as directed by Congress, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Louisiana Legislature created the Atchafalaya Basin Program and its advisory Research and Promotion Board in 1998. The State Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin was completed that same year and approved unanimously by the legislature in 1999. The 1999 Louisiana Legislature empowered the Atchafalaya Basin Program to act on behalf of the state to implement and manage a comprehensive state master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin. To that end, the program staff regularly meets with USACE

representatives regarding activities and projects in the Basin. During 2000, the Louisiana state legislature approved the *Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin Program* and \$85 million, subject to future appropriations over 15 years, for access, easements, water management, and recreation projects. In 2004, the Atchafalaya Welcome Center in Butte La Rose was opened. Over the years, the Atchafalaya Basin Program has also entered into agreements with the USACE, Basin parishes, area towns and cities, the Atchafalaya Basin Levee District, and several state agencies involved in the Basin Program to advance conservation, restoration, recreation, and enhancement projects.

In 2008, the Louisiana state legislature established the Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund. It also authorized the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources, through the Atchafalaya Basin Program, to submit to the legislature each year an Annual Plan for the Basin that would include water management and access projects, such as boat launches, and other projects consistent with the mission statement of the Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan.

As the Atchafalaya River has become a major floodway for the Mississippi River, sediments have gradually covered the old surfaces, raising the level of the ground as much as 12 feet near the major waterways. Historic settlements, graveyards, logging canals, farms, and forests have been inundated with alluvium, transforming the land surfaces and blotting out evidence of former ways of life. Long-time basin residents currently reside in Bayou Sorrel, Plaquemine, St. Martinville, Breaux Bridge, and New Iberia, or further away. Although many continue to enter the basin for fishing, hunting, and gathering, many of the historic ways of life are threatened by changes in water levels, water flow, and water quality within the basin and elsewhere in the region. Further, while crawfish, alligators, turtles, and bullfrogs are commercially and recreationally harvested along the Atchafalaya River, and crabbing and trapping remain integral parts of the Basin culture and economy, there is growth in recreational and tourist-related pursuits such as hunting, boating, canoeing, bird-watching, nature study, sightseeing, hiking, and camping.

Figure 2. Map of Atchafalaya Basin



Source: Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

FOUNDATION FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

The Atchafalaya Trace Commission has developed the following guidance for the management plan and future implementation of the plan.

VISION

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a model of authenticity in heritage development and ecotourism, a truly fascinating and “foreign” place here in the middle of the U.S. culture. The area manages to be authentic and real, while offering outstanding amenities for residents and visitors who seek a relaxed but active break from the everyday.

MISSION

The mission of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to build understanding and identity, raising local, regional, and national awareness of the Atchafalaya region; to strengthen the fabric of the place; to expand economic opportunities and to increase the community collaboration and involvement within the parishes that constitute the heritage area while supporting a healthier Atchafalaya ecosystem and enhancing natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Purpose Statement

The purpose statement clarifies the reasons the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was established as part of the national heritage area system and provides the foundation for the management of the area. Such statements are based on a heritage area’s establishing legislation and legislative history, other special designations, and NPS policies.

The purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to establish and maintain interpretive sites; increase public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational resources of the area; and implement programs that recognize the important resource values of the national heritage area.

Significance Statements

Significance statements build on the national heritage area’s purpose and clearly state why, within a national context, the national heritage area’s resources and values are important enough to warrant the area’s designation as a national heritage area. These statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the area and express the importance of the area to our nation’s natural and cultural heritage.

Following are the significance statements for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

The Atchafalaya Basin is significant because

- It is the largest example of an alluvial bottomland and swamp in the United States, and provides outstanding habitat for 24 federal- and state-listed threatened or endangered species, or species of concern including Louisiana Black Bear, brown pelicans and bald eagles.
- It possesses exceptional value in illustrating and interpreting many of the natural themes of our nation’s heritage, including river systems and lakes, recent geologic history (i.e., the processes of alluviation and deltaic land building), bottomland and swamp components of the eastern deciduous forest, aquatic ecosystems, and streams.

- It possesses exceptional value in illustrating certain cultural themes, particularly water control technology and unique, ongoing American ways of life.
- It offers a rare opportunity for scientific study of active delta building processes, and provides a significant opportunity to study disturbance regimes, primary succession, population-level ecological processes, and southeastern bottomland species.
- The quality of recreational opportunities provided by the Basin indicates the Atchafalaya has the potential to become a nationally significant recreational resource.

LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Designated in Public Law No. 109-338, October 12, 2006, the Atchafalaya Trace Commission is the local coordinating entity for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The Commission was created by State legislation (CH 26 SEC 1222) in 1997 and is composed of 14 members each serving three-year terms; they are appointed by the governing authority of each parish within the heritage area; commissioners may be reappointed.

According to the designating legislation, the Commission may make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with the state, units of local government, and private organizations; hire and compensate staff; and enter into contracts for goods and services. The legislation also required the Commission to “develop a management plan for the Heritage Area that incorporates an integrated and cooperative approach to protect, interpret, and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area” and “take into consideration other state and local plans and invite the participation of residents, public agencies, and private organizations in the Heritage Area.” The Commission was

also directed to implement this plan in part by providing assistance to units of government, by carrying out programs that recognize important resource values within the heritage area, by encouraging sustainable economic development within the heritage area, by establishing and maintaining interpretive sites within the heritage area, and by increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the heritage area.

To accomplish these Congressional requirements, the Commission operates under bylaws that govern the conduct of the commission. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area receives limited federal dollars that must be matched by other sources. The federal share of the total cost of any activity of the Commission cannot exceed 50% unless the Secretary of the Interior determines that there is no other reasonable means to fund the activity. Federal funds distributed to the Commission are strictly accounted for. For any year in which federal funds are received, the Commission must submit a report to the Secretary of the Interior describing the expenses and income of the Commission for that year. The Commission is not allowed to use federal funds to acquire real property or an interest in real property and must conduct public meetings at least quarterly.

Per the legislation, authority of the Secretary to provide assistance to the local coordinating entity terminates 15 years after the enactment of the Act, which has been interpreted to be the date of funding in August 2008. Assistance can continue through August 2023.

“Table 1: Legislative Requirements for the Management Plan” summarizes the requirements for the national heritage area plan and how this document meets those requirements.

Table 1. Legislative Requirements for the Management Plan

Requirement	How the Requirement is Addressed
Develop a management plan that incorporates an integrated and cooperative approach to protect, interpret, and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational resources of the heritage area	This document provides the framework to protect, interpret and enhance the area resources. The Commission will take a lead role on interpretation and education. Many of the actions and projects will be implemented cooperatively through partners
Take into consideration other state and local plans	Reviewed and incorporated state and local plans (see relationship to other plans) and actively worked with state agencies and other partners on developing alternatives and actions (see “Chapter 5: Management Alternatives” in volume two).
Invite the participation of residents, public agencies, and private organizations in the heritage area	Three newsletters were sent to about 2700 individuals, public agencies and organizations. Multiple public meetings were held during scoping, and after alternatives, and comments were accepted and incorporated into the plan (see “Chapter 8: Consultation and Coordination” in volume two).
The Commission was also directed to implement this plan in part by providing assistance to units of government, by carrying out programs that recognize important resource values within the heritage area, by encouraging sustainable economic development within the heritage area, by establishing and maintaining interpretive sites within the heritage area, and by increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the heritage area.	<p>Providing assistance to units of government:</p> <p>Recognize values of resources: Many efforts, including 1) Collaboration with Friends of the Atchafalaya on education and outreach during Experience Atchafalaya Days – a month long celebration of the resources of the NHA. 2) development of a DVD highlighting the cultural, historic and recreational resources of the NHA</p> <p>Sustainable economic development: Developed income tax credit program with the state for local, cultural businesses. Continue to promote other tax credit programs and collaborate with Tourism Department on media outreach highlighting the heritage area including local businesses and artisans.</p> <p>Establishing and maintaining interpretive sites: Developed traveling exhibit, “Voices of the Atchafalaya,” displayed at various locations across the national heritage area. Action plan includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the heritage area • Collaboration with Friends of the Atchafalaya on education and outreach during Experience Atchafalaya Days • See further details in the Implementation Plan

Requirement	How the Requirement is Addressed
Complete a cultural landscape assessment	This assessment has been completed and incorporated into the management plan. The assessment is available at the NHA office.
Inventory of Resources	Inventory completed with association to the Interpretive themes (i.e. relates to the heritage area), cultural resources protection priorities still needs to be developed in collaboration with the state historic preservation office. Threats to resources beyond cultural landscapes have not yet identified.
Develop an Implementation Plan	An implementation plan has been developed; it is organized by the heritage area goals and includes phased strategies and actions.
Develop an Interpretation Plan	An interpretation plan has been developed, which includes analysis of resources and strategies for sharing themes with various audiences. Actions are incorporated under the implementation plan.

GOALS OF THE ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The goals of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area build on the goals developed for the state heritage area. The Commission reviewed the goals and reflected on the public comments from the initial public scoping effort in 2008. Based on the strong public comments that addressed the environment, natural resources, and recreation, goals for the national heritage area were revised.

Goal 1: Enhance interpretation and awareness of the heritage area’s key stories.

If the factors that make the Atchafalaya region unique and beloved by its residents are to last in the face of change, there is a need to enhance the strong regional identity and to cultivate a heightened appreciation of the authentic. Interpretation—communicating truthful information about people and places in an interesting and engaging manner—helps residents and visitors alike gain an understanding of the importance of the Atchafalaya area and its

culture and resources. Properly done, interpretive programs can also enhance the appeal of the region to discerning visitors.

Goal 2: Support Sustainable Cultural Economic Development Opportunities in the Heritage Area.

For centuries, people found many ways to earn a living from the Atchafalaya region. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was established in part to stimulate investment while protecting the region’s sensitive lands and other cultural and natural resources. Achieving this balancing act will diversify the economy and create jobs, while also improving the experience of being in the heritage area as a resident, an employer, or a visitor.

Goal 3: Increase appreciation for cultural resources.

There are distinct physical elements that define the Atchafalaya region. The cultural landscape here is unique and involves the interplay between natural resources and the effects of centuries of habitation by those who have carved livings out of the swamp and those who tried to control nature.

Efforts would be focused on understanding and protecting these unique resources. More recognition and protection is needed for the important vernacular townscapes and buildings that give the region its strong sense of time and place. Also, efforts that highlight cultural traditions, language and skills are an important part of this goal.

Goal 4: Increase appreciation for natural resources.

Just as aspects of culture and the built environment are important to the heritage area, the natural environment is also a critical resource—inextricably linked to the region’s economy, culture, history, and traditions. Preserving and restoring the natural environment is a foundation for economic vitality, recreation opportunities, and tourism development. Natural resource extraction and natural resource preservation need to be balanced appropriately. Further, the wild and “foreign” landscape of the Atchafalaya Basin provides a distinctive recreational experience. Protection, enhancement, and improved access to existing active and passive recreational opportunities can enhance the broader appreciation of the Atchafalaya ecosystem, culture, and history.

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Interpretive themes are ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to the heritage area’s purpose, significance, identity, and visitor experience. Primary themes provide the framework for interpretation and educational programs, influence the visitor experience, and provide direction for planners and designers of exhibits, publications, and audiovisual programs. Themes are the stories visitors should know when they leave an area.

The overarching interpretive theme of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is the entwined relationship between people and the natural environment. It highlights the many ways in which residents of the region and the natural environment are always

interacting and changing. Change in the Atchafalaya area occurs on many levels and in multiple dimensions, yet even a subtle and astute description of this vibrant process runs the risk of freezing or distorting it.

With nature as an initial point of departure, the story then takes into account the region’s rivers and bayous, its landmasses and wetlands, and also its climate. Each waterway has its own story. Each affects the other and each, to greater or lesser degree, impacts the entire area.

The story of the land in the region is large-scaled, complex, and interrelated. Woodlands, floodplains, natural levees, swamps, marshes, deltas, sediment, mineral deposits, and farmland are notable parts. Each land component is one piece of an intricate puzzle that constantly shifts, changes, and influences the whole. The subtropical climate has a defining impact on the region. Wildlife, habitats, plant life, flyways and migratory patterns, mating and breeding cycles, food chains and predation, diseases, health, and life expectancy are other aspects of the natural environment and each can be viewed in light of the processes of change and ongoing interaction within the heritage area.

The natural environment, complex and enormous in its own right, is only one dimension, and it does not exist apart from human society and culture. Various people have settled in the area over the centuries: Chitimacha, Houma, Attakapas, Tunica-Biloxi, and Opelousas were followed by Spaniards, French, Acadians, Africans, Scots, “Les Americains,” Germans, Haitians, Irish, Italians, Lebanese, Filipinos, and Vietnamese, to name but a few. Each group was itself transformed. The result is creolization.

This over-arching theme of people and nature, establishes a broad framework. It is both suggestive and inclusive. It also has specific and particular meanings to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The theme provides a panorama in which

residents and diverse institutions can locate themselves and find a role. Visitors can gain a better understanding of this area as well as their own experiences by exploring the ways in which this far-reaching theme unfolds in south-central Louisiana.

The following primary interpretive themes have been developed for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The themes identified in the state plan have been modified and, based on public comment, emphasis was added to landforms, waterways, natural history and recreation. These themes are further explored in “Chapter 4: Interpretation Plan.”

Theme 1 - Adaptation and Survival

The early settlers acquired living skills unique to the environment.

The first settlers encountered challenges of isolation and survival as they settled into a very different environment from which they came. They turned to the Native Americans to acquire the living skills required to survive in this new area such as using a boat (pirogue) as a primary transportation mode. Because the early settlers were isolated, most of their food came from their immediate surroundings and they lived off the land.

Theme 2 - Identity Through a Cultural Blend

The region's identity evolved from a blend of many cultures.

Through sharing skills for survival, the cultures of the French, Spanish, Acadians and African-Americans (and smaller numbers of Caribbean peoples, Germans, Italians, and Czechs) began to merge peacefully, creating a cultural blend evident today. Skills and crafts have long been tied to available resources such as alligators and cypress lumber. Survival solutions present in early lifestyles such as crawfish netting, boat building, and decoy carving continue to manifest themselves in traditions and

lifeways today. Cajun music, originating from Nova Scotia dance music using a fiddle or twin fiddles, uses the accordion (German and Italian influence) and fiddle to play two-steps and waltzes. Zydeco musicians substitute a washboard (frottoir) for the fiddle, a practice with African and Caribbean origins, and produce pieces for livelier dancing. Creoles, some of whom were Free People of Color, influenced plantation life, slavery, secession, the Civil War, and reconstruction in ways different from that experienced in other regions of the South.

Coexisting, multiple ethnicities influenced architecture, religious traditions, storytelling, and foodways, and the Cajun and Creole French languages were preserved and passed down through generations.

Theme 3 - Influence of the Water on The Land and The People

Water is the distinctive influence on life in this area: through the ages it has created ever-changing landscapes, contributed to subtle and catastrophic natural events, and has been subjected to a long history of human manipulation; this relationship continues to evolve today through increased recreation and conservation efforts.

Due to the region's close proximity to the Gulf of Mexico, the environment is dynamic and reflects influences from floods, hurricanes, Delta formation, changing natural levees, and the shifting course of rivers. Adaptation on the part of the people to ensure survival was crucial. Flood control was necessary and eventually became nationally significant. America's largest swamp and ecosystem remained intact but settlement patterns began to shift away from the swamp. These conditions prompted consideration of the abundance of oil, gas, and timber as a means of support in addition to traditional subsistence activities; the extraction of these natural resources soon became a major revenue source for many families.

Ongoing subsistence activities and a long-term relationship with the swamp have led to a growing respect for conservation of the natural resources. In addition, recognition of the role delta building plays in the protection of land and livelihoods has also supported a growing environmental movement. Today, there is also a growing appreciation of the special outdoor recreational opportunities that exist on the land and waterways of the heritage area. Bird and wildlife watching; swamp and river tours; paddling, hiking, and camping; as well as traditional hunting and fishing can be enjoyed year-round due to the mild climate.

RECOMMENDED BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

No boundary adjustments are allowed, per the enabling legislation (public Law 109-338)

PLANNING ISSUES AND CONCERNS

The official public scoping comment period for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan opened on June 13, 2008, and closed on August 31, 2008. During the official comment period, 182 pieces of correspondence were received, which included comments recorded at the eight public meetings. These pieces of correspondences yielded a total of 1,106 total comments. A summary of what respondents valued about the heritage area, what they were concerned about, and what they would like to see addressed in this plan follows.

Respondents valued the following

- The natural resources or setting which includes the flora, wildlife, views, natural quiet, and undeveloped areas in and around the heritage area
- The history and the unique cultural resources found in the heritage area, such as the various languages, food, music, stories, and architecture; respondents acknowledged the need to

preserve and interpret these outstanding resources

- The people within the heritage area
- The visitor and recreational opportunities—emphasis was placed on the love of and lifelong experiences associated with fishing, crawfishing, hunting, boating, canoeing, kayaking, and camping in the Atchafalaya Basin.
- The close proximity and ease of access to the resources and recreational opportunities
- Natural quiet and opportunities for solitude

Respondents were concerned about the following

- The amount of trash and litter found within the heritage area
- The lack of maintenance and upkeep
- The lack of public and local residents' understanding of the importance of the unique cultural and natural resources within the heritage area; the need for generating an increase in ancestral and cultural awareness in local citizens as well as educating local residents of the benefits of preserving their natural and cultural resources
- Diminished water quality, increased siltation and the general loss of natural resources
- The level of development and commercialization of the heritage area
- Future funding for the heritage area
- The ability to maintain public access and a variety of recreational opportunities

Respondents identified the following issues and concerns that the management plan should address

- Protection, preservation, and conservation of the heritage area's natural resources and biodiversity

- Protection of the remaining cypress trees, restoration of the natural waterways and water quality, removal of invasive species and preservation of the native plant and animal species
- Protection and interpretation of the heritage area's unique cultural resources
- Development of more hiking, biking, and walking trail connections to increase the diversity of recreation and access opportunities
- Development of new or different opportunities for camping, including on the ground and floating
- Improvement and installation of more boat ramps, parking areas, restrooms, museums, and visitor centers
- Development of more interpretive and educational programs about the heritage area's history, and cultural and natural resources
- The need to increase funding for heritage area management but not over-develop or over-commercialize the heritage area
- The need to establish a long-term strategy for heritage area partnerships and stewardship opportunities
- Improvement in coordination with adjacent landowners, local communities, and area agencies to fully protect the area's resources
- The need to reach out to local residents to raise awareness and understanding of this place and to connect them to the heritage area

APPLICABLE LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

Several federal laws guide the management and planning for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. These laws and policies form the foundation for this heritage area management plan. Management of the heritage area must be consistent with these

laws and policies. This section summarizes the key laws, policies, and authorities governing management of and planning for the heritage area.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (P.L.91-190, 42 USC §4321 et seq.) establishes “a national policy which will encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment.” This act requires all government agencies to develop procedures that ensure open and honest documentation of existing resources and potential effects to these resources as a result of the proposed action. The act fosters public involvement as a key element of the decision-making process. Compliance procedures are described in NPS Director's Order 12: *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making* and the accompanying reference manual. See also the next section on this plan's compliance with NEPA.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531-1543) requires federal agencies to ensure that management activities authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat that is critical to the conservation of the species.

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended (16 USC 470). Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act established a comprehensive program to preserve the historical and cultural foundations of the nation as a living part of community life. Section 110 of the act delineates broad historic preservation responsibilities for federal agencies, such as the National Park Service, to ensure that historic preservation is fully integrated into all of their ongoing programs. Section 106 of the act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties that are either listed in or eligible

to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The national register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects important for their significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The goal of the Section 106 review process is to seek ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects to historic properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the national register.

NPS Management Policies 2006 (1.3.4) supports the management of heritage area resources for conservation, recreation, education, and continued use through partnerships among public and private entities at the local or regional level. This recognizes an area's importance to the nation without requiring or implying management by the National Park Service.

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 established a national policy to preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore and enhance the resources of the nation's coastal zone; and to encourage and assist the states to exercise effectively their responsibilities in the coastal zone. These responsibilities are to be exercised through the development and implementation of management programs to achieve wise use of the land and water resources of the coastal zone, giving full consideration to ecological, cultural, historic, and esthetic values as well as the needs for compatible economic development. The act requires federal agency activities (i.e., "direct" agency activities) to be fully consistent with a state's approved coastal management program, unless full consistency is prohibited by federal law.

Clean Air Act of 1963 gives federal land managers the responsibility for protecting air quality and related resources, including visibility, plants, animals, soils, water quality, cultural resources, and public health, from adverse air pollution impacts.

Clean Water Act of 1972 establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of

pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface.

Executive Order 11988 ("Floodplain Management") requires federal agencies to avoid to the extent possible the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of flood plains and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development wherever there is a practicable alternative. In accomplishing this objective, "each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by flood plains in carrying out its responsibilities" for the following actions:

- acquiring, managing, and disposing of federal lands and facilities;
- providing federally-undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements;
- conducting federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land resources planning, regulation, and licensing activities.

Executive Order 11990 ("Protection of Wetlands") serves to "minimize the destruction, loss or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands." To meet these objectives, the order requires federal agencies, in planning their actions, to consider alternatives to wetland sites and limit potential damage if an activity affecting a wetland cannot be avoided. The order applies to

- Acquisition, management, and disposition of Federal lands and facilities construction and improvement projects which are undertaken, financed or assisted by federal agencies;
- Federal activities and programs affecting land use, including but not limited to water and related land

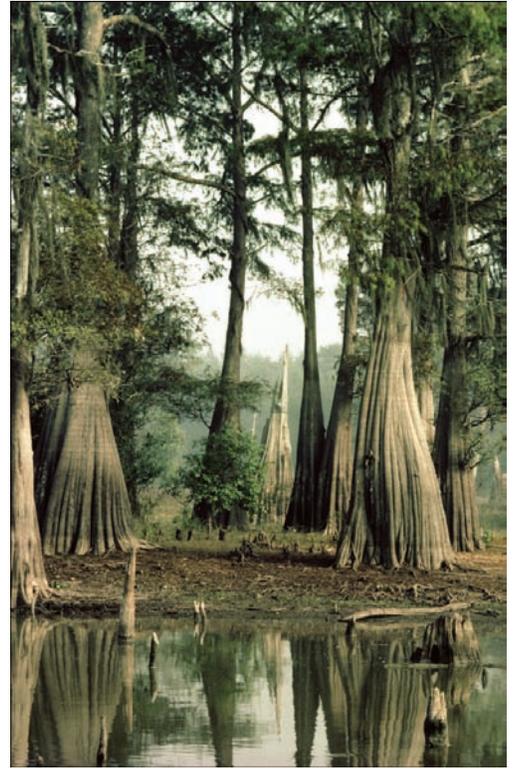
resources planning, regulation, and licensing activities.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918
established federal responsibilities for the

protection of nearly all species of birds, their eggs, and nests. The treaties are between the United States and Great Britain (1916), Mexico (1936), Japan (1972), and the Soviet Union (1976).

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND

Chapter 2 *Preferred Management Focus*



Upper Grand River Flats

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DESCRIPTION

The preferred management focus (also referred to as the “preferred alternative”) for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is “Heritage Connection – Nature, Culture, History and Recreation.” This focus highlights the nationally and regionally significant natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreation resources of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. This focus on the area’s heritage connection, including the natural features of the area and its diverse culture and lifeways, highlights how the history of the area and its cultural traditions are inextricably linked to the area’s natural resources—one cannot be explained without the other.

As noted in more detail in volume two, public comments received during the development of this plan reflected the need for a blending of two of the original alternatives: “Alternative B: Focus on Natural Resources and Recreation” and “Alternative C: Focus on History and Current Cultures,” with a slightly stronger emphasis on the natural environment and associated recreation as identified in alternative B. This proposed blending, to some degree, reflects the current strength of cultural and historical programs throughout the heritage area and the desire to expand environmental, conservation, and recreation programs in the heritage area.

This alternative focuses on providing information and activities that appeal to visitors and residents with a broad range of interests. People would find many opportunities to discover the natural environment, to enjoy the outdoors through recreation, and to explore the culture, traditions, and lifeways of the Atchafalaya region. Information for visitors and residents would be organized around themes and could include options such as taking a

music tour, bicycling on trails along bayous, or visiting historic plantations.

The native people of the area, as well as the various groups of migrants to the area, have used the area’s unique natural resources, including the nation’s largest river swamp, hardwood forests, coastal wetlands, cypress-tupelo swamps, and freshwater bayous. These resources have, in turn, greatly impacted the blend of cultures that has evolved over time.

Examples of the interrelationship between people and land are everywhere. The region’s famous food, such as crawfish, come from its rivers and bayous. The preferred alternative would highlight how land-based agriculture and water-based aquaculture developed from the river and the river’s historical floodplain, and how the managed levee system of today continues to provide flood protection and a reliable water source, which allows for productive agriculture. This alternative would provide context for the flood control system and how it provides safety for communities that lie within the historical floodplains. Interpretation would also explain how architectural patterns and building materials are also a direct result of the climate and natural resources of the area.

Trails and byways along natural ridges and manmade levees could provide a better understanding of landforms and a better opportunity to explore the area. Rivers and bayous generally run north-south and provide additional connections and means of travel within the heritage area.

Through this alternative, programs and projects would be created with partners to explore the richness of the cultural and natural resources of the region. Residents and visitors would have the opportunity to

learn and explore the area through ways as varied as music festivals, paddle trips, tours of historic landscapes, and opportunities to participate in preservation and conservation projects. The interplay of the water and land with the varied cultures and traditions of the area would be highlighted to create a strong sense of place that would support livability for residents and enjoyment for visitors.

With the preferred management focus of “The Heritage Connection”; the heritage area management would take the lead regarding the following efforts:

- Existing interpretive and welcome centers would be enhanced to generate more interest in the area and to keep people in the heritage area for longer periods of time. The initial focus would be on improving existing centers at major entry points to the heritage area. Interpretive and welcome centers would orient and provide information to visitors, emphasizing both indoor and outdoor experiential opportunities. These centers could serve as both gateways for activities and cultural events and trailheads for land and water trails.
- Activities, itineraries, and event calendars would be developed to create thematic links to natural and cultural resources and associated built attractions and events in the heritage area. These programs and products would be developed to fit within a consistent, areawide informational, interpretive, and public relations framework.
- Interpretation of natural, cultural and historic resources, recreational opportunities and heritage area themes would be enhanced along existing byways. New byway designations would be connected proposed where appropriate.
- Sustaining the unique cultural and natural landscapes and increasing education and awareness for residents

and visitors would contribute to a sense of place.

- Education programs for teachers and students would focus on the interrelationship of the natural environment and the history and multiple historic and contemporary cultures of the heritage area.

The heritage area managers would partner with state and local governments, agencies, nonprofits, and others to implement the following elements:

- The Atchafalaya River and associated trails (both land and water trails) would serve as a central spine from which programmatic and physical links would be made to adjacent areas and resources.
- Experiential activities involving regional attractions and key resources would be developed. These activities would be both resource-based (e.g., scenic roads, water trails, music trails) and program-based (e.g., educational curriculum, audio tours), and would be designed to connect clusters of resources.
- Partners with interests, skills, expertise, and resources pertaining to natural and cultural resource topics and activities would participate in improving interpretation and education programs and developing links at a regional scale.
- Coordinated programs would be developed with partners to provide conservation, restoration, and ecotourism opportunities for visitors and local residents alike. These programs could focus on cleanup, water quality monitoring, native plant restoration, or similar activities. Similar programs would be developed with partners to help preserve and restore cultural and historic sites and landscapes and promote heritage and cultural tourism.
- Transportation planning for visitors would be emphasized—improving land and water connections, and expanding

alternate transportation choices for exploring the heritage area (i.e., bike, paddling, boating, rail, and bus).

POTENTIAL KEY PARTNERS

The heritage area's broad mission outlined in the enabling legislation invites the participation of public agencies and private organizations. The resources are so numerous and intertwined that projects cannot be successful without working with numerous partners. Some, but not all, of the entities with which the Atchafalaya Trace Commission could partner in order to implement the Heritage Connection Focus are listed below. The Commission's primary partner is the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, Office of Tourism.

- Louisiana Office of State Parks
- Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation and Main Street Program
- Louisiana State Museum
- Louisiana State Library
- Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
- Louisiana Byways Program
- Friends of the Atchafalaya
- Louisiana Association of Museums
- Louisiana Department of Education
- Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Program
- University of Louisiana, Center for Louisiana Studies
- Louisiana Historical Association
- Acadian music groups
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Atchafalaya Basin Program
- Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Department
- National Audubon Society, Louisiana Coastal Initiative
- National Wildlife Federation, Coastal Louisiana Program
- Environmental Defense Fund, Coastal Louisiana Project
- The Nature Conservancy, Atchafalaya Program
- Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program
- Black Bear Conservation Coalition
- Atchafalaya Basinkeeper
- Sierra Club/Delta Chapter
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- Crawfishermen Organizations
- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Atchafalaya Paddling Trails group
- Acadiana Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
- LSU School of Landscape Architecture
- Alliance of National Heritage Areas

RELATED INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The preferred management focus, “The Heritage Connection,” would include all three main interpretive themes and associated sub-themes to guide interpretation and visitor experiences:

These themes are further explained in chapter one and in the interpretation plan (chapter four). They would provide a focus for interpretation, education, partnership development, and future actions.

The focus of “The Heritage Connection” would be on waterways and landforms; outdoor recreation; current and past communities, sites, and buildings; and languages, religions, music, and foods. Tourism information would be organized by type and topic, focusing on particular areas of outdoor experience, culture, traditions, or history such as food, music, antebellum life, or cultural festivals. This alternative would focus education and interpretation on the natural landscapes and ecosystems, history,

traditions, culture, and lifeways unique to the Atchafalaya region.

This management focus would place the greatest emphasis on strategies designed to provide visitor information and activities tailored to visitors’ interests in particular topics or activities. This alternative would increase the emphasis on community revitalization and preservation of historic structures and landscapes, as in alternative C, and would add focus on understanding and protecting natural resources and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities in alternative B. By combining the best of these two alternatives, there is the unique opportunity to interpret and raise awareness of the inextricable interrelationship between nature and culture. This alternative also best meets the vision, mission, purpose and legal requirements for the heritage area—enhancing and interpreting the natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreation resources of the heritage area.

Chapter 3 *Implementation Plan*



Upper Grand River Flats



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INTRODUCTION

While the preferred management concept is described in “Chapter Two: Preferred Management Focus,” the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area management direction is flexible and able to adapt to changing partners, funding sources, and needs. Thus this implementation plan would be applicable to any of the alternative management concepts. Through the ideas presented in this chapter, heritage area managers would seek to meet the vision, mission, and goals of the heritage area.

The heritage area priorities for the next ten years are contained here, along with other information about how implementation

would be achieved, including organizational structure and sustainability, partnerships, and funding. The heritage area managers would monitor and measure their progress in implementing the strategies and actions outlined in the implementation plan and in meeting the area’s vision, mission, and goals. Based on monitoring, heritage area managers would adjust annual work plans to reflect and capitalize upon successes, challenges, funding sources, and partners. This cycle of adapting throughout implementation would ensure that the heritage area continues to achieve the mission and vision given ever-changing circumstances on the ground.

Figure 3. Goal Implementation Helps Realize Vision



Implementation of the management focus and strategies and actions outlined in the management plan would require collaboration and cooperation among myriad partners and members of the public. This document provides the vision that agencies, organizations, and businesses can join together to achieve. Only through cooperation and collaboration among people and groups with complimentary or shared goals will this plan be effectively implemented. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a nationally significant area with people, stories, and resources that truly make it America's Foreign Country.

As the heritage area has been recognized as a state entity since 1997, much has already been achieved and the initial activities that heritage areas typically engage in have been established. The Commission and others would build on what has been accomplished to further achieve heritage and resource preservation. This document serves as the blueprint for moving forward, yet with the

understanding that circumstances will change over the life of the plan. The heritage area will remain flexible in order to capitalize on opportunities that may arise that are not specifically included here, but achieve the goals and advance the mission.

This chapter includes

- 1) A review of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Foundation (Vision, Mission, Purpose and Significance, Goals, and Interpretive Themes)
- 2) Organizational structure
- 3) Implementation Procedures, including project selection criteria and best management practices
- 4) Implementation strategies and actions
- 5) Partners and relationship to other plans
- 6) Historic and future funding
- 7) Monitoring progress and amending the plan

THE FOUNDATION

The Commission has developed the following guidance for the management plan and future implementation of the plan.

VISION

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a model of authenticity in heritage development and ecotourism, a truly fascinating and “foreign” place here in the middle of the U.S. culture. The area manages to be authentic and real, while offering outstanding amenities for residents and visitors who seek a relaxed but active break from the everyday.

MISSION

The mission of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to build understanding and identity, raising local, regional, and national awareness of the Atchafalaya region; to strengthen the fabric of the place; to expand economic opportunities and to increase the community collaboration and involvement within the parishes that constitute the heritage area while supporting a healthier Atchafalaya ecosystem and enhancing natural resource-based recreation opportunities.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Purpose Statement

The purpose statement clarifies the reasons the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was established as part of the national heritage area system and provides the foundation for the management of the area. Such statements are based on a heritage area’s establishing legislation and legislative history, other special designations, and NPS policies.

The purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to establish and maintain interpretive sites; increase public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational resources of the area; and implement programs that recognize the important resource values of the national heritage area.

Significance Statements

Significance statements build on the national heritage area’s purpose and clearly state why, within a national context, the national heritage area’s resources and values are important enough to warrant the area’s designation as a national heritage area. These statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the area and express the importance of the area to our nation’s natural and cultural heritage.

Following are the significance statements for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

The Atchafalaya Basin is significant because

It is the largest example of an alluvial bottomland and swamp in the United States, and provides outstanding habitat for 24 federal- and state-listed threatened or endangered species, or species of concern including Louisiana Black Bear, brown pelicans and bald eagles.

It possesses exceptional value in illustrating and interpreting many of the natural themes of our nation’s heritage, including river systems and lakes, recent geologic history (i.e., the processes of alluviation and deltaic land building), bottomland and swamp components of the eastern deciduous forest, aquatic ecosystems, and streams.

It possesses exceptional value in illustrating certain cultural themes, particularly water control technology and unique, ongoing American ways of life.

It offers a rare opportunity for scientific study of active delta building processes, and provides a significant opportunity to study disturbance regimes, primary succession, population-level ecological processes, and southeastern bottomland species.

The quality of recreational opportunities provided by the Basin indicates the Atchafalaya has the potential to become a nationally significant recreational resource.

GOALS AND INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Goals

Goal 1: Enhance interpretation and awareness of the heritage area's key stories

Goal 2: Support sustainable cultural economic development opportunities in the heritage area

Goal 3: Increase appreciation for cultural resources.

Goal 4: Increase appreciation for natural resources.

Interpretive Themes

Three interpretive themes have been identified. Each theme is connected to a variety of resources that explore them in various depths. These themes are:

Adaptation and Survival: The early settlers acquired living skills unique to the environment.

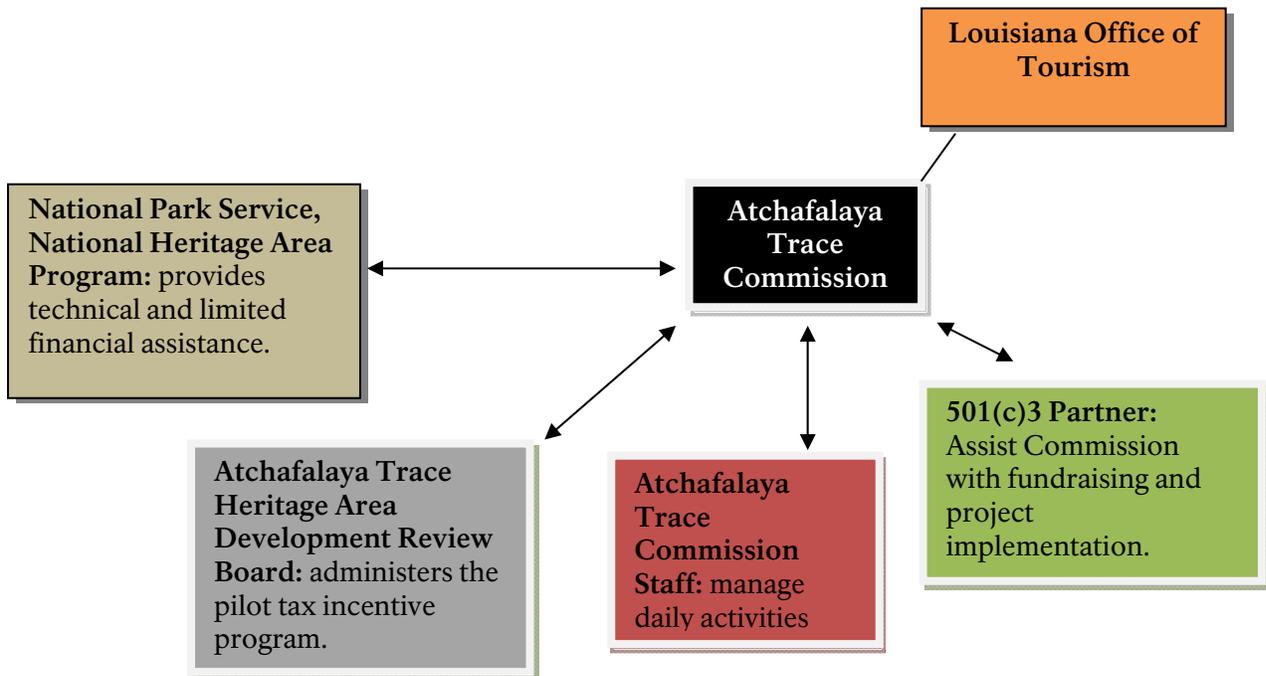
Identity Through a Cultural Blend: The region's identity evolved from a blend of many cultures.

Influence of the Water on the Land and the People: Water is the distinctive influence on life in this area: through the ages it has created ever-changing landscapes, contributed to subtle and catastrophic natural events, and has been subjected to a long history of human manipulation; this relationship continues to evolve today through increased recreation and conservation efforts.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The heritage area program was established in part for the purpose to “promote partner-driven management strategies. . .encourage locally tailored resource stewardship and interpretation, and provide for the effective leveraging of federal funds” (National Heritage Areas Partnership Act).

Figure 4. Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Organizational Framework



ATCHAFALAYA TRACE COMMISSION

The Atchafalaya Trace Commission was created by the state legislature as an agency of state government within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. The federal enabling legislation appointed the Commission as the local coordinating entity for the heritage area responsible for developing and implementing the management plan.

As the heritage area moves from planning to implementation, the role of the Commission will evolve; therefore, a refined organizational structure is needed. It is

anticipated that the four officers - chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer- otherwise known as the Executive Committee, may need to meet or hold conference calls on a regular basis. Administrative committees would be established and may be chaired by the officers. These committees may include fundraising, grant programs, marketing/outreach, and implementation/strategy planning.

Committees may include advisory members outside the Commission to provide skills and expertise not provided within the Commission. Committees would develop

annual work plans to support the heritage area implementation plan. The committees would also make regular reports and recommendations to the whole Commission.

The Commission is reviewing the state legislation to determine what changes are needed to increase the efficiency of the Commission in this evolving role. These changes may include the ability to meet and take action via conference call or allow for proxy voting where appropriate.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service provides technical assistance and limited funding to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Funding is currently provided to the heritage area on an annual basis. Public Law 109-338 describes the cost sharing requirement for federal funding as follows. "The Federal share of the total cost of any activity . . . shall be not more than 50 percent unless the Secretary determines that no reasonable means are available through which the local coordinating entity can meet its cost sharing requirement for that activity." Therefore, the Commission is required to raise matching funds, to include in-kind contributions that match each federal dollar provided. Further, NPS reviews the heritage area annual work plan and evaluates progress toward achieving the management plan goals.

ATCHAFALAYA TRACE HERITAGE AREA DEVELOPMENT ZONE REVIEW BOARD

The Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Development Zone Review Board was created by the state legislature as an agency of state government within the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Its purpose is to administer a pilot program that provides assistance to heritage-based cottage industry in the heritage area through a tax

incentive. The Commission provides direction on the tax incentive program which would be evaluated for effectiveness in 2012.

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF TOURISM

The Executive Director for the Heritage Area and the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area Development Zone Review Board (Review Board) are currently housed in the Louisiana Office of Tourism (LOT), a division of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. LOT provides the Director's compensation, benefits, travel expenses, office space, equipment and supplies, and limited administrative staff and marketing support, which fulfills the match requirement to the federal national heritage area funding. State and federal funding are distributed at different times of the year, which allows the heritage area to seamlessly implement the annual work plan for heritage area visitor-related services and products.

The Commission recognizes that the federal national heritage area funding has a limited timeframe and that planning for self-sufficiency needs to begin well ahead of time. During 2012, the Commission would develop a detailed plan to address funding needs, funding sources, and staffing and organizational development. Funding would be required for staff and overhead costs; ongoing commission programs, including marketing and outreach; commission directed projects such as signs; and for grants to partners for projects and programs.

ATCHAFALAYA TRACE COMMISSION/ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STAFF

Staff is needed to manage the daily activities and continuity required to implement the management plan. Staff would provide leadership, coordination, and foster partnerships for the heritage area. In

addition, it is important to network with heritage areas and National Park Service affiliates on industry challenges, trends and best practices.

Staffing needs may change over time in relation to work plans, goals, and financial constraints. Core skills needed on a day-to-day basis would include executive director, volunteer and partner coordination, administration, development and fundraising, tourism and marketing, conservator of natural history, conservator of cultural heritage, education and interpretation, economic and community development, and project management. It is anticipated that staff would fill several roles and that the overall staffing levels would reflect program needs and funding availability. Some roles or skills may be filled with volunteers or supplemented by other state agencies.

Other skill sets may be required on a less frequent basis, and may be met through contracts, an advisory board, partners, technical or student assistance. Skills needed less frequently would likely include: graphic

design, signage design, marketing and tourism development, planning and urban design, historical and archeological research, and other specialized skills needed on particular projects and programs.

It is important to assess staffing needs and resources as related to Management Plan goals and projects. A National Park Service evaluation process has been instituted that would measure whether the goals and objectives of the approved management plan have been achieved.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

To effectively implement this plan, the heritage area would continue to enhance its organizational capacity. While specific strategies and actions have been outlined in “Table 3: Implementation Matrix,” a number of other efforts would be required to continually build the organizational structure. Known organizational development needs are outlined in the table 2, below.

Table 2. Organizational Development Needs

<p>Advisory Board</p>	<p>The Commission may establish an advisory board to provide guidance on particular projects. An advisory board would fill the need for expert knowledge required on an infrequent basis and would make recommendations to the Commission. The advisory board could meet on an ad hoc basis. Expertise represented on an advisory board could include among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation Humanities/History/Folklife Ecology/Wildlife/Biology Education Conservation Tours/Tourism/Eco-tourism Major Industry Preservation Louisiana Museums Association Cultural Diversity Special Populations Fundraising Assistance
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Nonprofit Organization	The Commission anticipates developing a structured relationship with a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization to serve in the capacity of a "Friends" group. The nonprofit should have a mission complementary to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area mission. A cooperative agreement between the heritage area Commission and this group would clarify the roles of each organization. Some examples of ways in which the nonprofit might assist the heritage area are fundraising, volunteering, research, and outreach. Evaluation criteria would be developed by the Commission prior to sending out requests for qualifications seeking applicants to serve in such a role.
Fundraising	The Commission would establish a fundraising strategic plan. This plan would seek to create the financial foundation to implement the strategies and actions outlined in this plan. It would serve as a critical tool to promote financial self-sufficiency in alignment with National Heritage Area program requirements and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recommendations.
Grant Program	The Commission could establish a grant program to distribute funds to worthy projects and programs in support of the heritage area vision and goals. Grants could be established for projects involving preservation and conservation of natural and cultural heritage, interpretation and education, and development and marketing. Projects would be selected based on the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area principles of implementation and project selection criteria, as well as on grant-specific requirements. The grants program would require a matching cash or in-kind (non-cash) contribution. A grant-in-aid program may be established for projects related to conservation of resources threatened by natural disasters, catastrophic events, climate change, development, etc. Grant guidelines would be reviewed and updated by the Commission periodically.
Partnerships	The Commission would establish a standardized process to formalize partnerships as soon as possible. A key component would be to outline the recertification process for existing partners.
Public Engagement Strategy	The Commission would continue to comply with its legal obligation to conduct public meetings at least quarterly. In addition to these meetings, the Commission would continue to reach out to the public and stakeholders throughout implementation. Potential ways in which this would occur would be through website content updates, informational presentations and products, among others. Anticipated public engagement efforts would be included in the annual work plan based on each year's annual priorities.

USE OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA LOGO

The use of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area logo by primary and

secondary partners would be determined by the Commission.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

The Commission has identified a framework for implementing projects to meet the purpose and vision of the heritage area. This framework is organized around the four goals. The Commission would filter specific projects and actions through the following principles for implementation, project selection criteria, and best management practices. The Commission and staff would work toward meeting the goals of the heritage area by leading projects identified in the annual work plan, promoting the efforts of partners, and providing technical assistance. They could also assist the efforts of others by distributing funding through a grant program if this program is implemented. Priority would be given to strategies or actions that are specifically identified in the implementation matrix. In accordance with Commission bylaws, implementation principles and project criteria would be evaluated and updated as appropriate to ensure effective execution of this plan. Actions would primarily be accomplished in collaboration with partners.

PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Commission has identified five overarching principles to guide implementation of the management plan. These principles are intended to guide the Commission and partners in determining the specific projects included in the annual work plan and more long-term project planning needs in collaboration with partners. As implementation progresses, the Commission would review past successes and challenges and seek to build on previous accomplishments and efforts by continually identifying the projects that would be the most effective in meeting the heritage area’s vision and goals based on availability of resources and capacity. The Commission may choose to

initiate projects and/or support other entities in meeting heritage area goals.

These five principles are critical elements of any project the Commission initiates or supports.

1. Authenticity and Sense of Place

The alluvial bottomland and swamp habitat, built upon by the people who have inhabited the land, has evolved as a distinct place. While the place continues to evolve, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area’s identity should remain congruent with its physical characteristics. Priority would be given to projects that enhance the sense of place in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and/or contribute to protecting the cultural landscapes of the heritage area. A focus on authenticity strengthens communities for residents and makes lasting impressions on visitors.

2. Regional Impact

The beneficial impacts of the projects are felt in more than one localized area. Regional identity is built through the projects.

3. Connections

Projects should promote connections among sites, attractions, and resources within the heritage area. Projects connecting geographic locations through common themes, such as, water, food, music, dance, and language would be given priority.

4. Collaboration

It is important that project organizers be able to demonstrate a broad base of support and collaboration with other entities; including established partners; volunteers; individuals; federal, state, parish, and local governments; and private organizations, institutions, and businesses.

5. Consistency with branding statement and vision

Projects receiving ANHA support should be consistent with the foundation of the heritage area, including the brand and the vision for the heritage area.

PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria would help the Commission select projects that best meet the management plan's vision and goals. The criteria would be given equal weight in evaluating potential projects.

1. Consistency with and relevancy to plan goals and themes –

- Given limited resources, the Commission needs to focus on actions that achieves one or more of the management plan goals and are related to one or more of the interpretive themes. The project must demonstrate
- Progress toward attaining one or more of the heritage area goals
 - Accurate interpretation of one or more of the themes
 - A high degree of public support and community engagement
 - Compliance with federal and state law, environmental regulations, and regional and local planning and preservation guidelines
 - A high degree of quality and authenticity in its treatment of heritage resources
 - Embodiment of high standards of planning and design
 - A clear understanding of the resource significance, integrity, and existing condition as well as impacts of the project on any historic, cultural, or natural resources affected

2. Realistically achievable –

A project or program would be considered to be realistically achievable if it has the following characteristics

- Already planned, underway, approved and/or in need of additional funds, services, or attention to complete
- Proposed by an organization(s) that has demonstrated the ability to implement projects of similar scope or complexity.
- Existing ANHA staff or Commission capacity, expertise and/or interest in directly implementing the project
- Achievable in a reasonable time frame

3. Funding and local economic impact –

In order to make the most effective use of the Commission's available funding, the ability of the project, program, or organization to leverage or raise funds from other sources would be taken into account. Projects engaging local businesses, individuals or materials would advance heritage area goals to support sustainable economic development. Partners that propose projects should demonstrate

- An available funding stream that would make a significant contribution to overall funding needs
- The ability to leverage in-kind contributions, including volunteer commitments
- Plans to utilize services of local individuals and businesses
- Plans to employ traditional cultural skills and local materials

4. Visibility –

To ensure heritage area funds are used in ways that promote awareness of the heritage area, emphasis would be placed on projects or programs that

- Highlight the heritage area as a valuable partner
 - Demonstrate the ability to inspire participation by others
 - Need heritage area seed money to catalyze an important project
 - Provide a key investment for creating momentum for future projects
 - Reinforce heritage area awareness by creating area-wide systems or programs
 - Attract sustained public interest, local or regional participation
5. **Critical action –**
On an ad-hoc basis, projects or programs would be prioritized to respond to immediate needs that are not identified in the annual work plan or typical project review cycle. These needs could result from natural disasters, catastrophic events, or other crisis. Projects could be supported that
- Protect or restore threatened heritage area resources
 - Create immediate economic benefits to communities in crisis as a result of such events
6. **Equity/Distribution –**
Heritage area involvement in projects or programs would ensure that resources are equitably distributed throughout the heritage area and to a variety of organizations.

BEST PRACTICES TO BE FOLLOWED THROUGHOUT IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the strategies and actions described in this plan would seek to follow the most current best management practices related to heritage development, resource preservation (including climate change), interpretation, education, and visitor use. Best management practices and techniques

would include, but not be limited to the following:

- Decisions about projects potentially impacting natural resources would be based on scholarly research and scientific information, and in consultation with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, United States Army Corp of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and other agencies as appropriate. Specifically, projects would be sited to avoid sensitive habitats and minimize disturbance to threatened and endangered species.
- The Commission would work with all appropriate partners to identify key habitat areas for sensitive species and determining the level, if any, of access that should be provided to visitors in these areas. Access could range from permanent and/or seasonal closures, depending on the species, habitat type, and forage and breeding patterns, to providing limited access and low-impact recreational opportunities. A collaborative effort would ensure proper identification of these areas and a more appropriate determination of the level of access for visitors.
- The Commission would work with partners to encourage natural resource management that balances preservation and conservation needs with sustainable economic uses.
- Through partnerships, biologically diverse native communities would be protected and restored when and where appropriate.
- Management decisions about cultural resources would be based on scholarly research and scientific information and would be made in consultation with the Louisiana state historic preservation officer and associated ethnic groups, as appropriate. The historic integrity of properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places would be protected.

- The Commission would use partnerships to encourage university research, state and local agencies and organizations to support local efforts in completing archeological surveys, especially in areas threatened by development, coastal erosion or other man-made or natural threats.
- As the Commission continues to partner with museums, state folklife agencies, university researchers, and others involved in ethnography, strategies for preserving ethnographic resources and intangible cultural resources associated with the heritage area's folklife, traditional subsistence activities, and historic swamp resource exploitation could be developed and implemented.
- Whenever possible, adaptive use of historic structures would be encouraged. The Commission would work with local historic districts, the main streets program, historical societies, and the state historic preservation office to increase awareness of historic structures, and their value to the community, and to tell the stories of the heritage area. The Commission would encourage partners to consult the Louisiana Department of Cultural Preservation when implementing projects affecting historic buildings or in historic districts.
- The Commission would encourage partners to protect cultural landscapes and contributing features when implementing projects getting heritage area support. Further, the Commission would encourage university researchers and other to carry out additional inventories to identify cultural landscapes and resources potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Identify key resources and processes that are at risk from climate change.
- Establish baseline resource conditions, identify thresholds, and monitor for change.
- Assess, plan, and manage resources at multiple scales (i.e., site-specific and across the heritage area).
- Increase reliance on adaptive management to minimize risks to resources.
- Form partnerships with other resource management entities to maintain regional habitat connectivity and refugia that allow species dependent on park resources to better adapt to changing conditions.
- Use best management practices to reduce human-caused stresses (e.g., infrastructure and visitor-related disturbances) that hinder the ability of species or ecosystems to withstand climatic events.
- Restore key ecosystem features and processes to increase their resiliency to climate change.

Reduce or mitigate greenhouse gas emissions associated with operations at partner and affiliated sites and visitor use.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES/ACTIONS AND PHASING

In addition to applying the principles and criteria, implementation would be organized around the heritage area goals and objectives identified in the implementation matrix below. Although strategies and actions are organized according to specific time frames, the heritage area would capitalize on opportunities presented by partners and/or funding. Therefore, exact timing of strategies and actions could vary from the time frames included in table 3.

The following practices could assist in mitigating impacts of climate change:

The table is organized around the four goals. The objectives that support each goal are included along the left hand column and denoted by a roman numeral. Strategies and actions are organized across three periods of

time 1) initial actions that would begin by 2012, 2) mid-range actions (2013-2016), and 3) long-term actions (2017-2020).

Table 3. Implementation Matrix

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
Goal 1: Enhance interpretation and awareness of the heritage area’s key stories			
<p>I. Provide information and interpretive programs Information would be provided to visitors through a variety of means, including interpretive programs, and would be utilized to reach the greatest number of people traveling through and within the heritage area.</p>	<p>A. Continue to provide information to welcome centers B. Reprint regional maps C. Develop and print informational brochure highlighting heritage area themes D. Facilitate distribution of the “Voices of Atchafalaya” traveling exhibit E. Organize and promote Atchafalaya photography exhibit F. Develop standards and content for educational waysides and/or kiosks G. Evaluate opportunities and determine phasing for engaging partner sites and events on interpretation (using resource matrix)</p>	<p>1. Provide updated information and develop interpretive programs in state and regional welcome centers and other sites 2. Evaluate potential sites and work with partners to develop additional traveling and permanent exhibits throughout the NHA 3. Secure grant funding to develop additional exhibits 4. Reprint regional maps 5. Work with partners to identify locations for waysides and/or kiosks 6. Provide training to partners on heritage area themes and interpretation methods.</p>	<p>i. Expand interpretive programs with partners to include experiential learning related to themes ii. Establish a network of traveling exhibits iii. Work with partners to establish a quality exhibit in each parish iv. Reprint regional maps v. Install waysides and/or kiosks per plan vi. Promote educational waysides and/or kiosks through website, brochures or other means</p>
<p>II. Develop thematic links to resources There is a need to enhance interpretation and understanding of this unique place by linking stories to people, places, and events through history. Efforts would</p>	<p>A. Develop event calendar(s) that create thematic links to resources and post on website B. Continue to provide link to state tourism event calendar C. Research resources and activities to</p>	<p>1. Update event calendar(s) on website 2. Create brochures that link themes and resources 3. Consult with partners about additional itineraries such as cypress story trail, etc. 4. Develop itineraries and</p>	<p>i. Update event calendar(s) on website ii. Update initial itineraries iii. Develop music, food and other itineraries iv. Update and reprint brochures that link</p>

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
focus on methods to provide visitors and residents with information that can be tracked through time and across the heritage area.	develop itineraries	activities that illustrate resource themes and make available through various media 5. Partner to promote themes	themes and resources
<p>III. Work with partners to produce authentic events to share the heritage area stories</p> <p>The unique resources, stories, and experiences of this place would be highlighted during an event(s) that exemplifies the heritage area and collaboration across parish boundaries.</p>	<p>A. Continue to develop and support signature event Experience Atchafalaya Days</p>	<p>1. Evaluate variety and quality of interpretation at Experience Atchafalaya Days</p> <p>2. Identify opportunities and gaps in interpretation and develop strategy to fill gaps</p>	<p>i. Expand interpretation component focused on heritage area themes (at least one high quality interpretive event in each parish)</p> <p>ii. Ensure all themes are represented in signature event</p>
<p>IV. Provide educational outreach to residents and visitors</p> <p>Education is the key to understanding the uniqueness of this place. A major part of implementation would be to ensure that visitors, residents, students, and special populations are aware of the diversity of resources, people, places, and stories. Learning opportunities would be promoted in both formal and informal settings.</p>	<p>A. Promote field trip guide for K-12 that highlights history, culture and natural resources of the heritage area</p> <p>B. Maintain and update education content on website</p> <p>C. Promote and include prominent speakers as part of Experience Atchafalaya Days</p>	<p>1. Consult with state and local education departments about curriculum needs</p> <p>2. Develop K-12 curriculum regarding the heritage area culture, history and natural resources and promote within the state</p> <p>3. Explore opportunities for using technology – touch screens in visitor centers, etc.</p> <p>4. Work with partners to reach out and engage young people</p> <p>5. Research and assess ways to develop educational opportunities for special populations (i.e. People with disabilities, underserved populations, etc.)</p>	<p>i. Work with partners to provide online, interactive, and/or experiential activities for youth</p> <p>ii. Develop experiential learning program with educational partners</p> <p>iii. Implement targeted education and interpretation outreach and opportunities for specific populations (i.e. People with disabilities, underserved populations, etc.)</p>

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
<p>V. Develop and implement media and marketing strategy to increase awareness of the NHA’s national significance Raising awareness within the region first and then the country would require coordinated, strategic marketing. Effort would be focused on both traditional print media and new digital media.</p>	<p>A. Provide editorial and photography for Louisiana Tour Guide B. Maintain and update website C. Implement and expand branding campaign D. Continue to promote the NHA through presentations and other means</p>	<p>1. Provide editorial and photography to other media outlets 2. Work with partners (CVB, etc) to expand marketing within the region 3. Work with Tourism bureau and others to identify target visitor markets 4. Continue to promote the NHA through presentations and other means</p>	<p>i. Expand branding outside region based on targeted visitor markets ii. Continue to promote the NHA through presentations and other means</p>
<p>VI. Develop and implement visible presence of heritage area on roads and trails Visitors and residents would know when they enter and leave the heritage area and know that they are in a special place when traveling within the area.</p>	<p>A. Develop signage program B. Define sign standards and locations with DOTD</p>	<p>1. Install gateway, reassurance and community marker signs 2. Develop byways strategy 3. Work with LA Byways program and local partners to expand interpretation along designated byways</p>	<p>i. Continue implementing sign program (lower priority locations) ii. Work with partners to develop new byway(s) where appropriate</p>
Goal 2: Support Sustainable Cultural Economic Development Opportunities in the Heritage Area			
<p>I. Support entrepreneurship that reflects the region’s culture and environment. A key to this special place is the people that live and work here. Efforts would be made to ensure that culturally appropriate businesses, new and old, are able to exist and thrive</p>	<p>A. Continue to promote the Atchafalaya Development Zone Tax Credit Program B. Update and reprint the tax credit brochure C. Promote a variety of tax credit programs on NHA website</p>	<p>1. Support local independent business partnerships 2. Work with partners to develop a guide book listing area artisans and culturally appropriate businesses 3. Promote existing ecotourism and cultural tourism opportunities 4. Research grants and other funding opportunities to support culturally</p>	<p>i. Work with partners to develop and promote new ecotourism and cultural tourism opportunities, such as the Certified Louisiana Product Program iii. Provide clearing house of grants and other funding opportunities to support artisans and culturally appropriate businesses</p>

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
		<p>appropriate businesses</p> <p>5. Develop resource workshop series for artisans and small businesses</p>	
<p>II. Support efforts to generate longer visitor involvement and resident interest in the area. Efforts would be directed at providing visitors with opportunities that make them want to continue to learn about and explore America’s foreign country.</p>	<p>A. Enhance programming at existing visitor facilities</p> <p>B. Recruit heritage-based entrepreneurs for Experience Atchafalaya Days and use the event as a platform to showcase the heritage area</p>	<p>1. Promote events through website links and other media</p> <p>2. Promote itineraries and events through website links and other media</p> <p>3. Research specific area of tourism supply/demand such as lodging or expand welcome center visitor survey</p>	<p>i. Evaluate seasonality, regional distribution and variety of events</p> <p>ii. Work with partners to fill gaps in event distribution and type</p> <p>iii. Research visitor interests/gap analysis</p> <p>iv. Evaluate partnering to perform overall market study of tourism needs</p>
<p>III. Support partner efforts to encourage sustainable economic development (adaptive reuse of buildings, local food sources, other) Economic development efforts would be focused on businesses and activities that do not degrade this area’s history, culture, or resources and promote and enhance quality of life and visitor opportunities.</p>	<p>A. Continue tax credit program to sustain local businesses</p>	<p>1. Support and promote local policies and efforts that promote sustainable economic development (LA Cultural districts, Terrebonne wetlands protection, historic districts, Main Streets program, “Certified Product of Louisiana”)</p>	<p>i. Develop programs offering economic opportunities to retain youth</p> <p>ii. Promote existing regulations supporting protection and sustainable use of resources</p>

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
Goal 3: Increase appreciation for cultural resources.			
<p>I. Support partner efforts to identify and protect tangible resources (i.e. cultural landscapes, archaeological resources, historic structures, etc.). The evolution of the interplay of tangible natural and cultural resources makes this place special. Efforts would be focused on understanding of and protection for these unique resources.</p>	<p>A. Provide cultural landscape assessment to SHPO and local preservation organizations</p> <p>B. Highlight NHA Listings within heritage area communities</p> <p>C. Work with partners to continue the production of a signature event or events that educate about the heritage area's history and culture (i.e. Continue Experience Atchafalaya Days)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with partners to address threats identified in cultural landscape assessment 2. Work with partners and researchers to identify and encourage protection of archeological sites 3. Work with partners to explore opportunities for developing additional ancient mounds driving and/or paddling trails. 4. Consult with preservation advocacy groups on existing programs and funding sources 5. Provide education on preservation zoning and share best practices across the heritage area 6. Work with partners to promote awareness of preservation practices through workshops and/or website, etc. 7. Establish criteria for partner sites. 8. Develop the <i>Passport to Your National Parks</i> Program 9. Provide education and interpretation at recreational sites to increase understanding of cultural and historic resources (this could include waysides and/or kiosks) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Work with partners to expand research of the cultural landscapes in the heritage area ii. Identify and prioritize threats to other cultural landscapes (beyond the first report in the Management Plan) iii. Expand cultural and ethnographic associations to archeological sites, cultural landscapes and historic structures (link resources to themes) iv. Consult with preservation experts on appropriate uses of available historic buildings v. Create cultural and historic preservation projects as part of Experience Atchafalaya Days, immersion programs, or other signature event (one per region) vi. Implement the <i>Passport to Your National Parks</i> Program

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
<p>II. Support continuation and appreciation of intangible resources (i.e. cultural traditions (music, food), skills, and language and knowledge of preservation practices)</p> <p>Cultural traditions in the Atchafalaya are diverse and integral to people's way of life. Efforts would be focused on raising awareness of these traditions and providing for their continuation.</p>	<p>A. Promote festivals on NHA website through links to state and parish websites to encourage continuation of cultural traditions – music, dance, traditional foods</p> <p>B. Work with partners to continue the production of a signature event to share the heritage area's cultural traditions (i.e. Continue Experience Atchafalaya Days)</p> <p>C. Assess gaps in folklife database, which includes ethnographic research and cultural traditions</p>	<p>1. Provide education and interpretation at /about traditional cultural activities to increase understanding and appreciation of cultural traditions</p> <p>2. Determine appropriate locations to implement the <i>Passport to Your National Parks</i> Program</p> <p>3. Evaluate traditional cultural experiences at Experience Atchafalaya Days or other signature event</p> <p>4. Identify opportunities and gaps in traditional cultural experiences and develop strategy to fill gaps</p> <p>5. Develop strategies for filling identified gaps in the folklife database</p>	<p>i. Expand traditional cultural experiences (at least one high quality event in each parish)</p> <p>ii. Create traditional cultural learning projects as part of Experience Atchafalaya Days or other signature event (one per region)</p> <p>iii. Implement strategies to fill identified gaps in the folklife database</p> <p>iv. Implement strategies to transfer cultural knowledge and skills to the next generation</p>
Goal 4: Increase appreciation for natural resources.			
<p>I. Support partner efforts to identify and protect natural resources (including water quality, water flow, wetlands, wildlife, vegetation)</p> <p>The interplay of tangible natural and cultural resources makes this place special. Efforts would be focused on understanding and protection of these unique resources.</p>	<p>A. Continue providing information on public lands and natural resources on website</p>	<p>1. Work with partners to provide education about threats to natural resources</p> <p>2. Work with partners and researchers to identify and encourage protection of threatened resources/species</p>	<p>i. Implement experiential learning opportunities and/or immersion experiences, such as a citizen science program</p>

	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
<p>II. Partner to provide outdoor recreation experiences that increase appreciation of the natural resources and knowledge of conservation practices Opportunities to experience this place abound. Understanding of this place is enhanced by traveling through it; it is a place that must be seen, felt, smelled, tasted and heard. Efforts would be focused on enhancing existing recreational opportunities and developing new ones.</p>	<p>A. Continue providing information on outdoor recreation locations and events on website B. Identify existing recreation opportunities and perform gap analysis for birding and paddling (for example)</p>	<p>1. Promote existing birding and paddling opportunities 2. Promote existing recreational opportunities and perform gap analysis for additional recreational activities (beyond birding and paddling) 3. Provide education and interpretation at recreational sites to increase understanding of natural resources and processes 4. Work with partners to identify and enhance links between natural resources and traditional recreational opportunities</p>	<p>i. With partners, develop new and enhance existing birding opportunities throughout the area ii. With Partners, develop new and enhance existing recreational (biking, boardwalks, etc) opportunities throughout the area iii. Continue to identify and enhance links between natural resources and traditional recreational opportunities</p>
<p>III. Support improvement of infrastructure and services to enhance recreational access to natural resource Recreational opportunities are enhanced through improved access and understanding of the area. Efforts would focus on raising awareness of existing opportunities and expanding new ones.</p>	<p>A. Identify existing trails, paddle trails, fishing access and recreation opportunities and perform gap analysis B. Partner with RTCA and others on Bayou Teche Trail</p>	<p>1. Develop heritage area priorities for recreational access and services and identify partners and funding sources 2. Provide consistent message on recreation access to other entities (USACE, ABP, SCORP) that can build infrastructure</p>	<p>i. Partner to increase recreational access to natural resources ii. Coordinate similar outdoor activities and access across the 14 parishes to reach out to niche markets</p>

<p>IV. Work with partners to produce a signature event or events that raise awareness of the heritage area's natural resources and recreational opportunities</p>	<p>A. Continue to support Experience Atchafalaya Days</p>	<p>1. Evaluate natural resources and recreational experiences at Experience Atchafalaya Days</p> <p>2. Identify opportunities and gaps and develop strategy to fill gaps</p>	<p>i. Expand outdoor recreation experiences (at least one high quality experience in each parish)</p> <p>ii. Create natural resources conservation experiences (one per region)</p>
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PARTNERS AND RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

INTRODUCTION

Implementation of the strategies and actions outlined in the implementation matrix above would require the support of partners, including public agencies, private organizations, and individuals. This support would likely come in many forms, including technical assistance, in-kind donations in the form of labor hours, etc. and funding. Partnerships enhance the heritage area's ability to achieve its goals and attract a greater public constituency with a wide range of backgrounds and values. Collaboration among organizations across the heritage area strengthens connections among parishes and reinforces the values of shared cultural and natural heritage throughout the heritage area.

The Commission would continue developing relationships with a wide variety of groups and individuals throughout implementation; including government agencies and representatives at the federal, state, and local levels, educational institutions, private sector organizations, individuals, civic groups, and nonprofit organizations.

Key partners include the National Park Service and the State of Louisiana, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. National Park Service involvement would be through both the National Heritage Area program and the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve units.

Formal partnerships would continue to be developed with partners who have goals that are complimentary to those of the heritage area. Informal partnerships would continue to be developed, especially when they are formed for a shorter period of time or with limited scope.

The heritage area management would work to ensure that partnership opportunities are inclusive and participation is free. There is value in formal partnership to both the heritage area and collaborating organizations.

Advantages of formal partnerships for the heritage area: Partners would be responsible for advancing the vision and goals of the heritage area in a high quality and authentic manner. Training for partners would promote a common understanding of what the heritage area intends to achieve.

Advantages of formal partnerships for organizations and attractions: Partners would be permitted additional participation and inclusion in marketing programs, including logo use, and priority access to financial and technical assistance.

Partner roles and responsibilities: While there would be no fee to become a formal partner, there would be commitments regarding heritage development and programming. Partners would pledge to

- Advance the vision, goals, and themes of the heritage area,
- Seek to educate and inform visitors about the vision, goals, and themes of the heritage area,
- Assure a high level of authenticity and quality in programs and projects
- Share information with heritage area staff when appropriate about their heritage development efforts
- Protect resources and educate the public about protection of resources
- Apply for formal partnership status and recertify as required by the heritage area

An additional role that partners could take would be to contribute to the work of the heritage area with monetary or in-kind contributions. These contributions might be targeted toward a specific strategy or project or be a general contribution to the work of the heritage area. The list of potential partners that the heritage area could work with is very long; only a few existing and potential partners are highlighted here. The heritage area would continue to enhance the number of partners it collaborates with on an ongoing basis. This section highlights some of the partners that would play key roles in meeting one or more of the goals of the heritage area. The partners are broken down into the following categories: federal, state, local, and other. Partner plans and goals are listed where known, as well as how the heritage area managers plan to work with the other plans.

FEDERAL PARTNERS

National Park Service, National Heritage Area Program

The National Park Service (NPS) provides technical, planning, and limited financial assistance to national heritage areas through its National Heritage Area Program.

However, the Atchafalaya Trace

Commission in cooperation, with partners and the public, has ultimate responsibility for implementing the management plan. The National Park Service provides assistance to the heritage area in the following ways:

- National promotion opportunities through special initiatives such as the 2011CW-150 Civil War Sesquicentennial promotion in which the Park Service promoted Civil War related events and activities occurring in national heritage areas through brochures, web sites, and other means.
- Referral to resources such as funding opportunities and webinars.

In addition to technical assistance and limited financial assistance from the NPS National Heritage Area program, the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve units would continue to be key partners for the heritage area.

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve

Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve consists of six physically separate sites. The park headquarters and visitor center is located in New Orleans, Louisiana. The visitor center interprets the history of New Orleans and the diverse cultures of Louisiana's Mississippi Delta region. Three park sites are located within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and interpret the Acadian culture of the area. These sites would be the primary heritage area partners. Staffs of the Jean Lafitte centers and the heritage area work together already, including web site cross-promotion of events; in the future, they plan to partner on events.

- **The Acadian Cultural Center – Lafayette, LA**

This center tells stories of the origins, migration, settlement, and contemporary culture of the Acadians (Cajuns) and other area groups. Ranger programs, films, exhibits, and events share a variety of local traditions including music, story-telling, dance, and food, and explore the mysteries of the Atchafalaya Basin, Louisiana's wildest place.

- **Prairie Acadian Cultural Center – Eunice, LA**

This center provides visitors with the opportunity to discover the life of Louisiana's prairie Cajuns through ranger programs, exhibits, artifacts, and films.

- **Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center – Thibodaux, LA**

The center interprets the lives of the Acadians (Cajuns) and others

whose travels brought them to Louisiana's bayous. Recreation, clothing, home furnishings, religion, cuisine, and fishing are explored through exhibits, artifacts, videos, and films. A 200-seat theater is used for productions by the Thibodaux Playhouse, Inc., and other programs.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is expected to complete an environmental impact statement for a recreation program in the Atchafalaya Basin floodway system early in 2011. The main components of this recreation program are primitive campsites, destination campsites, boat ramps, trails, etc. The plan includes boat launches for Myette point, Krotz Springs, Butte La Rose, Bayou Pigeon; and Bayou Sorrel; the Simmesport boat launch has been completed (USACE 1982a).

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area commission would seek to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to implement projects that enhance recreation opportunities in the heritage area. This partnership would seek to more effectively and efficiently implement new campsites, boat ramps, and trails for public use and enjoyment. The heritage area and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers exchange information about the progress of these projects, input at public meetings, and other issues. Additional ways in which the two might work together is coordinating the dispersal of information to visitors about new facilities through signage, brochures, and web site promotion. A few details about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' environmental impact statement and proposed program are included below.

Feasibility Study. Main Report and Environmental Impact Statement. Vol. 3. Appendix F (Recreation Resource 1982)

As a result of the 1927 flood, Congress passed the Flood Control Act of 1928, which directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

to develop and implement a plan to prevent further damage and loss of life from future floods. The result has been the development of a comprehensive flood protection project, called the Mississippi River & Tributaries Project (MR&T Project) for the alluvial valley of the Mississippi River.

The Atchafalaya Basin floodway system is a major feature of the project and the reporting officer recommended modifications to the MR&T Project that included recreational development improvements for about 1,500 acres (excluding minerals) in the Basin. Appendix F of the study analyzes and assesses existing and potential recreational resources and area needs. It provides a rationale for the creation of a recreational plan of development for the area that is compatible with related planning goals. The study recommended the following uses and related acreage per use in order to accommodate and support additional access and public use (primarily by boat) of the basin as well as to protect and interpret significant environmental and cultural resources:

- 3 developed campgrounds (600 acres)
- 7 primitive campgrounds (350 acres)
- 1 project visitor center (100 acres) near Bayou Sorrel Indian Mound Site
- 8 boat launching ramps-2 lanes (80 acres); 5 would be upgrades
- 7 boat launching ramps-5 lanes (70 acres); 5 would be upgrades
- 1 nature-interpretive trail (100 acres)
- Special and unique areas (200 acres).

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of the Interior, and U.S. Department of Commerce

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (Public Law 101-646, Title III—CWPPRA) was enacted and signed into law on November 29, 1990. The Act directed that a task force consisting of

representatives of five federal agencies and the state of Louisiana develop a “comprehensive approach to restore and prevent the loss of coastal wetlands in Louisiana.” In order to ensure a comprehensive approach, coastal restoration and management activities must address not only past human development and natural degradation processes but also ongoing human development in the coastal zone under the provisions of CWPPRA. The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources Coastal Management Division pursuant to CWPPRA developed the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan (2009) to address the possible losses attributable to human activities and construction and achieve the goal of “no net loss” of coastal Louisiana’s valuable wetlands. (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources 2009b) The ANHA supports the restoration efforts of CWPPRA and serves in a communications facilitator role among groups with overlapping missions.

STATE PARTNERS

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT)

Louisiana CRT houses the Atchafalaya Trace Commission and includes many offices, including the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Office of Tourism, Office of State Parks, Louisiana State Museum, the State Library of Louisiana, and the Office of Cultural Development. Each office has a unique function and mission that is intricately intertwined with that of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. These offices work to enhance tourism in the state, manage state parks, museums and libraries, as well as enhance cultural development within the state of Louisiana. CRT has also provided the funds to match federal dollars distributed through the National Heritage Area program. Events and sites are marketed together on the State Tourism Office website www.louisianatravel.com, video, and other marketing materials.

The Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism has a number of goals, which align with the goals of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. These goals include rebuilding Louisiana to worldwide preeminence as a top tourism destination, making the state’s cultural economy the engine of economic and social rebirth, building better lives and livelihoods than before for all Louisiana’s people, and making Louisiana’s recovery the standard for high performance, accountability, and ethical behavior.

Office of Cultural Development, Agency Goals

The Office of Cultural Development strives to increase preservation and protective efforts of the state’s cultural resources and positively impact Louisiana’s economy through the development of those resources. The office includes a number of divisions and programs, including 1) Division of Archaeology 2) Division of the Arts 3) Division of Historic Preservation (including the Main Street Program) 4) Louisiana Cultural Districts, and 5) The Council for the Development of French in Louisiana (CODOFIL). The goals of the Office of Cultural Development include the following:

- Increase preservation and protective efforts of the state’s cultural resources.
- Ensure that every citizen of and visitor to the state of Louisiana will have access to quality arts programming.
- Assist the Council for the Development of French in Louisiana in its efforts to develop, utilize, and preserve the French language.

The office has developed the following objectives to be achieved by 2013:

- Survey 60% of the state’s parishes to identify historic properties.
- Improve management of the record of the state’s archaeological resources and assets by providing online availability of 100% of the site forms and by curating 100% of the

artifact collection to state and federal standards.

- Assist in the restoration of 900 historic properties.
- Increase promotion and awareness of Louisiana’s archaeological heritage through the regional and station archeology programs by conducting 25 interpretive projects between 2008 and 2013.
- Provide approximately 100,000 citizens with information about archeology between 2008 and 2013.
- Create 1,000 new jobs by recruiting new businesses and supporting existing businesses in designated Main Street historic districts between 2008 and 2013.
- Review 100% of the federally funded, licensed, or permitted projects submitted to assess their potential impact on historic and archaeological resources.
- Recruit and administer Foreign Associate Teachers from France, Canada, Belgium and other Francophone nations annually.
- Enable Louisiana teachers and students of French to study French abroad each year.

The Louisiana Division of the Arts within the Office of Cultural Development also has specific goals that are complementary to the heritage area plan:

- The Louisiana Division of the Arts will increase the number of Louisiana citizens and visitors participating in and experiencing arts and cultural activities.
- The Louisiana Division of the Arts will provide meaningful support for the state’s emerging and established arts organizations and will advance a public environment that recognizes and assists Louisiana artists as valuable state resources.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and the Office of Cultural Development will partner in numerous ways. Some examples of this are 1) building the Folklife Program database of tradition-bearers and research; 2) collaborating on interpretive projects; 3) promoting tax incentives of the Louisiana Cultural Districts, a program that promotes community revitalization through cultural activity; 4) working with the Divisions of Historic Preservation and Archaeology to facilitate projects in the 14 heritage area parishes; 5) working with the Main Street Program to promote the “Louisiana Main to Main: A Cultural Road Show,” which showcases the state’s culture, commerce, history, and abundance of natural assets.

Office of Tourism

The Office of Tourism manages the state’s welcome centers among many other efforts. The heritage area would continue to operate its existing interpretive exhibit and distribute information at the Atchafalaya Welcome Center on Interstate 10 near Breaux Bridge, the Capitol Park Welcome Center in Baton Rouge, and the U.S. 84 Welcome Center in Vidalia. All state welcome centers are open Monday through Sunday, excluding major holidays.

Agency Goals

- The Office of Tourism will increase the economic impact of travel on Louisiana by 2013.
- The Office of Tourism will increase the awareness of Louisiana as a travel destination by 2013.

The tourism office’s strategic plan outlines a number of programs and related objectives to reach the office’s two goals by 2013. Highlights of specific program objectives associated with reaching the aforementioned goals include the following:

- Increasing visitor spending by 20% (from \$8.1 billion in 2005 to \$9.7 billion in 2013) through the use of best practices, innovative solutions, advertising, agency coordination,

and tourism website improvements, among others.

- Increase the number of visitors to Louisiana by 40% (from 18.7 million 2005 to 26.4 million in 2013) through the development of a master plan for marketing tourism, exploring new and emerging markets, continuing ongoing support for new events, attractions and special events within Louisiana, targeting minority visitors, marketing coordination with convention and visitor bureaus, keeping brochures and marketing materials updated, encouraging longer overnight visits, targeting outdoor recreation markets, coordinating the designation of scenic byways, developing value added products from scenic byway systems and scenic byway advertising, as well as continuing to support the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.
- Increase the number of jobs within the Louisiana tourism industry by 20% (from 110,000 in 2005 to 132,000 in 2013) through the creation of a product development program (includes local community assessments), establishing standards with a common vocabulary and develop programs to educate attraction operators about Louisiana travel opportunities, collaboration with local communities to prepare employees for business opportunities and attract visitors interested in Louisiana tourism activities, host seminars and develop training materials for local governments and convention and visitor bureaus to ensure consistent messaging, and continue administering and monitoring the Atchafalaya Trace Heritage Area tax credit program.
- Increase the number of visitors to Louisiana's welcome centers by 25% (from 1.257 million in FY2005/2006

to 1.570 million in FY 2012/2013) and maintain the average length of stay by welcome center visitors at 2.0 nights during the same time period. This is to be accomplished through renovating all existing centers by 2010, working with Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to provide 24-hour security officers at all interstate rest areas that have a welcome center, and considering advertising on billboards on out-of-state interstate highways. In addition, maintaining the length of stay is to be accomplished by providing additional visitor information through wireless portals and interpretive kiosks by 2010, maintaining adequate supplies of brochures, and providing promotional support to local convention and visitor bureaus in the area of welcome centers, among others.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Commission would continue to partner and work closely with the other offices in the department to meet their goals. These goals include increasing visitation; preserving and protecting cultural resources, including the French language; and enhancing interpretation and the economic impact of travel in the state. The efforts of the Commission would complement these goals; thus maintaining and enhancing this partnership would serve to meet shared goals and interests.

Louisiana State Museum

The Louisiana State Museum operates in multiple locations, including three within the heritage area.

- The Louisiana State Museum-Baton Rouge features thematic exhibits on the diverse aspects of Louisiana history, industry and culture and has two permanent exhibitions entitled Grounds for Greatness: Louisiana and the Nation, and Experiencing

Louisiana: Discovering the Soul of America. Admission is free and the museum operates Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. It is closed on Sunday, Monday, and state holidays.

- The Louisiana State Museum-Patterson is the official state aviation and cypress sawmill industry museum. The history of the cypress lumber industry in Louisiana is documented in the Patterson Cypress Sawmill Collection. This industry has influenced the Atchafalaya area and is a component of the heritage area's interpretive themes. Admission is free and hours of operation are from 9:30 am – 4:00 pm Tuesday - Saturday. The museum is closed on Mondays and public holidays.
- The E.D. White Historic Site, a National Historic Landmark, includes an exhibit, which tells the story of the Bayou Lafourche area. This exhibit includes sections on the Chitimacha Indians, Acadian settlers, sugarcane plantations, slavery and the White family. Admission to the site is free and hours are from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm from Tuesday through Saturday, except major holidays.

The Louisiana State Museum provided the heritage area with a traveling exhibit, which the heritage area successfully placed in 10 locations. The museum is also currently assisting the heritage area with curriculum development.

Louisiana Byways Program

Louisiana Scenic Byways are designated by the National Scenic Byways Program and recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, but are under the direction of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. The mission of the Louisiana Byways Program is to preserve, enhance, and promote the program. Its goal is to brand Louisiana Scenic Byways as a

“premier traveling experience,” which builds awareness and expands economic opportunity and strengthens place.

The heritage area would expect to work closely with this program through the exchange of regional cultural information and exploring joint interpretation opportunities.

Office of State Parks

The Office of State Parks manages the state's parks and historic sites. The parks have been carefully chosen for their outstanding recreation potential. State parks offer opportunities to hike, fish, bike, and bird watch, among others. State parks and historic sites within or adjacent to the heritage area include Lake Fausse Point State Park, which is currently closed for repairs; Chicot State Park; and Cypremort Point State Park; Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site; and Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site.

Division of Outdoor Recreation

The state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (outlined below) is an important statewide decision making policy level plan, which was prepared for the Division of Outdoor Recreation. It serves as the state's decision-making guidance for developing outdoor recreation resources over the next five years. The heritage area would utilize this plan in collaborating with partners to provide outdoor recreation experiences that increase appreciation of the natural resources and knowledge of conservation practices.

The *State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) (2009-2013)* (SCORP) is a policy level plan that provides decision-making guidance for the development and management of Louisiana's outdoor recreation resources over the next five years. The plan is also a federal requirement to acquire federal funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It identifies the state's outdoor recreational needs, goals, and strategies to efficiently coordinate the efforts of the many stakeholders involved in

recreation throughout the state. For the state as a whole, the plan identifies the top ten outdoor recreational activities determined by relative importance from a survey of households. The top three were 1) fishing/crabbing, 2) running/ jogging, and 3) campground camping. The survey also showed that residents place high importance on visiting natural areas. A few other interesting findings from the household survey include the following:

- Most state residents receive recreation information by word of mouth (78.4%)
- Residents enjoy driving for pleasure or scenic drives and most drive to natural sites within the state (60.5%)
- Residents visit public recreation places to create memories (56.1%) and to have unique experiences (41.1%)
- Residents' participation in outdoor recreation is limited by lack of information (31.0%), facility distance (26.3%), and a general lack of facilities (24.5%)
- Preferred improvements of outdoor recreation include the following:
 - Additional facilities for a wider variety of activities (37.4%)
 - Promotion/more information (34.6%)
 - More public land (35.6%)
 - Closer facilities (32.2%)
- Most active participants in outdoor recreational activities are children

The state's top recreational priorities over the next five years are economic tourism, innovation (activities that inspire diverse ages and abilities), community outdoor recreation, trails, and cooperation/ coordination among agencies to avoid service duplication. The plan summarizes the recreational facilities and services provided by federal, state, local/parish, and commercial and nonprofit agencies and

organizations. It also highlights the types of recreational activities, popular places for visitor use, and important community activities as determined through a survey distributed to municipal and parish officials and members of the Louisiana Recreation and Park Association.

Of interest in relationship to the national heritage area is that recreational providers identified local sites and parks as the most popular places for visitor and resident use, followed by cultural and historical sites, trails, and waterfronts (Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism 2009).

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area would seek to partner and coordinate with the state, parishes, local governments, and organizations to enhance and raise awareness of recreational opportunities in the heritage area, furthering the key priorities identified in this plan.

Louisiana Bicentennial Commission

The Louisiana Bicentennial Commission was created and established in the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism by an act passed by the Louisiana legislature. It was created to mark the 200th anniversary of Louisiana's attainment of statehood as the 18th state in the Union April 30th, 1812. Through both education and celebration, the Commission's goal is to commemorate the state's bicentennial in every corner of the state.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources

When the federal government expanded its focus in the Atchafalaya through legislation beyond flood control and water navigation, to include public access, acquisition of environmental easements, water management projects, and recreational opportunities in the Atchafalaya Basin, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LDNR) was named the lead state agency in the development of a plan to protect and develop the Atchafalaya Basin as directed by

Congress, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Louisiana legislature created the Atchafalaya Basin Program and its advisory Research and Promotion Board in 1998 and in 1999, the Louisiana Legislature empowered the Atchafalaya Basin Program to act on behalf of the State to implement and manage a comprehensive State Master Plan for the Atchafalaya Basin. The program staff meets regularly with USACE representatives about efforts in the Basin and the program also works in cooperation with partners to advance conservation, restoration, recreation, and enhancement projects in the Basin.

With assistance from Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, LDNR recently submitted a grant application to the LA Recreational Trails Program for the construction of a trail adjacent to the Atchafalaya State Welcome Center. The trail would interpret the natural swamp habitat (wildlife and forestry) with careful access to the natural resources. The Boy Scouts of America will participate in maintenance of the site; the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area would help with interpretive signage. The grant met first-round approval and due diligence is in process.

State Department of Natural Resources Atchafalaya Basin Program

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (LA-DNR) Atchafalaya Basin Program was created to conserve, restore, and enhance the natural habitat of the Basin. In 1986, Congress authorized \$250 million to preserve and enhance the Basin through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by expanding public access, environmental easements, water management, and recreation. In 1999, the Louisiana Legislature voted unanimously for the *State Master Plan of the Atchafalaya Basin* (Act 920), authorizing \$85 million to be spent over a 15 year period, in order to match the federal dollars.

Over the years, the Atchafalaya Basin Program has also entered into agreements with the USACE, Basin parishes, area towns

and cities, the Atchafalaya Basin Levee District and several state agencies involved in the Basin Program to advance conservation, restoration, recreation, and enhancement projects. These state agencies include Agriculture and Forestry; Culture, Recreation and Tourism; Environmental Quality; Health and Hospitals; Natural Resources; Transportation and Development; Wildlife and Fisheries; and the State Land Office.

The current (2012) Atchafalaya Basin Plan includes a number of funded and proposed water quality/water management improvements and 5 boat launches that are proposed for funding.

The ANHA and the Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) already partner on several initiatives. The ABP constructed the Atchafalaya Welcome Center, and continues to be involved with the ANHA on various projects there: Experience Atchafalaya Days demonstrations are one example. The two programs collaborated on a recreational trails grant for a wetland trail at the Atchafalaya Welcome Center. The trail will provide a learning experience utilizing the natural resources. The two programs frequently appear together at events to educate the public on their roles in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

More information can be found at <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/atchafalaya/>. (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, 2009a, and 2012a)

State Department of Natural Resources Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan

In 2002, Congress directed the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) “for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine areas that have significant conservation, recreation, ecological, historical, or aesthetic values, or that are threatened by conversion from their natural or recreational state to other uses.” (The Department of Commerce, Justice, and

State Appropriations Act of 2002, Public Law 107-77)

The Louisiana Department of Natural Resources was the lead agency for the state of Louisiana's coastal management program and in 2008, developed a draft *Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program Plan* (CELCP), which is currently under review. This program is now housed in the Governor's Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration.

The CELCP will work to establish land conservation needs and projects in order to aid in efforts to protect and conserve habitats that provide environmental, historical, aesthetic, and recreational benefits for the public. Of the 30 parishes included in the CELCP area, 9 of them are also within the boundary of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Iberia, Iberville, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, and West Baton Rouge. (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources 2009b)

Further, the 2012 plan includes a science-based decision making process and the following goals:

- Reduce economic losses from storm-based flooding
- Promote a sustainable coastal ecosystem by harnessing natural system processes
- Provide habitats suitable to support an array of commercial and recreational activities coast-wide
- Sustain Louisiana's unique heritage and culture

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area supports the work of CELCP and can promote awareness of the Tax Credit program through CELCP.

A Cultural Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been created; currently this committee includes three cultural specialists

and there may be opportunity for including NHA personnel on the TAC in the future.

More information can be found at <http://www.coastal.la.gov>. (Louisiana Department of Natural Resources 2012b).

State Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) *Wildlife Action Plan* (2005) was developed for the purpose of designing a blueprint to guide LDWF in the development of management actions for Louisiana's fish and wildlife species with emphasis on species of conservation concern and the associated habitats on which they depend. The goals of this plan are species conservation, habitat conservation, public outreach and education, and the development of new and existing partnerships. More information can be found at <http://www.wlf.state.la.us/>. The heritage area would work with LDWF when appropriate to meet shared goals and interests. An example might be to work with the Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design) program to enhance this program's work to assist learners of any age in developing awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment to result in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment upon which all life depends.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

This department's mission is to promote, protect and advance agriculture and forestry, and soil and water resources. The Market Development Division administers the department's Certified Logo Program for Louisiana agricultural products. Louisiana food producers are encouraged to include the following logos on the labels and packages of products grown, processed or packaged in Louisiana: "Certified Product of Louisiana," "Certified Cajun Product of Louisiana," or "Certified Creole Product of Louisiana." The heritage area would work

with the department as appropriate to meet shared goals and interests.

LOCAL PARTNERS

The list of local partners includes each of the fourteen parish governments and municipal governments in each parish. The heritage area would continue to work closely with parish welcome centers, as well as parish convention and visitor bureaus to help with promotions and tourism product development. Other local partners could include local libraries and school districts.

OTHER PARTNERS

There are a variety of additional partners, many with whom relationships have been established because their missions complement the mission of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Friends of the Atchafalaya

The Friends of the Atchafalaya is a private non-profit organization and not part of a state department, agency, or office. The heritage area has partnered with this organization for the past two years to develop programming and activities for *Experience Atchafalaya Days*. This partnership is expected to continue to produce this month long event every October. See chapter 1 for additional details on this signature event which highlights the ANHA resources.

Local Museums. There are numerous local museums that the heritage area could partner with to help meet its goals. An example would be the Acadian Memorial in St. Martinville. This museum “honors the 3,000 men, women and children who found refuge in Louisiana after British forces exiled them from Acadie, their homeland on the Atlantic Coast of Canada, in the mid-18th century.”

National Audubon Society, Inc.

The Audubon’s mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth’s biological diversity. The organization has been a stakeholder in Louisiana for more than 75 years and the Audubon Society’s Gulf Coast Initiative has participated in and assisted with *Experience Atchafalaya Days*.

Bayou Teche Paddle Trail Partners

There are many partners, including the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, that are collaborating on the planning effort for the Bayou Teche Paddle Trail. These partners include The Acadiana Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Center for Cultural and Eco-Tourism, The TECHE Project, the National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, as well as municipalities and parishes. The project has an educational component that addresses litter abatement, pollution, and habitat protection. The project is expected to also address water quality, conservation, and recreation opportunities along the 130-mile waterway. Bayou Teche is utilized by local paddling clubs, 4H groups, Boy Scouts and local schools, and there is already a successful annual paddling race attended by visitors from across the United States.

Louisiana State University Agricultural Center

The center’s mission is to provide the people of Louisiana with research-based educational information that will improve their lives and economic well-being. The center is planning paddling trails in the Northern part of the state, which are expected to eventually merge with trails in the northern portion of the heritage area. The center is assisting with planning for the Bayou Teche Paddle Trail by providing information about their paddling trail planning efforts.

Louisiana Travel and Promotion Association (LTPA)

LTPA is a private, non-profit, membership trade association that leads the private sector growth of the Louisiana Tourism Economy. This organization produces an annual,

statewide Tourism Summit and the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is assisting the Conference Planning Committee with the inclusion of a “Green Visitor Experience” track at the 2012 conference.

HISTORIC AND FUTURE FUNDING

EXISTING AND POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING

The heritage area’s ability to implement the actions and strategies in this plan will require funding in addition to funds received from the National Heritage Area program or Louisiana Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. Effectively leveraging these funds will be critical to the heritage area’s success. Over the past three years, the state of Louisiana has provided matching funds to the heritage area. In addition to these two funding streams, the heritage area has been able to leverage these funds with in-kind contributions in the form of volunteer hours to implement projects, such as Experience Atchafalaya Days.

to the overall NPS Heritage Partnership Program funding level approved by Congress and must be matched by non-federal sources.

The heritage area has also benefitted from in-kind services in the form of nonprofit volunteer hours and services provided by other state agencies.

The state of Louisiana’s Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism solely funded the heritage area prior to its designation at the federal level. Funding from 2003-2006 in Table 4 below reflects state funding only.

BUDGET AND CURRENT FUNDING

Actual NPS Heritage Partnership Program funding for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area through 2010 has been approximately \$150,000 a year, available for heritage area projects and expenses. Under the current structure, the Louisiana Office of Tourism covers the executive director’s salary and reasonable Commission expenses. However, economic conditions and changes in administration can affect funding levels from year to year. The Commission may also establish a contingency fund to ensure the continuation of implementation in the case of administrative actions on other funding sources, for example, in the event of a spending freeze on state funds.

Table 4. Funding History for the Atchafalaya Heritage Area

Year	Funding \$
2003	307,118
2004	195,566
2005	191,141
2006	67,565
2007	0
2008	331,170
2009	167,754
2010	380,000
2011	301,820

Source: Louisiana State Budget Office

The NPS National Heritage Area program has provided funding for the past three years to develop this management plan. Once this plan has been signed by the Secretary of the Interior, the heritage area becomes eligible for a higher level of funding from the National Heritage Area program to implement this plan. This funding is subject

With federal designation in 2006, national heritage are funding was first distributed to the Atchafalaya heritage are in 2008. Since 2008, the state has continued to provide funds to match the federal dollars per the matching requirement in the designating law. The dollar amounts shown in table 4 reflect the combined state and national

heritage area program funds. Federal national heritage area program funds have averaged about \$148,553 annually since 2008.

The Income and Expenditures (2009-2011) table (table 5) identifies the total amount of money that has been received and used by the heritage area in each of the past three years, as well as in-kind contributions. The heritage area expenditures are broken down into three categories: 1) resource development and interpretation, 2) marketing and visitor services, and 3) administration and operations.

The federal allocation to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area through the National Park Service National Heritage Area Program is subject to congressional approval of annual budgets. Given the lack of heritage area program legislation and minimal, guaranteed base funding, the amount of federal dollars distributed to the heritage area each year is unknown. In addition, the funding formula for distribution of monies to individual heritage areas is currently being reevaluated and may change. As a result, it would be speculative to include specific annual dollar figures for future years.

Table 5. Income and Expenditures (2009-2011)

Income	2009	2010	2011
<i>State of Louisiana for the Atchafalaya Trace National Heritage Area</i>	\$167,754	\$174,802	\$133,320
<i>In-kind volunteer value</i>		\$21,525	\$18,000
<i>NPS Heritage Partnership Program funding for development of the management plan</i>	\$148,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$315,754	\$347,077	\$301,820
Expenditures			
<i>Resource Development and Interpretation: management plan, branding tour and campaign, educational outreach,</i>	\$143,579	\$186,047	\$182,600
<i>Marketing and Visitor Services: hosting Alliance of National Heritage Areas Conference, promotional items, heritage and cultural event grants in support of the area's historic, cultural, and natural resources. (Including: Eagle Expo, Acadiana Memorial Festival, Delta Music Festival, Louisiana Corn Festival, Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Music Festival, Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival).</i>	\$66,758	\$45,708	\$24,420
<i>Administration and Operations: personnel (1.5 FTEs), office supplies, travel, National Heritage Area Alliance dues, and the 2009 Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Visitor Survey.</i>	\$105,417	\$115,322	\$94,300
TOTAL	\$315,754	\$347,077	\$301,820
Partner Investments			
Friends of the Atchafalaya volunteer work (in hours)	453	270	To be provided at year end
The Atchafalaya Trace Commission donated work (in hours)	250	431	To be provided at year end

Sources: 2009 & 2010 Annual Report; 2011 Scope of Work

FUTURE FUNDING

The heritage area plans to address sources of funds and fundraising strategies in more detail in 2012, but a potential list of funding sources in addition to NPS National Heritage Area and Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism funds that

have been identified by the Commission is provided here. Although the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is eligible for federal funds from the National Heritage Area program through 2021, the commission would strive to reduce their need to rely on National Heritage Area funds throughout

the life of this plan in an effort to become financially self-sufficient.

To support additional staff and programs, the Commission may explore the potential to identify dedicated revenue streams. Examples of revenue streams could be a portion of hotel tax or fees paid for extractive permits within the heritage area. The Commission could also apply for public and private grants as a sole applicant and as a partner with other agencies, parishes, municipalities, and non-profit organizations, etc. Examples include recreation trail grant applications with parishes, non-profits or agencies, as well as joint interpretive kiosk projects with the Louisiana Byways Program and parishes. The Commission can also accept donations and would explore the creation of an endowment to provide ongoing funding.

Funding can come from a wide variety of sources, including the following:

- federal government
- state government
- parishes
- local municipalities
- universities and colleges
- nonprofits and foundations
- businesses and private donors

Federal Government Funding

National Park Service

National Maritime Heritage Grants

The National Maritime Heritage Grants program helps state and local governments and private nonprofit organizations carry out their maritime heritage activities by funding Maritime Heritage Preservation Projects and Maritime Heritage Education Projects designed to preserve historic maritime resources and increase public awareness and appreciation for the maritime heritage of the United States. This program is designed to support seven basic categories

of maritime heritage education activities and seven basic categories of maritime heritage preservation activities. Education activities include 1) activities which serve to enhance public access, use, and appreciation for maritime heritage collections; 2) activities focusing on maritime heritage trails and corridors; 3) maritime heritage field programs, 4) maritime history programs; 5) activities designed to encourage the preservation of traditional maritime skills; 6) minor construction projects which will improve public access, use and appreciation of educational and exhibit spaces of maritime heritage organizations; 7) reporting and publicity projects designed to increase public awareness and understanding of maritime preservation programs or projects. Preservation categories include: 1) activities associated with acquiring ownership of, or responsibility for, historic maritime properties for preservation purposes; 2) preservation planning; 3) documentation of historic maritime properties; 4) protection and stabilization of historic maritime properties; 5) preservation, restoration, or rehabilitation of historic maritime properties; 6) maintenance of historic maritime properties; and 7) reconstruction or reproduction of well-documented historic maritime properties.

National Center for Preservation, Technology, and Training

Throughout the United States, this center has undertaken important and varied work to advance the preservation of cultural resources. Partners in government, private practice, tribes, museums, universities and nonprofits are important collaborators in nearly all that the center has accomplished. This list summarizes the center's work through the PTTGrants and PTTProjects programs. Website: <http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/Grants/Default.aspx>

Department of Agriculture

Resource Conservation and Development Program (Natural Resource Conservation Service)

This program provides technical and limited financial assistance to assist more than 300 local RC&D Councils with development projects, including heritage tourism and related business development. Website: www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/

Department of Transportation

Authorized by the transportation act, funds are channeled through state departments of transportation. Funds may be used for trails, canals, and other transportation projects.

Federal Highway Administration

Recreational Trails Program

Funds are administered by the Federal Highway Administration and are from federal fuel taxes. Each state receives an apportionment each year and provides grants for recreational trail projects.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

This program promotes bicycle and pedestrian transportation use, safety, and accessibility. The Program is responsible for implementing Federal transportation legislation and policy related to bicycling and walking. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Program is not a funding program.

Pedestrian and bicycle projects and programs are eligible for almost all Federal-aid highway funding categories. Each State has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator in its State Department of Transportation to promote and facilitate nonmotorized transportation, including developing pedestrian and bicycle facilities and public educational, promotional, and safety programs.

National Scenic Byways Program Grants

This program recognizes and provides funding for roads designated either locally or nationally as having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational and archaeological qualities.

Economic Development Administration

Public Works, Economic Adjustment, Planning, and Research and Technical Assistance Programs

Grants from these programs assist communities in infrastructure development, local capacity building, and business development to help alleviate conditions of substantial and persistent unemployment and underemployment in economically distressed areas and regions. Rehabilitation of historic properties is an eligible activity if there is significant job creation as are projects that support heritage tourism. Website: www.eda.gov

Department of Housing and Urban Development

Rural Housing and Economic Development Grants

These grants assist in capacity building at the state and local level for rural housing and economic development and support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas. They can fund projects involving heritage tourism and economic development through use of historic properties.

Website: www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/rhed/index.cfm

Small Business Administration

Training Programs

The Small Business Administration does not provide direct loans or grants (although it guarantees loans), but it does provide entrepreneurs with training materials and opportunities that could support heritage tourism and business development using historic buildings.

Website: www.sba.gov/training/

National Endowment for the Arts

National Heritage Fellowship

As part of its efforts to honor and preserve our nation's diverse cultural heritage, the National Endowment for the Arts annually awards one-time-only National Heritage

Fellowships for master folk and traditional artists. These fellowships are intended to recognize the recipients' artistic excellence and support their continuing contributions to our nation's traditional arts heritage.

Grants for Folk and Traditional Arts Projects: Access to Artistic Excellence

To encourage and support artistic excellence, preserve our cultural heritage, and provide access to the arts for all Americans. An organization may request a grant amount from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Fast-Track Review Grants

These grants offer support to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations. Eligible projects include those focusing on the development of cultural tourism and cultural districts, and assisting local economic development and cultural publicity efforts. Grants are for \$10,000.

Website:

<http://www.nea.gov/Grants/apply/Folk.html>

National Endowment for the Humanities

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is an independent grant-making agency of the United States government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation, and public programs in the humanities. Website: <http://www.neh.gov/whoweare/index.html>

America's Historic Places Grants

Part of the National Endowment for the Humanities' We the People Initiative, this program provides funding for public programs that use one or more historic sites to address themes and issues central to American history. Projects eligible for funding may interpret a single historic site, a series of sites, whole neighborhoods, communities or towns, or larger geographical regions. Fundable activities

include docent tours, publications (e.g., brochures, guidebooks, etc.), driving or walking trails or tours, annotated itineraries, exhibition labeling or trail signs, films, and digital media. Website:

www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/historicplaces.html

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU)

The Gulf Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (GC-CESU) facilitates collaborative research, education and technical assistance pertaining to the human and natural environment, within and beyond the region, among federal and state agencies, universities and non-governmental organizations. Each study unit includes multiple federal agencies, universities, and nongovernment organizations as partners. Though they are called "ecosystem studies" units, they cover work from anthropology to zoology. Projects involve the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences and address both natural and cultural resource issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context.

Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units typically have a small discretionary funding pool, often in the range of \$2-4,000 annually. Funds are often distributed to boost ongoing projects or support new projects within each region. The heritage area could utilize in-kind of funding assistance from the Gulf Coast CESU at some point in the future.

Additional Resources:

- Federal programs that support heritage tourism
- <http://www.achp.gov/heritagetourism-assist.html>
- Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
- <http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/index.htm>

State Government

Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

Historic Building Recovery Grant Program

This grant program provides monetary grants and oversight of repairs to historic buildings that suffered damage in hurricanes Rita and Katrina in 2005. The Program is funded by a grant from the U.S. National Park Service, authorized by Congress.

Website:

http://www.crt.state.la.us/hp/grants/historic_building_recovery_grant_program.aspx

Louisiana Division of the Arts

The division offers grants to artists, nonprofit arts organizations, and other types of nonprofit and government entities across the state and in all 64 parishes. The Division awards grants in seven strategic areas: Stabilization, Capacity Building, Arts-In-Education, Folklife Initiative Fund, Artist Services, State-Local Partnerships, and Special Initiatives.

Louisiana Office of Tourism

The office has a competitive grant program for marketing and tourism project enhancement initiatives. The funding is used to support events and projects that support and promote tourism and travel in Louisiana.

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities

Grants are awarded to organizations that mount programs either promoting or applying the humanities. In the past, grants have been awarded to a variety of nonprofit organizations, including museums, libraries, historical societies, professional groups, governmental bodies, and colleges and universities.

Parish and Municipal Government

The heritage area could utilize parish or local funding sources to implement projects and programs that meet shared interests. These funding sources might assist with art programs, park, open space, and trails programs, historic preservation efforts, and educational programs.

Other Funding

Universities and Colleges

The heritage area would work with higher education institutions when appropriate. Such institutions would primarily contribute to the heritage area's work through in-kind donations that would help to meet the federal matching requirement. The heritage area could partner with such institutions to utilize academic and technology expertise and student interns.

Nonprofits and Foundations

There are vast numbers of local, regional, and national nonprofit organizations and foundations that may have an interest in contributing to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area goals. The universe of potential non-profit funders is too large to include here. A few examples are included and more detail would be included in the fundraising plan the heritage area plans to produce.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

This organization provides leadership, education, advocacy, and resources to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities.

Website:

<http://www.preservationnation.org/>

The Trust for Public Land

Since 1972, the Trust for Public Lands has worked with willing landowners, community groups, and national, state, and local agencies to complete more than 3,500 land conservation projects in 47 states, protecting 2.5 million acres. Since 1994, the trust has helped states and communities craft and

pass over 330 ballot measures, generating almost \$25 billion in new conservation-related funding.

Website:

http://www.tpl.org/tier2_sa.cfm?folder_id=170

The Nature Conservancy

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. They are dedicated to preserving biological diversity, and their values compel them to find ways to ensure that human activities can be conducted harmoniously with the preservation of natural diversity. Website: <http://www.nature.org/>

Businesses and Private Donors

Large sums of money are donated by both businesses and private citizens annually and this is a potential source of funding for the heritage area. The number of potential business and private donors is too large to list here. The heritage area would develop more detailed strategies for raising funds from these sources in their fundraising plan.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS FOR RECIPIENTS OF FEDERAL OR STATE FUNDING

Projects receiving federal or state funds are required to comply with the following laws and policy, as applicable:

- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act [www.achp.gov/work106.html]
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act [www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra]

- Secretary of Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties [http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_8_2.htm]
- National Environmental Policy Act [www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/index.html]
- OMB Circulars. The commission would be required to follow circulars A-87, A-102, and A-133; as applicable.
 - A-87: Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments;
 - A-102: Grants and Cooperative Agreements with State and Local Governments;
 - A-133: Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.

Website:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>

- A nonprofit organization, if it received federal funds, would be required to comply with OMB Circular A-110: Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations; Davis-Bacon Act for construction contracts over \$2,000. <http://davisbacon.fedworld.gov/>
- State Coastal Management Plan
- In addition to individual state agency requirements, all procurement (goods and services) must conform to Standard Procurement Policy as found in R.S 38, 39, 42, 43 and 44.

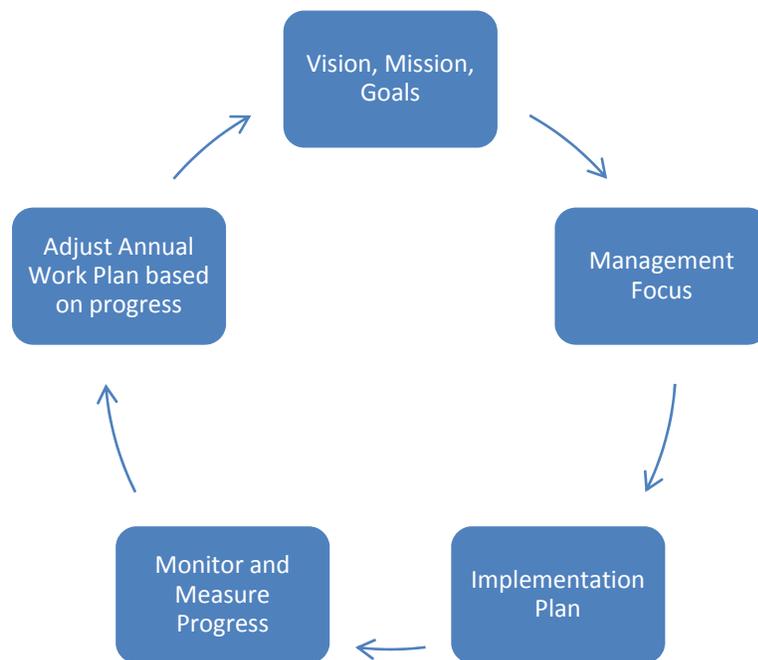
MONITORING PROGRESS AND AMENDING THE PLAN

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Commission would assess the management plan's effectiveness on an ongoing basis and track its progress in meeting the goals and implementing the strategies of the plan. The Commission would use conventional planning, budgeting, and benchmarking tools to monitor progress toward achieving plan goals and long-term

sustainability. The implementation plan would allow for adjustments to be made along the way. These adjustments, along with any federal or state legislative modifications that may be recommended, will be called out in an annual work plan and the annual report.

Figure 5. Implementation is a Flexible, Adaptable Process



ANNUAL REPORT

The Commission would prepare an annual report that will describe and evaluate the progress toward implementing its implementation plan, and the overall effectiveness of the Management Plan's strategies for protecting, interpreting, and enhancing the heritage area's natural, scenic,

cultural, historic and recreational resources. The report may include a spotlight on success stories, such as completed projects, innovative programs, and key partnerships contributing to Plan implementation. The annual report would be prepared in conjunction with the Commission's recurring and non-recurring federal

appropriations requests, and would specifically address how its performance is affected by budget changes. The report will be made available to the Secretary of the Interior, Congress, and the public.

EVALUATION

While the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area designation is permanent, the enabling legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance to the Commission for 15 years or until October 2021. As this date approaches, the Commission would conduct an evaluation, or sustainability study, of its operations and work to date with an eye toward options for the future.

This analysis will include a review of the accomplishments of the Commission, National Park Service and partners to date; an assessment of how effective federal funds invested in the heritage area have been in leveraging additional federal, state, local and private sector investment; an evaluation of the Commission as a form of management for the heritage area; and identification of further actions and commitments needed to fulfill the legislative intent of the heritage

area. The evaluation will include the following assessments set forth in P.L. 110-229, May 8, 2008 Section 462, the National Park Service's evaluation criteria for heritage areas in the Heritage Partnerships Program:

- Progress of local management entity (Commission) in accomplishing the purposes of the authorizing legislation and in achieving the goals and objectives in the approved Management Plan
- Analysis of the impact of investments by Federal, State, Tribal and local government and private entities
- Identification of critical components for the heritage area's sustainability.

This information will be used to assist the Commission in determining alternatives for continued operations after 2021 and until the Plan's goals are substantially achieved.

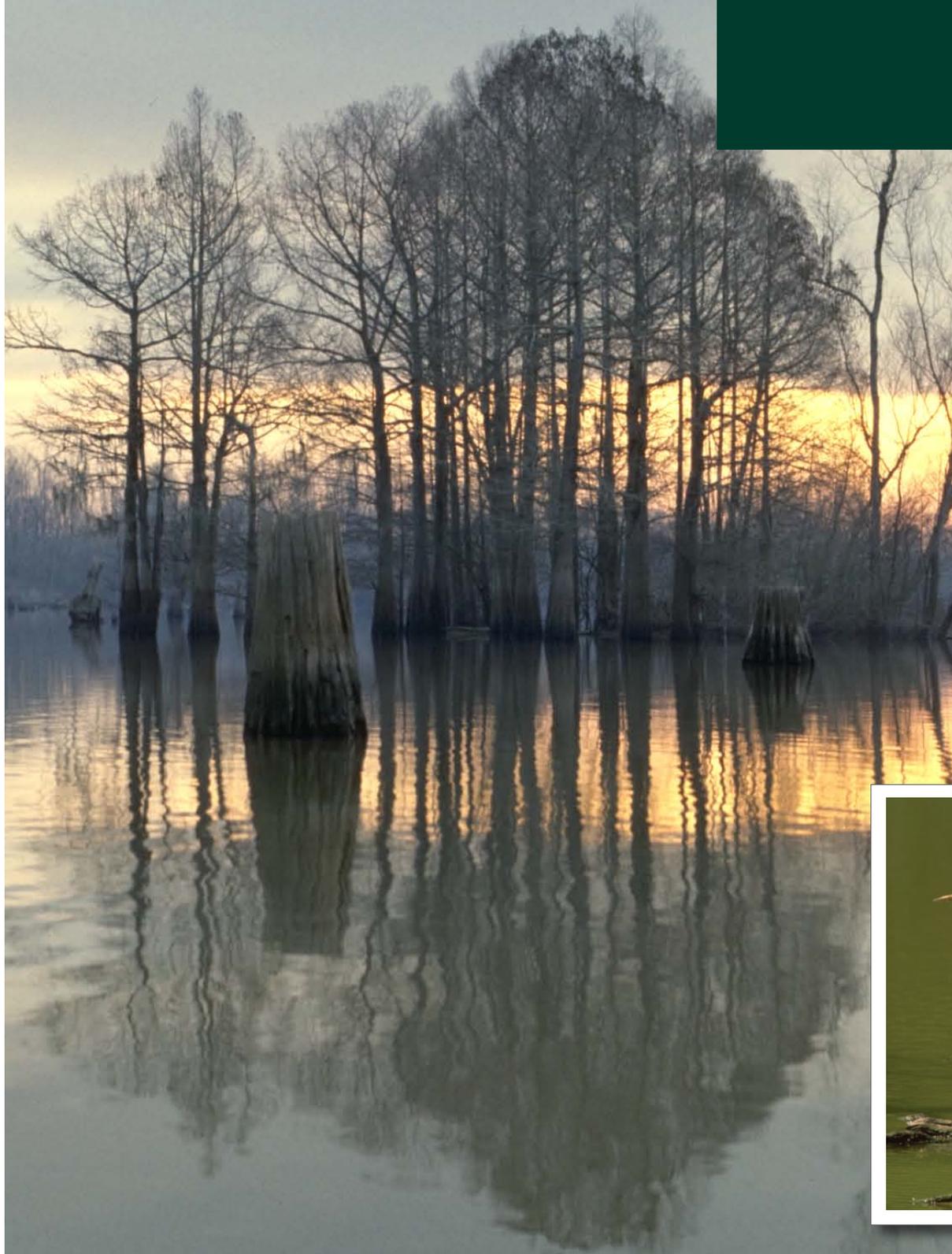
The Commission and staff would conduct regular self-evaluations to monitor progress against the management plan. The following evaluation criteria would be used to monitor and track success and make more informed decisions on an annual basis to include in the annual work plan.

Table 6. Evaluation Criteria by Goal and Implementation Time Frame

Goals and Objectives	Initial Actions Through 2012	Mid Range Actions 2013-2016	Long Term Actions 2017-2020
<p>Goal 1: Enhance interpretation and awareness of the heritage area’s key stories</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in number and variety of exhibits ▪ Increase in visitor awareness levels from those identified in the 2009 benchmark Visitor Survey ▪ Increase in number of itineraries ▪ Installation of gateway and reassurance signs and, later, partner site signs ▪ Increase in number and variety of events ▪ Increase in marketing efforts: # web site hits, documented media coverage, presentations ▪ Increase in number or enhancement of educational materials available to adults, families, and classrooms 			
<p>Goal 2: Support Sustainable Cultural Economic Development Opportunities in the Heritage Area</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in number of tax credits awarded ▪ Increase in small business resource workshops 			
<p>Goal 3: Increase appreciation for cultural resources.</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in number and variety of events ▪ Increase in projects funded ▪ Increase in number of partner sites ▪ Increase the number of documented cultural experts listed in the folklife database ▪ Number of cultural or ethnographic research projects listed in the folklife database 			
<p>Goal 4: Increase appreciation for natural resources.</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in number and variety of events ▪ Increase in projects that create or enhance trails, greenways or blueways 			
<p>General</p> <p>Evaluation Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grant Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of grants awarded ▪ Total amount awarded ▪ Number of grants supporting best management practices of conservation, preservation, interpretation, etc. ▪ Number of new partnerships ▪ Number of volunteer hours 			

Chapter 4

Interpretation Plan



Above: Great Egret
Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge
Left: Lake Henderson
Photo Credits: Charlie Fryling

Back of divider

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of the interpretation plan for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to define the interpretive messages or themes of the heritage area and identify the resources that represent these themes.

These themes are based on both the vision and mission of the heritage area and are designed to ensure that the interpretive message reaches its target audiences and meets the purpose of the heritage area:

The purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to establish and maintain interpretive sites; increase public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational resources of the area; and implement programs that recognize the important resource values of the national heritage area.

In order to achieve this purpose, interpretive themes for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area build upon the core theme of the relationship between the people and the land. The interpretation plan lays out three primary themes that emerged from this core theme. These primary themes include

- 1) Adaptation and survival,
- 2) Identity through a cultural blend
- 3) Influence of the water on the land and the people.

Stories or sub-themes related to the primary themes provide even greater insight into the interpretive messages of the heritage area. The first part of this chapter explores the interpretive themes and sub-themes.

Following the development of these themes, interpretive needs and issues are identified and addressed. This provides guidance for further actions by the heritage area.

Adapting the message and themes for various audiences is an important part of the interpretation planning process, and the topic of audience groups is addressed next.

The interpretation plan also examines key audience groups and how the heritage area hopes to reach them through various interpretive programs and media. By framing a better understanding of potential audiences and how they relate to each theme, the overall goals and purpose of the Atchafalaya Heritage Area can be achieved. “Table 7. Audiences, Themes, and Implementation Goals” can be found later in this chapter.

Finally, the interpretation plan defines the relationship between the intangible themes and the tangible resources found within the heritage area; numerous historic sites, museums, wilderness areas, state parks, and river are spread over fourteen parishes that make up the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Linking these resources to their related themes is one of the goals of the interpretation plan and the Resource-Theme Matrix captures this information. Found in the Appendix B of this document, the Resource-Theme Matrix documents each resource, its related themes, site integrity, access, visitor value, and resource type. An example for one parish is included as table 8.

Strategies to put this interpretation plan into action are found in the previous “Chapter Three: Implementation Plan.” Many of these actions are found under “Goal 1: Enhance Interpretation and Awareness of the Heritage Area’s Key Stories.” However, actions and strategies under other goals may also have interpretive aspects.

THEMES AND STORIES

The following section outlines a range of interpretive themes and stories that can be applied and effectively explored at various locations within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. These resources provide focal points for informing and exposing visitors to the area's significance at a national as well as international level. These themes are largely based on the outcomes of prior interpretation planning efforts and are meant to be representative rather than exhaustive.

Additional interpretive opportunities abound within the heritage area, and while many of these stories may have more local or regional than national significance; their presence contributes to the interpretive richness that is one of the region's greatest attributes. Beginning with a core theme, three primary themes of the heritage area were identified. These primary themes are then supported by sub-themes or stories that

provide even greater depth for the interpretive opportunities that exist within the heritage area.

Interpretive themes are ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to the heritage area's purpose, significance, identity, and the visitor's as well as resident's experience. Themes provide the framework for interpretation and educational program, include the resident and visitor experience, and provide direction for planners and designers of exhibits, publications, and audiovisual programs. These are the stories that visitors should leave the area with and that residents should easily identify with.

The following themes are adapted from the state plan for the heritage area and were modified by the commission during the development of this management plan.

Figure 6. Interpretive Themes Bring the Stories to Life



Adaptation and Survival: The early settlers acquired living skills unique to the environment.

Identity Through a Cultural Blend: The region's identity evolved from a blend of many cultures.

Influence of the Water on the Land and the People: Water is the distinctive influence on life in this area: through the ages it has created ever-changing landscapes, contributed to subtle and catastrophic natural events, and has been subjected to a long history of human manipulation; this relationship continues to evolve today through increased recreation and conservation efforts.

CORE THEME: PEOPLE AND THE LAND

The overarching interpretive theme of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is the entwined relationship between people and the land. It highlights the many ways in which residents of the region and the natural environment are always interacting and changing. Change in the Atchafalaya area occurs on many levels and in multiple dimensions, yet even a subtle and astute description of this vibrant process runs the risk of freezing or distorting it.

With nature as an initial point of departure, we begin by taking into account the region's rivers and bayous, its landmasses and wetlands, and also its climate. Certain waterways are especially noteworthy and important—the Mississippi River, Atchafalaya River, Red River, Vermilion River, Bayou Teche, Bayou Grosse Tete, Bayou Plaquemine, and Bayou Lafourche, among others. Each has its own story. Each affects the others and each, to greater or lesser degree, impacts the entire area.

The story of the land in the region is equally large-scaled, complex, and interrelated. Woodlands, floodplains, natural levees, swamps, marshes, deltas, sediment, mineral deposits, and farmland are notable parts. Like the rivers, but in less obvious ways, each land component is one piece of an intricate puzzle that constantly shifts, changes, and influences the whole.

Similarly, the climate has a defining impact on the region. Subtropical conditions, heat and humidity, seasonal variations, periods of drought and times of flooding, lengthy growing seasons—the consequences of these many variables are subtle and immense.

While waterways, land, and climate are broad categories, there are also several more narrowly confined sub-divisions: wildlife, habitats, plant life, flyways and migratory patterns, mating and breeding cycles, food chains and predation, diseases, health and

life expectancy. Each of these topics can also be viewed in light of the processes of dynamic convergence and ongoing interaction within the heritage area.

The natural environment, complex and enormous in its own right, is only one dimension, and it does not exist apart from human society and culture. Various people have settled in the area over the centuries: Chitimacha, Houma, Attakapas, Tunica-Biloxi, and Opelousas were followed by Spaniards, French, Acadians, Africans, Scots, “Les Americains,” Germans, Haitians, Irish, Italians, Lebanese, Filipinos, and Vietnamese, to name but a few. Each group was itself transformed. The result is the process of creolization.

Other influences—some particular to the region, others part of a larger mosaic—converged in the region playing significant roles in its development. The Louisiana Purchase, federal and state governments, trade networks, the Civil War, industrialization, the Army Corps of Engineers, modern roads and automobiles, electric power, public education, and the oil and gas industry have all shaped and reshaped the region's environment, its social fabric, and its ever changing cultural life.

This over-arching theme, by its very nature, establishes a broad framework. It is both suggestive and inclusive. It also has specific and particular meanings to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The theme provides a panorama in which residents and diverse institutions can locate themselves and find a role. Visitors can gain a better understanding of this area as well as their own experiences by exploring the ways in which this far-reaching theme unfolds in south-central Louisiana.

Butte LaRose Visitors Center on I-10 provides an overview of and an introduction to the heritage area. The Louisiana State Museum in Baton Rouge with exhibits about Louisiana's history and cultures also helps put the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

in the context of Louisiana and the United States. The Louisiana State University Rural Life Museum in Baton Rouge provides an opportunity to experience the architectural history of the area and the state that is interpreted by periodic living history presentations.

THEME 1 – ADAPTATION AND SURVIVAL

The early settlers acquired living skills unique to the environment.

This theme suggests certain values and beliefs that guide daily lives and social interactions. Like everything else, these values are constantly being reworked and redefined. They are products of an embedded and vibrant culture as well as the lived experiences of its inhabitants. At the same time, these hard-won and culturally transmitted precepts are consistent with the broad-based value system that characterizes our larger American society and culture.

Although the perimeter of the national heritage area includes several cities—Lafayette, Baton Rouge, Houma, and Morgan City—the area is rural at its heart and sparsely settled. Many residents struggle to make ends meet. The region has long been familiar with hard times, even when the economy prospered in other parts of the state and nation.

Notwithstanding, economic adversities and recurrent setbacks, residents are resourceful in meeting these challenges. A gritty and earthy determination helps them to make do under often trying circumstances. The people survived in spite of isolation and other challenges.

The hot, humid, and rugged wilderness environment changes sometimes altered ways in which residents made a livelihood. But it is not just the character of the environment that determines such ingenuity and resiliency.

Stories

First Lessons from the Native Americans

Native Americans taught the newcomers what to eat and how to survive in a new ecosystem that they were unfamiliar with. This ranged from surviving hurricanes to determining which plants were edible or had healing properties or how to make shelters with palmettos. Examples of sites interpreting this theme include the Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Museum and Cultural Center in Marksville and the Chitimacha Cultural Museum in Charenton.

Navigating the Swamp

Residents learned from the Native Americans how to make solid wood dugouts and adapted boats they knew for many special uses, including pirogues to move through shallow waters, large and small fishing boats, ferries, and steamboats. The boats of the Atchafalaya show ingenuity and inventiveness in adapting to different ecological niches.

Beyond the Law

The isolation attracted some residents. Some simply wanted to be left alone to live in small, isolated communities, while others sought refuge from the law, including runaway slave maroon communities.

Different Ways of Living off the Land

Both small self-sufficient family entrepreneurs and large corporations have made a living off the land and water. They learned from the Native Americans how to harvest the area's bountiful wildlife (fish, crabs, frogs, and alligator) in addition to the native plants (Spanish moss). On higher ground in small farms and large plantations, they experimented with farming indigo and later shifted to sugarcane. Later corporations harvested cypress. The individual family might live in small isolated communities, but they were always connected to international markets.

Examples of locations expressing this theme include The Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum in Houma, where one can learn about living off the land and transportation; Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center, a unit of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Thibodaux, where one can see a native plants garden; and Simmesport Fishing Museum in Simmesport. Avery Island/Tabasco presents the culture, agricultural practices, and the natural environment.

Many historic house museums interpret the various historic periods and their related cultural and agricultural practices including Frogmore Plantation and Gins in Ferriday, Grevemberg House Museum in Franklin, Mount Hope Plantation in Baton Rouge, Nottoway Plantation in White Castle, Parlange Plantation in New Roads, Popular Grove Plantation in Port Allen, Shadows on the Teche in New Iberia, and Southdown Plantation in Houma.

Sickness and Health

Disease and illness was an everyday concern in early Louisiana, and the Atchafalaya was no exception. Families often had to cope by themselves and depended on herbal plants for healing or *traiteurs* or faith healers for some problems.

THEME 2 – IDENTITY THROUGH A CULTURAL BLEND

The region's identity evolved from a blend of many cultures.

Over the centuries, many groups came to Louisiana and settled in the Atchafalaya Basin area. These roots reach back to every part of the world: Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Central America, Canada, the Mid-West, Texas, and the Chesapeake. To outsiders, the impact of the Caribbean, France, Nova Scotia, and the American South have been especially evident and noteworthy. Other influences—American Indian, German, Italian, Filipino, and

Islenos—are less obvious, but decidedly present.

Stories

Evolving Cultures and Creolization

Borrowings between these cultures create unusual intermixtures through the process of creolization to create a new distinct culture of south Louisiana. Since the 19th century, astute observers note that the region is “South of the South.” It is also true that the region is north of the Caribbean. The society transcends both descriptions, for it is a complicated fluctuating blend *that is unique in the world*. Atchafalaya National Heritage Area cultures defy easy categorization because they are dynamic, living phenomena. The Area presents a paradox—the society functions as a coherent whole, yet diverse cultures flourish with it. The overall impression is one of contradictions. For example, the society is at one and the same, welcoming to newcomers and suspicious of outsiders. In a similar way, the cultures of the region are remarkably inclusive, flexible, and adaptable. Yet the society has a history of group tensions, conflicts, and struggles.

Diversity: Evolving Cultures and Creolization

This theme provides opportunities for an interpretation that is engaging, intriguing, playful, and complex. Consider the ways in which inhabitants view the swamp itself. Some observers claim the swamp is a barrier, separating one part of the state from another. Others maintain that the bayous and streams provide residents with a means of transportation. Still others, that many inhabitants were attracted to the swamp because it was for them a refuge or haven from an even more hostile world. For runaway enslaved Africans in the years before the Civil War, the swamp was a place of freedom where maroon communities could take root. In other instances and under different circumstances, certain groups and individuals already marginal

were pushed into the swamp because they could not survive, economically or socially, anywhere else. Effective interpretive programming does not have to choose from any one of these alternatives. Instead it can present all the different viewpoints, perspectives, and options.

Examples of locations expressing this theme include museums that focus on specific cultural groups such as The River Road African American Museum in Donaldsonville, the Chitimacha Museum in Charenton and the Tunica-Biloxi Tribal Museum and Cultural Center in Marksville. Also, included are the St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center which highlights the Acadian history and culture, and the Bayou Teche Museum in New Iberia, which focuses on the Spanish influence in the area.

Imagined and Real Louisiana

For some Americans, South Louisiana is an imagined place. For others, it is a pure and rarefied ideal. Popular American culture often paints this region in bold and colorful, though homogeneous, colors. People who have never visited the Area have it served up to them nonetheless. They eat gumbo at chain restaurants, listen to zydeco music, hold Mardi Gras parties in season, and tell Cajun jokes about Boudreaux and Thibodeaux. Even within the region there is an inclination to freeze and fix the culture to a specific point in time and place. The unintended consequence of these tendencies can be caricature, rigidity, and death. This theme differentiates between the real, the imagined, and the stereotyped. Rather than attempt to impose a purist definition or promote a stereotypical product when exploring and presenting the culture, this theme suggests a way that is both inclusive and flexible, and also sensible and discerning.

Traditions and Lifeways

These manifestations of the area's culture constitute distinctive interpretive experiences: music, food, crafts, language and oral traditions, religious traditions,

festivals, and customs. Like the larger culture, these cultural expressions are dynamic, adaptable and internally complex. Moreover, all these cultural expressions are firmly anchored in both time and place.

Every diverse group constituting the area's social and cultural fabric can be discovered within these cultural expressions. Consider music. The French and Acadians contributed the fiddle, the Germans the accordion, the Spanish the guitar, while both Afro-Caribbean and European cultures brought the triangle, washboard, and the spoon. Viewing music from a different perspective yields still another complex pattern, this one consisting of a variety of interrelated, but distinctive musical genres: Cajun, zydeco, swamp pop, blues, and gospel. The musical art form can be interpreted in yet another way: performers, performance styles, original compositions, traditional folk melodies, arrangements, interactions of performers with their audiences and instruments.

The insights garnered from the area's indigenous musical culture can be detected in the region's foodways and cuisine. Again, various South Louisiana ethnic and racial groups contribute to a hybrid cultural expression that is unique, distinct, subject to experiment and now widely imitated through the nation. In the case of foodways, American Indians contributed corn; Spanish and Afro-Caribbeans introduced tomatoes and hot peppers; French and Acadians brought rice; enslaved Africans and poor Anglo-Americans were known for making beans part of daily fare. The English are probably responsible for use of the turtle; and both Germans and Alsatians made beer popular.

Examples of the unique foodways, music and traditional crafts abound throughout the heritage area. Some sites focus on a music genre such as the Delta Music Museum in Ferriday and the Cajun Music Hall of Fame in Eunice. Other areas host festivals including the Southwest Louisiana Zydeco Festival. Religious traditions can be

experienced through the area's myriad of churches and cemeteries, notably, St. Martin de Tours Catholic Church in St. Martinville, St. Philomena Catholic Church in Labadieville, and Holy Rosary Church in Houma. Foodways can be experienced through many festivals such as Cajun Food Fest in St. Mary Parish or the Spice and Music festival in Opelousas, as well as a multitude of restaurants throughout the area.

THEME 3 – INFLUENCE OF THE WATER ON THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

Water is the distinctive influence on life in this area: through the ages it has created ever-changing landscapes, contributed to subtle and catastrophic natural events, and has been subjected to a long history of human manipulation; this relationship continues to evolve today through increased recreation and conservation efforts.

Nature and the environment played prime roles through the history of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. This theme focuses on the diverse ways in which many generations have tried to control nature while also attempting to turn a profit from it. For centuries the Atchafalaya River and swamp presented both residents of the region and outsiders with a host of challenges and opportunities. Over the centuries, two issues have been especially important and recurrent: navigation of the river and flood control. The relationship of these two has not always been as apparent to past generations as it is to modern-day Americans.

Stories

Attempts to Control Nature

The story of the Corps of Engineers is entwined in the changes in the Atchafalaya Basin. In successive efforts to improve navigation and strengthen flood control, the Army Corps of Engineers has been a key

player in the area for close to two hundred years. Established in 1802, the Corps dramatically shaped and reshaped not only the daily life of residents but also the physical characteristics of the environment itself. Consider the impact of Henry Shreve, a captain in the Corps of Engineers during the 19th century, had on the area. Shreve directed several regional projects for the Corps, the unintended long-term consequences of which: increased regional flooding; reduced cultivation of sugarcane; deposited immense amounts of silt; filled back swamps and lakes; formed deltas and built natural levees. The effects of the Flood of 1927 were the most dramatic. The flood devastated the area. Nearly every permanent structure was damaged or destroyed. Almost every resident evacuated. After the waters subsided, the Corps constructed extensive levees and developed floodways. The physical appearance of the Basin today is very much a product of the work done by the Corps after the Flood of 1927. Other Corps projects—construction of the Old River Control Structure in the 1960s and the Auxiliary Structure in the 1980s—have been impressive engineering feats that further defined the nature of the region. Indeed, it would not be too much to say that in this area the natural environment is in large part “manmade” due to alterations made to the environment. Nevertheless, nature is stubborn and persistent, and, notwithstanding the Corps’ monumental efforts, in time nature may have its way.

Profiting from Nature

Although the Corps has been a key player, others also have had a hand in changing the area's character. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the lumber industry harvested vast numbers of cypress trees. In the early part of the 20th century furniture manufacturers and the automobile industry gathered the area's Spanish moss for use in their products. In the 1930s the oil and gas industry began intensive work both in the Atchafalaya Basin and offshore. Periodically, the economy and population of Morgan City

boomed as the commercial fish-processing industry, the old industry and the defense industry made it a regional headquarters. Throughout the years in which large corporations and government agencies sought to transform, control, and profit from nature, inhabitants were not passive observers. They became the lumbermen, fishermen, oil rig workers, shrimpers, hunters and trappers, crabbers and industrial workers. Ever versatile and resilient, they too have seen the swamp as a resource for living.

Examples of locations expressing this theme include the Old River Control Structure in Concordia Parish and Mr. Charlie Oil Rig Museum in Morgan City, where one can walk through an oil rig. At the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site, one can see a lock formerly used to access the Mississippi River from Bayou Plaquemine. At the Cypress Sawmill Museum in Patterson one can see vintage logging and milling machinery and tools.

Experiences

Variety of Recreational Natural Resources

Special recreation opportunities exist due to the unrivaled natural resources of the Atchafalaya. One of only a handful of actively growing river deltas in the world, the Basin is approximately 150 miles in length with its width varying along the course of the Atchafalaya River. It is a complex and unique river swamp eco-system, habitat to more than 85 species of fish, 200 species of birds, alligators, black bear and other wildlife. Comprised of bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, bayous and backwater lakes and marshes, it is an exceptional illustration of river systems and lakes, water control technology and recent geologic history. The area is home to seven national wildlife refuges.

Non-Invasive Recreation and Ecotourism.

The area offers a multitude of opportunities to experience the outdoors through swamp and river tours, camping, pirogue, canoe or

kayak paddling, hiking, cycling, birding and other wildlife watching. The terrain is flat, and the area's lightly-traveled, paved rural roads provide easy and safe cycling. Some of the best birding in the country is available for small groups and individuals or through organized bird counts. The climate is mild with subtropical weather throughout the year with an average rainfall of approximately 54 inches. The bottomland hardwood forests and mix of bayous, oxbow lakes, sloughs and swamps create a diversity of habitats important to a wide range of birds. The ideal habitat for alligators and other reptiles and amphibians, white-tailed deer, beaver, otter, red fox and black bear make the area ideal for general wildlife watching and photography year-round.

Some of the areas that have developed programs for outdoor enthusiasts are Indian Bayou, Lake Fausse Pointe State Park, Atchafalaya and Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuges, Sherburne Wildlife Management Area and Lake Martin. Cypremort Point State Park, just a few miles from the Gulf of Mexico, offers a variety of outdoor options including picnicking, fishing, crabbing, water skiing, windsurfing and sailing. Many of these and other sites offer camping and cabin lodging as well as canoeing and fishing.

The paddling trails in the area are numerous and are also frequented by birders and hikers for the scenic and wildlife variety they offer. Popular day and extended destinations for these activities include Indian Bayou, Bayou Teche, Henderson Lake, Lake Fausse Point, Lake Martin, Bayou LaFourche, Spring Bayou and Sherburne Wildlife Management Areas, Flat Lake, Half Moon Bayou, Bayou Cocodrie, Two O'Clock Bayou and Pointe Chein. The Lafayette Paddling Club and Bayou Haystackers Paddling Club organize weekly paddling trips. The TECHE Project sponsors the fall Tour du Teche, a 130 mile canoe race on Bayou Teche through 4 heritage area parishes.

Birding events include the Bayou Teche Black Bear & Birding Festival, the Eagle Expo, Experience Atchafalaya Days, Lafayette Hummingbird Day, Neotropical Songbird Tour, Wood Stork Day and others. Among the birding clubs are Baton Rouge Audubon Society, Kids Who Bird, LA Birders Anonymous, LA Ornithological Society and Terrebonne Bird Club. There are also several smaller, informal groups that meet regularly for trips and counts and serve as area ornithological resources.

Bicycling routes are established for a variety of skill levels for road, off-road and leisure rides with lengths from 5.5 to 89 miles. While a few routes are urban, most meander through the rural countryside from Washington to Eunice to Sunset; St. Martinville to Fausse Point or Franklin; New Iberia to Avery Island or St. Martinville; Houma to Cocodrie (coast) and many more.

Sustainable Outdoor Recreation. A variety of regulated hunting and fishing activities can be enjoyed throughout the area.

One third of the state's public freshwater boat launches can be found in the heritage area. Among the freshwater fish populating lakes and bayous are black, white, yellow and striped bass; bowfin; bream; buffalo; drum; channel, blue and flathead catfish; crappie, paddlefish, shad and sturgeon, all of which are popular with fishermen. The Atchafalaya Basin, the Lake Verret-Palourde Area, the Lake Fausse Point-Dauterive Area, False River and Spanish Lake are favorite fishing destinations.

Recreational crawfishing using set nets or recreational wire traps is a popular seasonal pastime and tied closely with cultural traditions. The several Wildlife Management Areas encourage crawfishing as a family activity.

The several marinas located in the coastal parishes of the heritage area are frequented for seasonal saltwater fishing. Common coastal species include black and red drum,

southern flounder, striped mullet, sea trout, cobia, king and Spanish mackerel. Marlin, sailfish, swordfish, tuna, shark, snapper, mutton, triggerfish, amberjack, hogfish, redfish and sea bass are popular offshore finfish species.

Other forms of seasonal, recreational saltwater fishing include cast-netting and trawling for shrimp and crab and harvesting oysters. The estuarine environment (the area where salt and fresh water mix) is where oysters grow in abundance. Oysters can be found naturally in dense aggregations called reefs both in the intertidal and subtidal environment.

Hunting is a popular seasonal sport enjoyed by hunters on public lands. The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) manages about 1.4 million acres of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) and Refuges throughout the state, many of which are in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. These public lands consist of a wide variety of habitat types. LDWF manages these lands and organizes deer hunts with the goals of setting quality examples of Louisiana habitats; insuring viability of these lands' wildlife populations; and providing the opportunity for quality outdoor recreational (and commercial when compatible) experience. In addition it is not uncommon for a family to have a hunting camp on privately-owned land or on land leased for that specific purpose.

Turkey, migratory bird and waterfowl including snipe, woodcock, teal, dove, duck and geese are popular prey, as are resident game and animals such as quail, rabbit, squirrel and deer. Less traditional prey includes bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), pig frogs (*Rana grylio*), alligator, Alligator snapping turtles, Diamondback terrapins and box turtles.

Conservation of Natural Resources.

Conservation efforts are ongoing in the area including threatened and endangered species such as the ivory billed and red-

cockaded woodpeckers, the Louisiana black bear, Louisiana pearl shell (mussel), sea turtles, gopher tortoise, ringed sawback turtle, brown pelican, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, whooping crane, Eskimo curlew, piping plover, interior least tern, Bachman's warbler, West Indian manatee, Florida panther, pallid sturgeon, gulf sturgeon, Attwater's greater prairie chicken, whales and red wolf. Also important in conservation efforts are cypress forest and native vegetation. Audubon Society Coastal Initiative, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Friends of Atchafalaya, Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Louisiana Black Bear Coalition and Barataria – Terrebonne

National Estuary Program are but a few of the organizations that share the heritage area's mission in conserving and protecting the resources.

Examples of locations supporting this theme include Lake Fausse Point State Park, and Cypremort Point State Park, where one can choose from several hiking and paddling trails. Birding can be enjoyed at the US Army Corp of Engineer's Indian Bayou Area on the western side of the Basin or one of several loops of the America's Wetland Birding Trail in the area, including the Atchafalaya Loop, Vermilion Loop, St. Mary, and Terrebonne Loop.

ISSUES AND NEEDS RELATED TO CURRENT INTERPRETATION

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARTNERS

The many organizations involved with interpretation within the heritage area address a wide variety of topics, cultures and periods of history and employ a variety of interpretive methods. These groups include volunteer organizations, as well as state and local museums, private historic sites, environmental centers, and organizers of special cultural events and activities. They include units of Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve (Acadian Cultural Center and Prairie Acadian Cultural Center), state organizations such as the Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Program, state sites such as the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site and Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site, a variety of federal and state wildlife preserves and management areas, and many private historic sites. (For a more detailed inventory, see Appendix B: Resource Theme Matrix.)

These public and private organizations form a strong base for building the interpretive strategy and expanding interpretation throughout the heritage area to communicate the national and regional significance of the region's resources.

- The interpretation of the survival and adaptation theme is addressed through sites such as the Chitimacha Cultural Museum and the virtual Creole State Exhibit.
- The cultural blend of the region is only partially interpreted. The Acadian Cultural Center and Prairie Acadian Cultural Center and other sites interpret history of the Acadians, while the contributions of other groups are not as well known; this could provide opportunities for enhanced interpretation.

- The story of how water has influenced the land and the people, the important story of resource extraction and attempts to control nature are not currently told in a complete or cohesive manner and provides a key opportunity to partner with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, industrial organizations, and conservation organizations to tell these stories. Some interpretive resources related to “controlling nature” include the Old River Control Structure and the Cypress Sawmill Museum. The potential opportunity for a regional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers interpretive center within the heritage area, focused on the Atchafalaya Floodway, would provide an opportunity to share a key part of the interpretive story of the area. Various state parks and wildlife areas as well as birding events highlight recreational opportunities as ways to explore natural resources.

IDENTIFYING INTERPRETIVE MEDIA TO REACH HERITAGE AREA AUDIENCES

Defining audience groups and identifying communication strategies ensures that successful relationships are built between the people and the resources of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Six primary audiences are identified: school groups, recreational users, subsistence users, passive tourists, heritage tourists, and residents. These audience groups are the primary focus of interpretive themes and messages of the heritage area.

School Groups

Youth and school groups (K-12) are one of the targeted audiences for interpretive programming and educational outreach within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Field trips, immersive experiences, and group excursions to the heritage area create an opportunity for this audience to engage directly with the tangible resources in order to understand the intangible themes. Off-site interpretive experiences that take place online and a web-based educational experience that exposes school groups to the heritage area is another strategy for effectively reaching this audience.

Recreational Users

Targeting recreation users of the heritage area provides an opportunity to increase appreciation for natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship for the ecology of the area. Waysides, interpretive kiosks, regional maps, trails, and paddling routes are all critical interpretive tools for reaching this audience and connecting them to the resources as well as the themes of the heritage area. Online interpretive opportunities are another important strategy for connecting recreational users to the interpretive themes of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Subsistence Users

The continuing yet changing use of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area by subsistence users is a central interpretive theme, so engaging this audience group is an important step in the success of interpretive efforts. Likewise, supporting sustainable cultural economic development is a primary goal of the heritage area. Creating meaningful interactions between local subsistence users and other audiences will better connect both groups to the resources of Atchafalaya. Local festivals and events like *Experience Atchafalaya Days* are implementation strategies that foster interaction.

Heritage Tourists

Heritage tourists are a growing trend within the tourism industry. This audience is primarily interested in cultural resources such as historic architecture, traditions, and folklife. These audiences are generally well informed and center their visitor experience on specific resources and places. Opportunities to engage this audience with the heritage area's interpretive themes focus on historic sites, museums, and cultural events.

Other Tourists

Pass-through tourists are a significant audience for the interpretive programs within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Tourism is a vital part of the Louisiana economy and the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism is an important partner in reaching this audience. Strategically providing information at welcome and visitor centers throughout the state, creating brochures and regional maps, developing a wayfinding sign program, and having a strong internet presence are all strategies for exposing this large audience group to the interpretive themes and resources of Atchafalaya.

Residents

Local residents within and around the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area make up a critically important audience group. Providing programs for resident audiences to gain a better understanding of the heritage area and its interpretive goals creates a positive impact on local communities. Interpretive efforts for this group include promoting authentic events and encouraging involvement with partners. Interpretive efforts that focus on residents can foster local pride, build community support, and develop lasting partnerships between community groups. Often these residents are the first point of contact many outside visitors have with the heritage area. By creating a greater appreciation for the role of the heritage area and its interpretive mission,

local communities and residents are empowered.

Audience, Theme, and Implementation Goals Matrix

The audience, theme, and interpretive services matrix in the following table provides a greater understanding of the relationship between these audience groups, the primary interpretive themes, and how various interpretive services relate to the

overall implementation goals of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Linking the intangible themes of the heritage area to tangible interpretive services as well as implementation goals provides insights into how audiences will engage and connect to local resources. This connection is fundamental to the success of the heritage area in meeting its goals and ensures that the unique values and interpretive themes reach their target audiences

Table 7. Audiences, Themes, and Implementation Goals

		<i>Theme 1: Adaptation and Survival</i>			
		Enhance Interpretation & Awareness	Support Sustainable Cultural Economic Development	Increase Cultural Resource Appreciation	Increase Natural Resource Appreciation
Audience	School Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain education content on website Consult schools on curriculum needs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field trips for K-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Trips for K-12
	Recreational Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop educational wayside & kiosk Provide adequate way finding (maps, itineraries, signage) Work with LA Byways on interpretive signage and programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist NHA communities in identifying funding sources and other resources for developing interpretive and recreational products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and promote cultural activities related to music, food, ethnic identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paddling & trail opportunities Birding opportunities Develop new bike & boardwalks

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	Subsistence Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Atchafalaya Days promotion • Develop educational waysides & kiosks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Atchafalaya development zone tax credit programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and promote cultural activities related to music, food, ethnic identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase recreational access
Audience	Heritage Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at visitor centers • Develop educational waysides & kiosks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop directory of local artisans & crafts people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and promote cultural activities related to music, food, ethnic identity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop & promote opportunities to explore nature & outdoors that emphasize links between nature & survival
	Other Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at visitor centers • Develop educational waysides & kiosks • Link to state tourism events calendar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feature artisan spotlights on web site • Develop directory of local artisans & crafts people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate way finding (maps, itineraries, signs) • Work with LA Byways on interpretive signs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide adequate way finding (maps, itineraries, signs) • Work with LA Byways on interpretive signs
	Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote Experience Atchafalaya Days • Develop events calendar on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist NHA communities in identifying funding sources and other resources for developing interpretive and recreational products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist NHA communities in identifying funding sources and other resources for developing interpretive and recreational products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist NHA communities in identifying funding sources and other resources for developing interpretive and recreational products

Theme 2: Identity Through a Cultural Blend					
		Enhance Interpretation & Awareness	Support Sustainable Cultural Economic Development	Increase Cultural Resource Appreciation	Increase Natural Resource Appreciation
Audience	School Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain educational content on website • Traveling exhibits programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage local artisans / traditional craftspeople into educational programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add youth-interest events to Experience Atchafalaya Days • Field trips for K-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add youth-interest events to Experience Atchafalaya Days • Field trips for K-12
	Recreational Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop educational wayside & kiosk • Provide adequate way finding tools (maps, itineraries, signage) • Provide training on authentic interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local outfitters & recreational businesses • Provide small business resources education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interp. signs & waysides on trails highlighting cultural history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop paddle & trail opportunities
	Subsistence Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop educational wayside signage • Provide training on authentic interpretation to partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase variety of Experience Atchafalaya Days events • Develop Certified Louisiana Product program & brand 		
	Heritage Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Information at Visitor Centers • Develop educational wayside signage • Continue Traveling exhibits and develop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote local heritage based attractions on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop online itinerary programs centered on cultural activities: music, food, ethnic identity • Highlight NHR listed sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote events that connect the cultural resources with the natural resources

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> permanent exhibit • Provide training on authentic interpretation 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appreciation of cultural landscapes 	
	Other Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Information at Visitor Centers • Provide training on authentic interpretation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop local business guidebook • Develop certified Louisiana products program & brand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appreciation of cultural landscapes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote events that connect the cultural resources with the natural resources
Audience	Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase variety of Experience Atchafalaya Days events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote heritage & nature based entrepreneurs (outfitters, etc.) • Develop local business guidebook • Develop certified Louisiana products program & brand • Provide toolkit workshops for entrepreneurs • Promote tax credit program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote NHR listings in NHA communities • Assess gaps in folklife database & identify tradition-bearers in communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote events that connect the cultural resources with the natural resources
Theme 3: Influence of the Water on the Land and People					
		Enhance Interpretation & Awareness	Support Sustainable Cultural Economic Development	Increase Cultural Resource Appreciation	Increase Natural Resource Appreciation
	School Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Trips for K-12 • Maintain educational content on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote existing youth programs & exhibits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add youth-interest events to Experience Atchafalaya Days • Field trips for K-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement experiential learning opportunities (citizen science programs) • Continue support of youth conservation efforts such as

					Boy Scouts' project
Audience	Recreational Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of regional maps • Develop educational wayside signage • Provide information on outdoor recreational opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage local outfitters & recreational businesses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop educational wayside & kiosk • Provide adequate way finding (maps, itineraries, signage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop educational wayside & kiosks • Provide adequate way finding • Continue to partner with groups for trail development
	Subsistence Users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on outdoor recreational opportunities • Promote public lands use 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote events that connect the cultural resources with the natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote access to other agency information: DNR, USACE, State Parks, USFW, Audubon Society, Friends of Atchafalaya
	Heritage Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at visitor centers • Develop educational wayside signs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote events that connect the cultural resources with the natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote events that connect the cultural resources with the natural resources
	Other Tourists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at visitor centers • Develop educational wayside signage 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at visitor centers • Develop educational wayside signage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information at visitor centers • Develop educational wayside signage
	Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide access to information on website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop certified Louisiana products program & brand • Provide toolkit workshops for entrepreneurs • Promote tax credit program • Promote heritage & nature based entrepreneurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with partners to develop byways • Encourage Staycations, "Your Own Backyard" programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand outdoor recreational opportunities • Continue to partner with groups for trail development • Encourage Staycations, "Your Own Backyard" programs • Develop and/or support litter

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			(outfitters, etc.)		abatement programs
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HERITAGE AREA RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

As noted in the discussion of themes previously, there is a wealth of resources within the heritage area. For example, 360 properties located with the heritage area are listed in the National Historic Register of Historic Places. Also, there are several state parks and wildlife refuges that provide opportunities to experience the wide array of plant and animal life. Many of these resources are described in more detail in “Chapter 6: The Affected Environment” in volume two. Many of the heritage area resources also have been included in Appendix B: Resource Theme Matrix which includes the applicable interpretive theme, level of integrity, ease of access, visitor value, and resource type. This table is organized by parish; it is included as an appendix, as it is quite extensive.

RESOURCE THEME MATRIX

The Resource Theme Matrix (appendix B) identifies and defines the relationship between specific resources and primary themes within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Relating tangible resources to intangible themes helps identify locations where interpretive themes can come alive. Along with identifying themes and resource types, this matrix also addresses resource integrity, access, visitor value, and phasing. All of these play a vital role in achieving interpretive goals and creating a meaningful visitor experience.

Integrity

Resource integrity records how intact and operational each listed resource is within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. “Largely intact” identifies sites that have excellent integrity and clearly express the themes they embody. “Somewhat intact”

identifies resources that have good integrity and are developing opportunities to express the themes of the heritage area. “Not intact” resources lack integrity but contribute to the overall context of the heritage area’s themes. Identifying the integrity of resources documents and creates valuable information on the interpretive opportunities that exist with the heritage area. For heritage related festivals and events, those that have a long, continuous history and are expected to be on-going were rated as largely intact, while newer events or those with little continuity were rated as lacking integrity. Events that fell in-between the above categories were rated as somewhat intact.

Review of resource information across the heritage area finds parish representatives reporting a range of conditions related to the integrity of resources; the majority however, were rated as being largely intact.

Access

Access addresses the ability of visitors to safely find, visit, and experience the resource. This topic includes getting to and from the site: easy to reach, challenging to reach, and difficult to reach. Key elements of these levels of access include roads conditions, the presence of directional signs and parking, and ADA accessibility. Understanding how accessible these resources are for visitors provides insights into the resource’s ability to contribute to the overall interpretive goals of the heritage area.

Given the large scale of the heritage area and the transportation challenges created by various swamps and other bodies of water, access to resources varies across the region from easy to reach to difficult to reach. Most of the resources are rated as easy to reach or challenging to reach.

Visitor Value

Visitor value addresses the spectrum of visitation and types of participation level available at a resource. The broad-to-specific audience attraction of a resource identifies the level of interpretation and understanding that might be needed in order for visitors to full understand and appreciate the resource. The more specialized the attraction is, the greater the existing visitor knowledge of that resource and its values is. Understanding this spectrum is important in meeting the interpretative needs of different audience groups.

Table 8. Resource Theme Matrix Sample – Full Matrix is in Appendix B

**Atchafalaya National Heritage Area
Resource / Theme Matrix**

Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type										
	Acapation and Survival	Identify Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural Landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area	
Allons Manger Festival	X			X			X																
Assumption Parish Courthouse & Jail*	X		X	X			X					X											
Bayou L'Ourse Nature Trail			X	X			X																
Bayou Side Golf Course			X	X			X																
Belle Alliance*	X			X			X																
Belle River Christmas Boat Parade		X	X	X					X														
Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery*	X			X																			
Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*		X		X					X														
Elm Hall Wildlife Management Area				X			X																
Glenwood Sugar Mill	X			X			X																X
Lake Verrett							X																
Madewood*	X			X			X																
Madewood Christmas Heritage		X		X			X																
Madewood Plantation		X					X																
Numerous Shell Middens, various sites			X						X														
St. Elizabeth Catholic Church		X		X			X																
St. Philomena Catholic Church and Rectory*		X		X			X																

National Register of Historic Places*



Appendixes



Top Left: Wild Hibiscus, Iberville Parish
Top: Vegetable Man, Ascension Parish
Above: Sherbin Collette and Wife,
Henderson Swamp, St. Martin Parish
Photo Credits: Gene Seneca

Back of divider

APPENDIX A: LEGISLATION

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Subtitle B—Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

Atchafalaya
National
Heritage Area
Act,
Louisiana,
16 USC 461 note.

SEC. 211. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Act”.

SEC. 212. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage Area” means the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area established by section 213(a).

(2) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—The term “local coordinating entity” means the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area designated by section 213(c).

(3) MANAGEMENT PLAN.—The term “management plan” means the management plan for the Heritage Area developed under section 215.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(5) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Louisiana.

SEC. 213. ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the State the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

(b) BOUNDARIES.—The Heritage Area shall consist of the whole of the following parishes in the State: St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin, St. Landry, Avoyelles, Pointe Coupee, Iberville, Assumption, Terrebonne, Lafayette, West Baton Rouge, Concordia, East Baton Rouge, and Ascension Parish.

(c) LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Atchafalaya Trace Commission shall be the local coordinating entity for the Heritage Area.

(2) COMPOSITION.—The local coordinating entity shall be composed of 14 members appointed by the governing authority of each parish within the Heritage Area.

SEC. 214. AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE LOCAL COORDINATING ENTITY.

(a) AUTHORITIES.—For the purposes of developing and implementing the management plan and otherwise carrying out this subtitle, the local coordinating entity may—

(1) make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements with, the State, units of local government, and private organizations;

(2) hire and compensate staff; and

(3) enter into contracts for goods and services.

(b) DUTIES.—The local coordinating entity shall—

(1) submit to the Secretary for approval a management plan;

(2) implement the management plan, including providing assistance to units of government and others in—

(A) carrying out programs that recognize important resource values within the Heritage Area;

(B) encouraging sustainable economic development within the Heritage Area;

(C) establishing and maintaining interpretive sites within the Heritage Area; and

(D) increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of, the Heritage Area;

(3) adopt bylaws governing the conduct of the local coordinating entity; and

(4) for any year for which Federal funds are received under this subtitle, submit to the Secretary a report that describes, for the year—

(A) the accomplishments of the local coordinating entity; and

(B) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity.

(c) ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY.—The local coordinating entity shall not use Federal funds received under this subtitle to acquire real property or an interest in real property.

(d) PUBLIC MEETINGS.—The local coordinating entity shall conduct public meetings at least quarterly.

SEC. 215. MANAGEMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The local coordinating entity shall develop a management plan for the Heritage Area that incorporates an integrated and cooperative approach to protect, interpret, and enhance the natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational resources of the Heritage Area.

(b) CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND ACTIONS.—In developing the management plan, the local coordinating entity shall—

(1) take into consideration State and local plans; and

(2) invite the participation of residents, public agencies, and private organizations in the Heritage Area.

(c) CONTENTS.—The management plan shall include—

Records.

(1) an inventory of the resources in the Heritage Area, including—

(A) a list of property in the Heritage Area that—

(i) relates to the purposes of the Heritage Area; and

(ii) should be preserved, restored, managed, or maintained because of the significance of the property; and

(B) an assessment of cultural landscapes within the Heritage Area;

(2) provisions for the protection, interpretation, and enjoyment of the resources of the Heritage Area consistent with this subtitle;

(3) an interpretation plan for the Heritage Area; and

(4) a program for implementation of the management plan that includes—

(A) actions to be carried out by units of government, private organizations, and public-private partnerships to protect the resources of the Heritage Area; and

(B) the identification of existing and potential sources of funding for implementing the plan.

(d) SUBMISSION TO SECRETARY FOR APPROVAL.—

Deadline.

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this subtitle,

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the local coordinating entity shall submit the management plan to the Secretary for approval.

(2) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO SUBMIT.—If a management plan is not submitted to the Secretary by the date specified in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall not provide any additional funding under this subtitle until a management plan for the Heritage Area is submitted to the Secretary.

(e) APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after receiving the management plan submitted under subsection (d)(1), the Secretary, in consultation with the State, shall approve or disapprove the management plan. Deadline.

(2) ACTION FOLLOWING DISAPPROVAL.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary disapproves a management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

- (i) advise the local coordinating entity in writing of the reasons for the disapproval;
- (ii) make recommendations for revisions to the management plan; and
- (iii) allow the local coordinating entity to submit to the Secretary revisions to the management plan.

(B) DEADLINE FOR APPROVAL OF REVISION.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which a revision is submitted under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Secretary shall approve or disapprove the revision.

(f) REVISION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After approval by the Secretary of a management plan, the local coordinating entity shall periodically—

(A) review the management plan; and

(B) submit to the Secretary, for review and approval by the Secretary, the recommendations of the local coordinating entity for any revisions to the management plan that the local coordinating entity considers to be appropriate. Recommendations.

(2) EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS.—No funds made available under this subtitle shall be used to implement any revision proposed by the local coordinating entity under paragraph (1)(B) until the Secretary approves the revision.

SEC. 216. REQUIREMENTS FOR INCLUSION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

(a) NOTIFICATION AND CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS REQUIRED.—No privately owned property shall be preserved, conserved, or promoted by the management plan for the Heritage Area until the owner of that private property has been notified in writing by the local coordinating entity and has given written consent to the local coordinating entity for such preservation, conservation, or promotion.

(b) LANDOWNER WITHDRAWAL.—Any owner of private property included within the boundary of the Heritage Area shall have that private property immediately removed from the boundary by submitting a written request to the local coordinating entity.

SEC. 217. PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION.

(a) ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to—

(1) require any private property owner to allow public access (including Federal, State, or local government access) to such private property; or

(2) modify any provision of Federal, State, or local law with regard to public access to or use of private property.

(b) LIABILITY.—Designation of the Heritage Area shall not be considered to create any liability, or to have any effect on any liability under any other law, of any private property owner with respect to any persons injured on that private property.

(c) PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNERS IN HERITAGE AREA.—Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to require the owner of any private property located within the boundaries of the Heritage Area to participate in or be associated with the Heritage Area.

SEC. 218. EFFECT OF SUBTITLE.

Nothing in this subtitle or in establishment of the Heritage Area—

(1) grants any Federal agency regulatory authority over any interest in the Heritage Area, unless cooperatively agreed on by all involved parties;

(2) modifies, enlarges, or diminishes any authority of the Federal Government or a State or local government to regulate any use of land as provided for by law (including regulations) in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) grants any power of zoning or land use to the local coordinating entity;

(4) imposes any environmental, occupational, safety, or other rule, standard, or permitting process that is different from those in effect on the date of enactment of this Act that would be applicable had the Heritage Area not been established;

(5)(A) imposes any change in Federal environmental quality standards; or

(B) authorizes designation of any portion of the Heritage Area that is subject to part C of title I of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7470 et seq.) as class 1 for the purposes of that part solely by reason of the establishment of the Heritage Area;

(6) authorizes any Federal or State agency to impose more restrictive water use designations, or water quality standards on uses of or discharges to, waters of the United States or waters of the State within or adjacent to the Heritage Area solely by reason of the establishment of the Heritage Area;

(7) abridges, restricts, or alters any applicable rule, standard, or review procedure for permitting of facilities within or adjacent to the Heritage Area; or

(8) affects the continuing use and operation, where located on the date of enactment of this Act, of any public utility or common carrier.

SEC. 219. REPORTS.

For any year in which Federal funds have been made available under this subtitle, the local coordinating entity shall submit to the Secretary a report that describes—

(1) the accomplishments of the local coordinating entity;

and

(2) the expenses and income of the local coordinating entity.

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SEC. 220. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subtitle \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which not more than \$1,000,000 may be authorized to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

(b) **COST-SHARING REQUIREMENT.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity assisted under this subtitle shall be not more than 50 percent unless the Secretary determines that no reasonable means are available through which the local coordinating entity can meet its cost sharing requirement for that activity.

SEC. 221. TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.

The authority of the Secretary to provide assistance to the local coordinating entity under this subtitle terminates on the date that is 15 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

APPENDIX B: RESOURCE THEME MATRIX

The following pages contain the resource matrix for the 14 parishes in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Location: Ascension Parish																						
Resource Name	Theme			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Spanish Lake			X		X		X				X									X		
Ascension Parish Courthouse	X			X			X			X			X									
Ascension Veteran's Memorial Park				X			X			X			X									
Ashland-Belle Helene Plantation*	X			X			X			X			X									
Bittersweet Plantation	X			X			X				X		X									
Bocage Plantation	X			X			X			X			X									
Boucherie Festival		X			X		X			X					X							
Cajun Village Fall Fest			X	X			X			X					X							
Church of the Ascension of Our Lord	X			X			X				X		X									

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Donaldsonville Downtown Dev. District	X			X			X			X			X							
Evan Hall Slave Cabins*	X	X			X		X			X		X								
Helvetia Dependency*	X			X			X			X		X								
Hermitage Plantation*	X			X			X			X		X								
Historic Donaldsonville District *		X		X			X			X			X							
Historic Fort Butler Commemorative Site*		X		X			X			X		X								
Houmas House Plantation and Gardens*	X			X			X			X		X								
Jambalaya Festival			X	X			X		X					X						
Juneteenth Freedom Festival	X			X			X		X					X						
LA 22 and 51 Scenic Byway		X		X			X		X						X					
Landry Tomb	X			X			X		X		X									
Lemann Store	X			X			X		X		X									
Mulberry Grove	X			X			X		X		X									
Palo Alto Dependency*	X			X			X		X		X									
Palo Alto Plantation	X			X			X		X		X									
River Road African American Museum	X			X			X		X								X			
Rome Home *	X			X			X		X		X									
St. Emma Plantation	X			X			X		X		X									
St. Joseph's School	X			X			X		X		X									
Sunshine Festival			X	X			X		X					X						
Swamp Pop Music Festival			X	X			X		X					X						
Tee Joe Gonzales Museum			X	X			X		X								X			
The Cabin	X			X			X		X		X									
The Cajun Village	X			X			X		X			X								
Historic Donaldsonville Museum			X			X	X		X								X			
Robert Penn Warren House*	X			X			X		X		X									

Great River Road		X		X			X			X						X						
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*National Register of Historic Places**

APPENDIXES

Location: Assumption Parish																					
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type								
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest
Allons Manger Festival		X		X			X			X					X						
Assumption Parish Courthouse and Jail*	X			X			X				X		X								
Bayou L'Ourse Nature Trail			X	X			X				X									X	
Bayouside Golf Course			X	X			X				X									X	
Belle Alliance*	X			X			X				X		X								
Belle River Christmas Boat Parade		X	X	X				X		X					X						
Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery*	X			X				X		X			X								
Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary*		X		X				X			X		X								

APPENDIXES

Location: Avoyelles Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Adam Ponthieu Store/ Post Office Museum	X			X								X					X					
Alfred H. Bordelon House	X			X						X		X										
Avoyelles Farm Festival		X									X			X								
Bailey Hotel	X			X					X			X										
Bailey Theater Site (building destroyed)	X								X			X										
Bayou Rouge Baptist Church		X									X	X										
Bordelonville Floodgate		X		X							X	X										
Brouillette Lock and Dam		X		X							X								X			
Calliham Plantation House	X			X							X	X										
Central Bank & Trust	X					X	X				X	X										

Christmas on the Bayou		X		X			X			X				X						
Clarendon Plantation House Site (private)	X			X			X				X	X								
Cochon de Lait Festival		X		X			X							X						
Colonial Trails Scenic Byway	X	X	X				X								X					
Cottonport Museum	X			X			X				X	X						X		
Dr. Jules Charles des Fosse	X			X			X				X	X								
Dr. Thomas A Roy House	X				X		X				X	X								
Fort de Russy Civil War Site	X			X			X			X		X								
Fort No. 2 at Yellow Bayou	X			X			X			X		X								
Frithland	X			X			X			X		X								
Grand Cote National Wildlife Refuge				X	X		X			X									X	
Grassy Lake				X	X		X			X										X
HWY 362				X	X		X			X					X					
Hypolite Bordelon House	X			X			X				X	X						X		
Joffrion House	X			X			X				X	X								
LA Corn Festival		X		X			X			X					X					
Lacour's Fish & Ice Company Building Site (building gone)	X						X				X	X								
Lake Ophelia National Wildlife Refuge				X	X			X		X									X	
Lone Pine House				X	X			X			X	X								
Louisiana Railway & Navigation Company Depot		X		X				X			X	X								
Marksville Historic District	X			X							X		X							
Marksville Prehistoric Indian Site	X			X			X				X	X								
Moreauville High School	X			X			X			X		X								
Oak Hall	X			X				X		X		X								
Oakwold Plantation House	X			X				X		X		X								
Old River		X		X			X			X										X

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Pomme De Terre			X	X					X		X									X	
Sarto Bridge		X		X			X			X			X								
Scenic Bayou Rouge			X	X			X			X				X							
Spring Bayou National Wildlife Refuge			X	X			X			X									X		
St. Mary's Assumption Church		X				X	X					X	X								
St. Paul Lutheran Church	X			X			X					X	X								
Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot		X		X			X			X		X									
Thomas A Lemoine House	X			X			X			X		X									
Tunica Biloxi Pow-Wow	X	X		X			X		X					X							
Tunica-Biloxi Reservation	X	X		X			X		X						X						
Tunica-Biloxi Education & Cultural Resource Center	X	X		X			X		X										X		

*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: Concordia Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Bayou Cocodrie			X	X			X			X									X	X		
Bienville Trace	X	X	X	X			X			X			X	X	X	X		X				
Canebrake* (privately owned/tour by appointment)	X			X			X				X		X									
Concordia Parish Courthouse* and Library	X	X		X			X				X		X									
Concordia Wildlife Refuge with hunting, fishing			X	X			X				X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X		X
Delta Music Museum and Arcade Theater	X	X		X			X			X			X	X	X			X				
DePrato Mounds*	X	X		X			X				X		X			X						
Ferriday Commercial Historic District*	X	X			X		X				X		X	X	X			X	X			
Frogmore Cotton Gin (originally Piazza Cotton Gin)*	X	X	X	X			X			X			X		X			X				

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Colonial Trail Scenic Byway	X	X		X			X				X		X		X	X		X					
Frogmore Plantation & Gins	X	X	X	X			X			X			X		X	X		X	X				
Gillespie	X	X	X	X			X			X			X		X	X		X	X				
HWY 84 – El Camino Historic National East / West Corridor	X	X		X			X				X		X		X	X		X					
Killarney* (privately owned; tour by appointment)	X	X		X			X					X	X										
Lisburn Plantation House* (privately owned; tour by appointment only)	X			X	X		X					X	X										
Old River Control Structure - USACE*/Hydro Electric	X			X	X		X				X		X		X	X		X			X		
Red River				X	X		X				X					X							X
Roseland Plantation	X												X										
Sheriff Campbell Home Site (structure burned)*	X												X										
Tacony Plantation House * (privately owned; tour by appointment only)	X				X				X			X	X			X							
Three Rivers Wildlife Management Area				X	X		X				X					X			X				X
Vidalia Riverfront Landing		X	X	X			X			X			X		X	X						X	
Zappe Boarding House* (privately owned)	X	X		X			X					X	X	X									
Lewis Family Museum		X		X				X			X	X						X					
Monteray Community	X	X	X		X		X					X				X						X	

*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: East Baton Rouge Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural Landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest / Natural Resource	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Adams House*	X											X										
Armor Building – Old Arsenal Museum	X			X			X		X			X										
Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge		X		X			X		X								X					
Audubon Plantation House*		X										X										
Baker Heritage Museum-Cushman House*	X	X										X					X					
Baker Leland College	X											X										
Baker Presbyterian Church		X										X										
Barthel Pigeonnier*	X									X		X										
Baton Rouge High School* (under construction)	X				X		X					X										

Greater Baton Rouge State Fair		X		X			X					X						
Hart House*	X							X			X							
Hilton Capitol Center Hotel*	X			X			X				X							
The Stockade Bed and Breakfast*	X			X			X				X							
Hilltop Arboretum		X		X			X											X
Historic Highland Road	X	X		X			X				X							
Huey Long Gravesite	X			X			X				X							
Independence Park Botanical Gardens			X	X			X				X							X
Indian Mound, State Capitol Grounds			X	X			X				X							
Jared Young Sanders Jr. House*	X										X							
Joseph Petitpierre-Kleinpeter House*	X										X							
Kleinert Terrace Historic District*	X	X										X						
Kleinpeter House*	X										X							
Knox Building*	X										X							
Louisiana Arts & Science Museum and Planetarium*		X		X			X				X					X		
Laurens Henry Cohn St. Memorial Plant Arboretum*		X																X
Les Chenes Vert, Highland Road*	X										X							
Levy Hay Warehouse	X										X							
Longwood House*	X			X			X			X	X							
Louisiana Mud Painting		X		X			X			X								
Louisiana Old State Capitol		X		X			X			X						X		
Louisiana State Archives		X		X			X			X						X		
Louisiana State Capitol	X	X		X			X			X						X		
Louisiana State Museum		X		X			X			X						X		
Louisiana State University	X			X			X			X		X						
LSU Museum of Art		X		X			X			X						X		
LSU Campus Mounds*	X			X			X			X		X						

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LSU Hill Memorial Library		X										X							
LSU Historic District	X	X											X						
LSU Museum of Natural Science		X															X		
LSU Museum of Natural Science - Louisiana Wildlife		X	X														X		X
LSU Rural Life Museum		X	X	X			X			X							X		
LSU Textile Museum & Costume Gallery		X		X			X			X							X		
LSU Tiger Stadium - Huey Long History	X			X			X			X									
Magnolia Mound Market Days Festival		X												X					
Magnolia Cemetery*	X			X			X			X									
Magnolia Mound Plantation*		X		X			X			X							X		
Main Street Historic District*	X	X											X						
Manship House*	X											X							
McKinley High School*	X											X							
Mount Hope Plantation House*	X			X			X			X									
Mount Hope Plantation		X															X		
Navy Awareness Day		X												X					
Nicholson School*	X											X							
Old Louisiana Governor's Mansion*	X	X		X			X			X							X		
Old Post Office*	X											X							
Ory House*	X											X							
Pecue House*	X											X							
Pentagon Barracks*	X			X			X			X									
Pentagon Barracks Museum		X															X		
Planter's Cabin*	X											X							
Port of Baton Rouge		X		X			X			X									
Potts House*	X											X							
Prince Hall Masonic Temple*		X										X							
Raymond House*	X											X							

Reiley-Reeves House*	X											X							
Roseland Terrace Historic District*	X	X											X						
Roumain Building*	X			X					X			X							
Burden Center & Rural Life Museum		X															X		
Santa Maria Plantation House*	X											X							
Sara Peralta Archaeological Site*	X											X							
Scott Street School*	X											X							
Southern University Archives Building*	X											X							
Southern University Historic District*	X	X										X	X						
Spanish Town*		X		X					X				X						
St. James Episcopal Church*		X		X					X			X							
St. Joseph Cathedral*		X		X					X			X							
Standard Oil Co /Exxon		X		X						X									
Stewart-Dougherty House*	X											X							
Tessier Building*	X											X							
The French House	X											X							
US Civil War Center		X															X		
USS <i>Kidd</i> *	X	X		X					X			X							
United States Barracks*	X	X										X							
US Post Office	X											X							
Warden's House*	X											X							
Welsh-Levy Building*	X			X					X			X							
Winans, Fenville Studio* (not open to the public)		X											X						
Windrush Gardens			X	X					X										X
Yazoo & Mississippi Valley Railroad*		X		X								X							
Zachary Fairhaven Plantation House	X											X							
Port Hudson National Cemetery	X			X						X		X							
Port Hudson State Historic Site*		X		X						X		X							

APPENDIXES

Zachary Railroad Depot.*	X			X			X			X			X								
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*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: Iberia Parish																					
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type								
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest
Alice Plantation*	X			x			x				x	X									
America's Wetland Birding Trail Atchafalya Loop		X		x			x			x					X						
Antique Rose Ville		X		x			x				x	X									
August Angler's Addition Fishing Tournament		X		x			x				x		X								
Avery Island			X	x			x		x			X									
Bayou Petite Anse			X	x			x				x								X		
Bayou Teche			X	x			x				x								X		
Bayou Teche		X		x			x				x	X									
Bayou Teche Museum		X		x			x		x								X				

APPENDIXES

Bayou Teche Scenic Byway		X		x			x			x					X					
Bayside Plantation *		X		x			x			x			X							
Brudley's Wild Game, Seafood, and Jambalaya Cook-Off															X					
Cajun -French Music Festival		X		x			x								X					
Cajun Hot Sauce Festival		X		x			x								X					
Conrad Rice Mill*	X			x			x						X							
Cypremort Point State Park			X	x			x			x										X
Delcambre Canal			X	x			x					x							X	
Delcambre Docks	X			x			x					x			X					
Delcambre Shrimp Festival		X		x			x								X					
Dulcito Plantation House*	X			x			x					x			X					
Enterprise Plantation*	X	X					x					x			X					
Episcopal Church of the Epiphany*		X		x			x								X					
Auguste Erath Building*	X			x			x					x			X					
Essane Theater		X		x			x					x			X					
Evangeline Theater*		X		x			x					x			X					
Festival of Live Oaks	X			x			x					x			X					
First United Methodist Church*		X		x			x					x			X					
4th of July Fishing Rodeo		X		x			x					x			X					
Gulf of Mexico			X	x			x					x								X
Hewes House*	X			x			x					x			X					
Jean Lafitte Scenic Byway		X		x			x					x			X					
Jeanerette Sugar Museum		X		x			x					x							X	
Jefferson Island		X	X	x			x					x			X					X
Jungle Gardens of Avery Island	X	X		x			x					x			X					
Labor Day Fishing Rodeo		X		x			x					x			X					
Lake Dauterive			X	x			x					x								X
Lake Fausse Pointe State Park			X	x			x					x								X

Lake Peigneur		X	X	x			x			x		X						X		
Laotian New Year Celebration		X		x			x			x				X						
LeJeune's Bakery*	X			x			x			x		X								
Louisiana Sugarcane Festival and Fair		X		x			x			x				X						
Lutzenberger Foundry & Pattern Shop*	X					x	x					x	X							
Lydia Cajun Food Fest		X		x			x			x				X						
Mardi Gras parades		X		x			x			x				X						
Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge			X	x				x				x						X		
Mintmere*	X			x			x				x		X							
New Iberia		X		x			x			x							X			
New Iberia City Park			X	x			x			x								X		
New Iberia Downtown Art Walk		X		x			x			x				X						
New Iberia Downtown Commercial Historic District	X	X		x			x			x				X						
New Iberia High School*		X		x			x					x	X							
New Iberia Downtown Historic / Cultural District	X			x			x			x				X						
New Iberia Residential District*	X	X		x			x			x				X						
New Iberia Shipwreck Bayou Teche		X				x			x			x	X							
New Iberia West End Historic / Cultural District	X				x		x			x				X						
Olivier Plantation Store*	X			x			x			x			X							
Pascal Building*	X			x			x				x		X							
People's National Bank (Poncio's)*	X			x			x				x		X							
Rip Van Winkle Gardens of Jefferson Island	X			x			x			x			X							
Romero Andrew House*	X			x			x				x		X							
Shadows Civil War Encampment	X			x			x			x			X							
Shadows-on-the-Teche*	X	X		x			x			x			X				X			
Shell Keys			X		x				x			x						X		

APPENDIXES

Silman Theater for the Performing Arts		X		x			x			x			X							
Southern Pacific Railroad Depot*	X					x	x				x		X							
Spanish Lake			X	x			x				x								X	
Steamboat House*	X			x			x				x		X							
TABASCO Factory	X	X		x			x			x			X					X		
Taylor Drugstore*	X			x	x		x				x		X							
Magnolias*	X			x			x				x		X							
Top Road Big Bass Classic		X		x			x			x					X					
Vermillion Bay			X	x			x				x								X	
Vida Shaw Bridge	X				x		x				x		X							
Weeks Island		X		x			x				x		X							
William Johnson Jazz Collection Room		X		x			x			x								X		
World Championship Gumbo Cook-off		X		x			x			x					X					
Wormser's Department Store*	X			x			x				x		X							

*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: Iberville Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural Landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest / Natural Resource	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Andrew H Gay House*	X			X			X				X		X									
Arrival of Evangeline on Bayou Plaquemine	X			X			X				X			X								
Atchafalaya National Wildlife Preserve - Whiskey Bay		X	X	X			X				X								X			
Bagatelle Plantation House*	X			X			X			X		X										
Bayou Mccauley Cemetery	X	X		X								X										
Bayou Plaquemine and US Government Lock*	X	X		X			X		X			X								X		
Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park			X	X			X		X													
Brustle Building	X			X			X			X		X										

APPENDIXES

Carville Hansen's National Disaster Center	X			X			X			X							X			
Carville Historic District*	X											X								
Carville Roberto's Restaurant	X			X			X				X									
Christmas at LaCroix Road		X												X						
Church of Immaculate Conception		X									X									
Church of the Nativity	X																			X
Cora Texas Manufacturing	X										X									
Desobry Building*	X										X									
Homestead Plantation House*	X										X									
Iberville Museum	X																X			
Iberville Parish Courthouse*	X										X									
Iberville Welcome Center (Old Fire Station)	X			X			X			X										
Iberville Welcome Center on Bayou Grosse Tete			X	X			X			X										X
Indian Mound	X			X			X		X					X						
International Acadian Festival	X			X			X					X					X			
July 4th Persimmon Crawl Races		X	X	X			X					X		X						
Krewe of Maringouin Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X				X						X			
Live Oaks Plantation*	X			X			X			X		X								
Lucky Plantation House*	X			X			X			X		X								
Nottoway Plantation*		X		X			X			X				X						
Nottoway Plantation Christmas Candlelight Tour		X		X			X				X						X			
Nottoway Plantation House	X			X			X			X				X						
Old Homes of Turnerville Plaquemine	X			X			X				X									X
Plaquemine	X			X			X			X										X
Plaquemine Christmas Festival		X		X			X					X					X			
Plaquemine City Hall	X			X			X			X				X						

Plaquemine Deport Market	X	X		X			X			X									
Plaquemine High School*	X			X			X			X		X							
Plaquemine Historic District*	X			X			X			X			X						
Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site	X	X		X			X			X							X		
Rivet, Pierre Ernest House	X			X			X			X		X							
Schexnayder House*	X			X			X			X		X							
St. Basil's Academy*	X			X			X			X		X							
St. Gabriel Church, Roman Catholic*		X		X			X			X		X							
St. John Baptist Church*		X		X			X			X		X							
St John Catholic Church*		X		X			X			X		X							
St. Louis Plantation*	X	X		X			X			X		X							
St. Raphael Cemetery	X			X			X			X				X					
J. Supple's Sons Mercantile Company*	X			X			X			X		X							
Tally-Ho Plantation House*	X			X			X			X		X							
The Antique Hearse	X			X			X				X	X							
The Last Wilderness			X	X			X				X								X
Trinity*	X			X			X			X		X							

*National Register of Historic Places**

APPENDIXES

Location: Lafayette Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Acadian Village		X	X	X				X				X						X				
Acadian Cultural Center	X			X			X					X						X				
Acadiana Center for the Arts		X	X	X			X					X						X				
Acadiana Park Nature Station			X																	X		
Alesia House*		X											X									
Alexandre Latiolais House*		X											X									
Andre' Billeaud House*		X											X									
Brandt House*		X											X									
Carenco Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X		X					X								
Carencro County Christmas		X		X			X		X					X								
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist		X		X			X		X									X				

APPENDIXES

Louisiana Immersive Technology Enterprise		X		X			X					X								
Main Street Historic District			X	X			X				X	X		X						X
Mardi Gras Parades		X												X						
Martial Billeaud Jr House*		X										X								
Mouton, Alexandre House / Lafayette Museum		X		X			X					X	X						X	
Charles H. Mouton House*		X										X								
Noel Acadien au Village		X		X			X					X	X		X				X	
Old Guaranty Bank Building*		X										X								
Old Lafayette City Hall*		X										X								
Our Lady of the Assumption School*	X	X										X								
Paul and Lulu Hilliard University Art Museum		X		X			X												X	
Roy-Leblanc House*		X										X								
Salles Residence and Office*		X										X								
Sidney Martin House*		X										X								
St. Cecilia School*	X	X										X								
St. John's Cathedral*	X	X		X			X				X	X	X							
St. Julien House*		X										X								
St. Peters Catholic Church	X	X										X								
Sterling Grove Historic District*		X												X						
USGS National Wetlands Research Center			X																	X
Valsin Broussard House*		X										X								
Vermilionville		X		X			X				X	X		X		X				
Vermillion Inn*		X										X								
Youngsville Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						

*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: Pointe Coupee Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area / Natural Resource	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Mon Coeur (Valerien Bergeron House)		X			X		X			X						X						
1st National Bank Building	X			X			X				X		X									
1st United Methodist Church		X		X			X				X				X							
Albin Major House*	X			X			X			X			X									
Allen Ramsey Wurtele Grave on False River at Pointe Coupee Museum	X	X		X			X			X			X									
Alma Plantation & Sugar Mill	X	X		X			X				X				X							
Alma Plantation Quarters and Archeological Site	X				X		X				X		X									
Annual Blessing of the Boats		X		X			X			X				X								
Austerlitz Plantation House*	X			X			X			X			X									

APPENDIXES

Battle of Stirling's Plantation (Civil War Site)		X		X	X			X			X									
Bayou Grosse Tete Flood Protection Levees	X	X		X			X		X		X									
Bella Vista Plantation	X			X			X		X		X									
Belvue Plantation	X			X			X		X		X									
Bergeron Pecan Company		X		X			X		X											X
Site of Birthplace of General John Archer Lejeune	X	X		X			X		X		X									
Bonnie Glen Plantation House*	X			X			X		X		X									
Candlelight Walking Tour		X		X			X		X											X
Chenal Cemetery	X			X			X		X											X
Cherie Quarters Cabin & Cemetery*	X					X	X				X									X
Confederate Monument at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church		X		X			X		X											X
Cottonseed Oil Mill	X			X			X				X									X
Cottonwood Cemetery	X			X			X				X									X
Dreyfus House	X			X			X		X											X
Dreyfus Store	X			X			X		X											X
El Dorado Plantation House*	X			X			X		X											X
False River Bayou Grosse Tete Drainage Canal				X	X				X											X
False River Crevasse Splay Channels				X			X		X											X
Fannie Riche House - Arch. Site # 16PC81	X			X			X		X											X
General John A Lejeune Statue	X	X		X			X		X											X
General Lafayette Concession Lands	X				X		X				X									X
Glynnwood Plantation House	X			X			X		X											X
Graugnard - Richy Building	X			X			X		X											X
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Lakeland		X		X			X		X											X

Immaculate Conception Church Fair		X		X			X			X				X					
Jacque Dupre House	X			X			X			X									
James Ryder Randall Oak and Monument, and site of Poydras College	X	X		X			X			X									
Jarreau Camp Houses	X			X			X			X				X					
Jean Baptiste Bergeron House	X			X			X			X									
Julien Poydras Grave and Monument	X	X		X			X			X									
Julien Poydras Museum & Arts Center	X	X		X			X			X						X			
Labatut Plantation House	X			X			X			X									
Lakeside Plantation House	X			X			X			X									
Langlois Oak	X	X		X			X			X				X					
Lebeau House and Kitchen	X	X		X			X			X									
Lejeune House	X			X			X			X									
Lettsworth Bayou Site – Arch. Site # 16PC07	X	X		X			X			X									
Livonia Indian Mound – Arch. Site # 16PC01	X	X		X			X			X									
Livonia Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X				X					
Maison Chenal, laCour House	X			X			X			X									
New Roads Mardi Gras Parades		X		X			X			X				X					
Mix Louisiana Post Office	X			X			X			X						X			
Monk's Mound	X	X		X			X			X									
Morganza Marketplace		X		X			X			X				X					
Morgazna High School	X			X			X			X						X			
Mound Bayou Mound	X				X			X			X	X							
New Orleans, Texas, & Mexico Rail Road Spur	X		X		X		X			X		X							
St. Francisville Ferry Crossing			X	X			X			X						X			
New Roads Main Street		X		X			X			X				X					
Nina Plantation Site	X	X			X			X			X	X							

APPENDIXES

Noel Sur la Fausse Riviere		X		X			X			X				X					
North Bend Plantation House	X			X			X			X			X						
Old Hickory Plantation House	X			X			X			X			X						
Old River Locks	X			X			X			X			X						
LaCour House	X			X			X			X			X						
P.V. Rougon Store Site (structure has been demolished)	X					X	X					X	X						
Pointe Coupee Museum on False River Road	X	X		X			X			X							X		
Site of Torras Railroad Bridge	X		X		X				X		X		X						
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church	X	X		X			X			X							X		
St. Francis Chapel on Pointe Coupee Road		X	X	X			X			X							X		
St. Ann's Catholic Church in Morganza		X		X			X			X							X		
St. Mary's Catholic Church in New Roads		X		X			X			X							X		
St. Augustine Catholic Church in New Roads		X		X			X			X							X		
Area along Pointe Coupee Road on Scott Bend where Original French Settlement was Situated	X		X		X			X			X		X						
Prof. Planving Grave and site of Pointe Coupée Industrial and High School at Zion Travelers Baptist Church on False River	X	X		X			X			X							X		
Abandoned Point Prospect Cemetery and Archeological Site in Oscar	X					X			X			X	X						
System of Levee Crevasses in Morganza			X		X			X		X							X		
Late 19th Century Crevasse at Scott Bend on Mississippi River Levee			X		X			X		X							X		
Late 19th Century Frontland Tenant Houses of J.A. Rougon's Austerlitz Pltn.	X				X		X					X	X						
Site of Antebellum Steamboat "Constitution" Disaster			X			X			X			X	X						

APPENDIXES

Location: St. Landry Parish																							
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type										
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area	
Here's the Beef! Cook-off	X			X			X			X					X								
Un Celebration de Cajun Culture avec Leur Music		X		X			X			X				X									
Academy of Sacred Heart*	X			X			X			X		X											
Alexandre Fontenot fils House*	X			X			X				X	X											
Annual National Public Lands Day - Indian Bayou Wildlife Management Area			X	X			X			X													X
Annual Neotropical Birding event			X	X			X			X													X
Arlington Plantation House*	X	X		X			X				X	X											
Atchafalaya Fun Fest		X			X		X			X				X									
Battle of Bourbeaux	X			X				X			X	X											

Birthplace of Bayou Teche	X			X			X			X		X							
Burleigh House			X	X			X			X		X							
Cajun French Music Association Music Festival		X		X			X							X					
Cajun Music Hall of Fame & Museum		X		X			X			X							X		
Cajun Prairie Preservation Habitat		X		X			X			X								X	
Cankton Wagon Festival		X		X			X			X				X					
Chretien Point Plantation	X	X		X			X				X	X						X	
Courir de Mardie Gras		X		X			X			X				X					
Creole Heritage Folklife Center	X	X	X	X			X			X								X	
Dominique Lalanne Store and Residence*	X	X		X			X				X	X							
Martin Donato House*	X			X			X				X	X							
Edward Benjamin Dubuisson House*	X	X		X			X				X	X							
Etouffee Festival		X		X			X			X				X					
Eunice	X			X			X			X								X	
Eunice Depot Museum	X			X			X			X								X	
Feu et l'eau Fire & Water		X		X			X			X				X					
Frozard Plantation House*	X			X			X				X	X							
Grand Coteau Historic District*	X			X			X			X				X					
Half Fast Krewe of Franks Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X				X					
Holy Ghost Creole Festival		X		X			X			X				X					
Homeplace*	X			X			X				X	X							
Indian Bayou			X	X			X			X									X
John Lewis House*	X	X			X		X				X	X							
Juneteenth	X	X		X			X			X				X					
La Table Francaise		X		X			X			X				X					
Labyche-Estorge House*	X	X		X			X				X			X					
LaFleur House*	X			X			X				X	X							

APPENDIXES

Lamorandier-Prudhomme-Jackson House*		X		X		X				X	X							
Le Vieux Village	X			X		X			X			X						
Lebeau Zydeco Festival		X		X		X			X				X					
Liberty Theater*	X	X		X		X			X			X						
Lighting of Le Village		X		X		X			X				X					
Long River Lodge & Hunting Club	X	X	X	X		X			X								X	
Louisiana Yambilee		X		X		X			X				X					
LSUE Arts Festival		X		X		X			X				X					
Magnolia Ridge Plantation and Gardens	X	X	X	X		X			X			X						
Mardi Gras on Mainstreet		X		X		X			X				X					
Mardi Gras Show		X		X		X			X				X					
Moundville Plantation House*	X			X			X			X	X							
Michel Prudhomme House*	X	X	X	X		X				X	X							
Montet House*	X			X		X				X	X							
Mouton House*	X	X		X		X				X	X							
Music and Market Series	X	X	X	X		X			X				X					
Old Federal Building*	X	X		X		X				X	X							
Opelousas	X			X		X			X								X	
Opelousas Historic District*	X			X		X			X				X					
Opelousas City Market*	X			X		X			X			X						
Opelousas Museum & interpretive Center	X			X		X			X								X	
Opelousas Tourist Information	X	X	X	X		X			X								X	
Orphan Train Museum		X	X	X		X			X								X	
Pecanaire Mardi Gras Run		X											X					
(Pirogue and Canoe Race) Tour du Teche				X	X								X					
Plaisance School*	X			X		X			X			X						
Poiret Place*	X	X		X		X				X	X							
Port Barre Cracklin Festival		X		X		X			X				X					
Prairie Acadian Cultural Center	X	X		X		X			X								X	

Ray Homestead *	X	X		X			X				X	X							
Robin House and Barn*	X			X			X				X	X							
Sharecropper Day	X	X		X			X		X				X						
Southwester Louisiana Zydeco Festival		X		X			X		X				X						
Spice & Music		X		X			X		X				X						
St. Landry Catholic Church*	X	X	X	X			X		X			X							
St. Landry Cemetery Tours	X			X			X		X					X					
St. Landry Lumber Company*	X	X		X			X		X			X							
Starvation Point*	X			X			X			X	X								
Steamboat Festival Days	X	X	X	X			X		X					X					
Steamboat Warehouse Restaurant		X		X			X		X			X							
Step Outside Day			X	X			X		X					X					
Sunken Civil War Boat	X				X						X	X							
Sunset Herb and Garden Celebration		X		X			X		X					X					
Sunset High School*	X			X			X			X		X							
Teche Kayak and Canoe Trail			X	X			X		X								X		
Thistlethwaite			X	X			X		X										X
Venus House*	X	X	X	X			X		X			X							
Vermilion Teche Fresh Water District Pump House		X		X			X			X				X					
Washington Historic District*	X			X			X		X				X						
Washington Catfish Festival		X		X			X		X					X					
Washington Museum and Tourist Center	X	X		X			X		X							X			
Weir House*	X	X		X			X			X	X								
White's Chapel United Methodist Church*	X			X			X		X			X							
Wood Stork/Wading Bird Event			X	X			X		X										X
World Championship Crawfish Etouffee Cook-off		X		X			X		X					X					
Zydeco - Cajun Prairie Scenic Byway		X		X			X		X					X					

APPENDIXES

Zydeco Music Festival Breakfast	X			X			X			X					X							
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*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: St. Martin Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Museum of the Acadian Memorial	X			x			x			x							X					
Acadian Day of Remembrance - July 28		X		x			x				x			X								
Acadian Memorial Festival and Historic District Promenade	X	X		x			x			x				X								
Annual Pepper Festival		X		x			x			x				X								
Atchafalaya Basin Festival		X	X	x			x			x				X								
Atchafalaya Basin Gateway		X	X	x			x			x					X							
Atchafalaya River		X	X	x				x		x								X	X			
Atchafalaya Welcome Center & Cultural Exhibits	X	X		x			x			x							X					
Bayou Blues Revival		X	X		x		x				x			X								

APPENDIXES

Bayou Fest Chicken Cook-off		X	X		x		x				x				X					
Bayou Teche	X	X	X	x			x			x										X
Bayou Teche Visitor Center		X		x			x			x							X			
Beaux bridge historic District		X		x			x			x					X					
Beef Tongue Cook-off, Sherman's Bar		X	X	x			x				x				X					
Blooming on the Bayou		X	X												X					
Bonin House*		X												X						
Breaux Bridge Historic District	X			x											X					
Breaux Bridge Crawfish Festival		X		x			x			x					X					
Breaux Bridge Merchants Open House		X			x		x			x					X					
Burdin House*		X												X						
Butte La Rose Confederate Fort	X													X						
Cajun Music in the Swamp		X	X												X					
Calling All Lovers - Romance Under the Evangeline Oak		X		x			x				x				X					
Catahoula Carnival		X	X												X					
Chariot Parade		X			x		x					x			X					
Cracklin Cook-off		X	X	x			x			x					X					
Creole Zydeco Festival		X	X	x			x			x					X					
Cycle Zydeco Bike Tour		X	X	x			x				x				X					
Dautreuil House*	X	X												X						
Deportation Cross Replica at Acadian Memorial		X		x			x			x				X						
Duchamp Opera House and Mercantile	X	X		x			x			x				X						
Etouffe Festival		X		x			x			x					X					
Evangeline Oak Park: Evangeline Oak, Bayou Teche Promenade	X	X		x			x			x				X						
Evangeline Players		X		x			x			x					X					
Fire & Water Celebration - le Feu et L'eau		X		x			x			x					X					

Fontenette - Durand Maison Dimanche*		X										X							
Fontenette-Bienvenu House*		X										X							
Fourgeaud House*		X										X							
Garden Club Memorial Tree at City Hall		X		x		x			x						X				
Garden Club Parade of Homes		X		x		x			x					X					
Henderson Lake		X	X	x		x			x									X	
Henderson Mardi Gras Parade		X	X											X					
Henri Penne House*		X		x		x			x			X							
Historic Keystone Locks on Bayou Teche		X	X	x		x			x			X							
Katie Plantation House*		X											X						
La Grande Boucherie des Cajuns		X		x		x			x					X					
Lake Martin Bird Rookery		X	X	x		x			x									X	
Levert-St. John Bridge*		X		x		x			x			X							
Lion's Club Children's Carnival		X												X					
Longfellow/ Evangeline State Historic Site	X	X	X	x		x			x			X					X		
Louisiana Native Plant Garden at Cultural Heritage Center		X	X	x		x			x						X				
Maison Olivier*	X	X		x		x			x			X							
Meditation Garden at Acadian Memorial	X	X		x		x			x						X				
National Day of the Acadians - August 15	X	X		x		x				x				X					
Newcomers Mardi Gras Parade		X		x		x			x					X					
Okra Festival	X	X		x		x			x					X					
Old Castillo Hotel*		X		x		x			x			X							
Olivier Pigeonnier*		X		x		x			x			X							
Opera House		X		x		x			x			X							
Parks Bayou Festival		X	X	x		x			x					X					
Patin House*		X										X							
Pellerin-Chauffe House*		X										X							
Pine Alley-Durand Plantation	X	X		x			x		x			X							

APPENDIXES

Ransonet House*		X								X									
Rotary Mardi Gras Ball	X	X	x			x			x			X							
Sandoz House*		X								X									
Soulier House*		X								X									
St. John Historic Bridge		X	x			x			x		X								
St. Lucy Festival of Lights and KC Parade	X	X	x			x			x			X							
St. Marton De Tours Catholic Church*	X	X	x			x			x		X				X				
St. Martin Historic District*		X	x			x			x			X							
St. Martin Parish Courthouse*		X	x			x			x		X								
St. Martinville Cultural Heritage Center-African American Museum	X	X	x			x			x						X				
St. Martinville Elementary School*		X	x			x				x	X				X				
St. Martinville Main Street Program	X		x			x			x		X				X				
St. Michael Catholic Cemetery	X	X	x			x			x		X								
Stephanie Plantation House*		X									X								
Tour du Teche Paddle Races		X	X	x		x				x		X					X		
US Post Office/ La Maison Duchamp*		X	x			x			x			X							
ULL Experimental Farm		X	x			x			x										X
D.W. Voorhies House		X									X								
Wild Rabbit Cook-off Sherman's Bar		X	x			x			x			X							
Lake Fausse Point Park		X	X	x		x			x										X

*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: St. Mary Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural Landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Albania Plantation House* (private)	X			X			X				X	X										
Alice B (private)	X			X			X				X	X										
Alice Fuselier	X				X		X				X	X										
Alice C Plantation House* (private)	X			X			X				X	X										
Arlington Plantation House* (private)	X			X			X				X	X										
Atchafalaya Culinary & Arts Festival		X		X			X			X				X								
Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area			X	X				X		X												X
Atchafalaya Golf Course			X	X			X			X										X		
Atkinson Memorial Presbyterian Church*	X			X			X		X			X										
Attakapas Island Wildlife Management Area			X	X				X				X										
Basset-Luke House (private)	X			X			X					X										

APPENDIXES

Battle of Irish Bend	X					X	X				X		X							
Bayou Teche		X		X				X		X										X
Bayou Teche Bear & Birding Festival		X		X						X					X					
Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge			X					X			X								X	
Bayou Teche Scenic Byway		X		X						X						X				
Biking along Old Spanish Trail			X	X							X									X
Bittersweet* (private)	X			X								X	X							
Bocage on the Teche (private)	X			X								X	X							
Breva-Domingue House (private)	X			X									X							
Brownell Memorial Park and Carillon Tower			X	X						X						X				
Burn's Point Boat Launch			X	X							X									X
Cajun Coast Paddling Trail			X	X							X									X
Calumet Plantation House* (private)	X			X								X	X							
Chadwick House (private)	X			X								X	X							
Cherrybank (private)	X			X								X	X							
Chitimacha Cultural Museum	X			X						X							X			
Church of the Assumption	X			X						X			X							
Cotton Top (private)	X			X								X	X							
Crawford (private)	X					X			X			X	X							
Cypremort (Louisa)	X				X							X	X							
Cypremort Point State Park			X	X						X										X
Cypress Sawmill Museum Festival		X		X						X					X					
Darby House* (formerly a bank)	X				X							X	X							
Dixie Plantation House* (private)	X				X							X	X							
Dumesnil House (private)	X				X							X	X							
Eagle Expo		X		X							X				X					
Ellersile	X			X								X	X							
Englewood	X				X							X	X							
Florence	X					X						X	X							

Fort Brashear	X				X					X		X								
Foster - O'Niell House	X			X							X	X								
Frances Plantation (private)	X			X							X	X								
Franklin Historic District*	X			X					X				X							
Franklin Main Street	X			X					X				X							
Garret Plantation	X			X							X	X								
Gates House	X			X							X	X								
Grevemberg House Museum	X			X					X		X						X			
Hanson House	X			X							X	X								
Hanson Lumber Company Office*	X				X	X					X	X								
Hanson Lumber Company Owners House*	X				X	X					X	X								
Heaton House* (private)	X			X							X	X								
Idlewild* (private)	X			X							X	X								
Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and Exhibit	X			X						X						X				
International Petroleum Museum & Exposition/Mr. Charlie Oil Rig		X								X							X			
Joshua B Cary House* (private)	X			X								X								
Kemper Williams Park and Campground			X	X					X	X										X
Kennedy Hotel (private)	X			X							X	X								
Hilaire Lancon House*	X			X							X	X								
Louisiana Shrimp & Petroleum Festival		X	X						X					X						
Louisiana State Museum - Aviation & Cypress		X	X						X								X			
Mardi Gras Parades		X	X						X					X						
Maryland (private)	X			X							X	X								
Morgan City Hall and Courthouse*	X			X					X			X								
Morgan City Historic District and Riverfront*	X			X					X				X							
Morgan City Main Street	X			X					X				X							
Nathan Wooster House	X				X						X	X								

Bayou Teche Scenic Byway		X		X						X						X					
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National Register of Historic Places*

APPENDIXES

Location: Terrebonne Parish																						
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type									
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest	State Wildlife Refuge / Mgt. Area
Ardoyne Plantation House*	X			X			X					X										
Argyle*	X			X			X			X		X										
Armitage*	X			X			X			X		X										
Bayou Terrebonne Waterlife Museum			X	X			X		X								X					
Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet - Chauvin		X		X			X		x					X								
Blessing of the Shrimp Fleet - Dulac		X		x			X		X					X								
Once Upon a Cajun Christmas Parade		X		X			X		X					X								
Clifford Percival Smith House*	X			X			X			X		X										
Herman Albert Cook House*	X											X										

Ducros Plantation House*	X			X			X			X		X							
Gibson Methodist Episcopal Church*	X				X		X			X		X							
Houma	X																X		
Houma Historic District* and Walking Tour	X			X			X			X			X						
Isle Dernieres			X			X			X										X
Krewe of Bayou Petit Caillou Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X				X					
Hercules Festival on the Bayou and Fishing Rodeo		X		X			X			X				X					
Magnolia*	X			X			X			X		X							
Mardi Gras Parades		X		X			X			X				X					
Southdown Marketplace	X			X			X			X				X					
Montegut School*	X			X			X			X		X							
Orange Grove Plantation House*	X			X			X			X		X							
Palmer Store*	X				X		X			X		X							
Residence Plantation*	X			X			X			X		X							
Southdown Plantation House	X			X			X			X							X		
St. Ann Knights of Columbus Annual Fishing Rodeo		X		X			X			X				X					
St. George Plantation House*	X			X			X			X		X							
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church	X					X						X							
Terrebonne Livestock and Agriculture Fair & Rodeo		X		X			X			X				X					
Terrebonne Sportsman League Fishing Rodeo		X		X			X			X				X					
Wetlands Cultural Scenic Byway		X		X			X			X							X		
Voice of the Wetland Festival		X		X			X			X				X					
Swamp Cruises and Tours			X	X			X			X							X		

APPENDIXES

America's Wetland Birding Trail			X	X			X			X								X		
Chauvin Sculpture Garden	X			X			X			X										
LUMCON Exhibits			X	X			X			X					X					
Regional Military Museum				X			X			X							X			
Terrebonne Folklife Culture Center		X		X			X			X										
Terrebonne Parish Library Genealogy Dept.		X		X			X			X										
Charter Fishing			X	X			X			X										
Mandalay National Wildlife Refuge Nature Trail			X	X			X			X								X		
Pointe aux Chenes State Wildlife Management Area			X	X			X			X										X
Barrataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program			X	X			X			X										
Wildlife Gardens	X			XX			X			X								X		
Greenwood Alligator Farm	X			X			X			X					X					
Cajun Dining and Music		X		X			X			X					X					
Terrebonne Parish Livestock Show and Sale		X		X			X			X					X					
Krewe of Hercules Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X					X					
Krewe of Aquarius Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X					X					
Krewe of Hyacinthians Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X					X					
Krewe of Titans Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X					X					
Krewe of Aphrodite Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X					X					
Krewe of Mardi Gras Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X			X					X					

Krewe of Terreanians Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						
Montegut Children's Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						
Krewe of Cleopatra Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						
Krewe of Houmas Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						
Krewe of Kajuns Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						
Krewe of Bonne Terre Mardi Gras Parade		X		X			X							X						
Ladybug Ball and Children's Festival	X			X			X							X						
5k Run and Walk and Cajun Food and Fun Festival		X		X			X							X						
Krewe of Houmas Invitational Saltwater Fishing Rodeo		X		X			X			X				X						
Independence Day Parade and Celebration		X		X			X			X				X						
Just Kids at Art		X		X			X			X				X						
Bayou Dularge KC Fishing Rodeo and Festival		X		X			X			X				X						
Grace Lutheran Fall Fest		X		X			X			X				X						
TARC Holiday Open House		X		X			X			X				X						
Ala Bayou Terrebonne Christmas Boat Parade		X		X			X			X				X						
Picou Cemetery Historical Marker / Indian Chief		X		X			X			X			X							
New Mount Zion Baptist Church		X		X			X			X										
St. Francis de Sales Cathedral		X		X			X			X			X							
Canoe 2		X		X			X			X									X	
Hammonds Cajun Air Tours		X		X			X			X										

APPENDIXES

Downtown Art Gallery		X		X			X			X											
Black Star Ranch		X		X			X				X									X	
Veteran's Memorial Park	X			X			X			X											

*National Register of Historic Places**

Location: West Baton Rouge Parish																					
Resource Name	Themes			Integrity			Access			Visitor Value			Resource Type								
	Adaptation and Survival	Identity Through a Cultural Blend	Influence of the Water on the Land & the People	Largely Intact	Some What Intact	Not Intact	Easy to Reach	Challenging to Reach	Difficult to Reach	Broad Attraction	Enthusiast Attraction	Specialist Attraction	Historic / Archaeological Site	Historic District / Main Street	Historic Event	Cultural landscapes	National Forest / Grassland	Museums	National Wildlife Refuge	Recreation Area	State Park / State Forest
Addis Bank at the Addis Museum	X			X			X				X		X					X			
Aillet House	X			X			X			X			X					X			
Allendale Plantation Historic District	X				X		X					X			X						
Antioch Missionary Baptist Church	X			X			X			X			X								
Antonio Plantation House	X			X			X			X			X								
Arbroth Mercantile Plantation Store	X			X			X			X								X			
Back Brusly Oak Tree		X		X			X			X			X								
Brusly High School	X			X			X			X			X								

APPENDIXES

Brusly Middle School Gym	X			X			X					X	X									
Calumet Plantation	X			X			X					X	X									
Carruth Camp and Hiking Trails		X		X			X			X											X	
Charles P Adams Historic Marker	X			X			X			X			X									
Cinclare Sugar Mill Historic District	X			X			X			X				X								
Cohn High School	X			X			X					X	X									
Herbert House	X			X			X					X	X									
Heroes Plaza		X		X			X			X	X										X	
Intracoastal Waterway			X	X			X			X	X											X
Lagniappe Dulcimer Fete		X		X			X					X				X						
Lukeville School	X			X			X					X	X									
Mardi Gras Parade in Addis		X		X			X			X						X						
Mardi Gras Parade in Port Allen		X		X			X			X						X						
Medora Indian Mounds	X					X			X			X	X									
Monte Vista Plantation House	X			X			X					X	X									
Morrisonville Historic Marker	X			X			X				X		X									
Mt. Olive Baptist Church	X						X				X		X									
Mulatto Bend Cemetery	X						X					X				X						
Old Ferry Landing		X		X			X			X			X									
Poplar Grove Plantation and House	X				X		X				X		X									
Port Allen High School	X			X			X			X			X									
Port Allen Lock		X		X			X			X			X									
Port of Greater Baton Rouge		X		X			X			X			X									
River Road	X			X			X			X						X						
Rosedale Road	X			X			X			X						X						
Sandbar Plantation House	X			X			X			X			X									
Scott Cemetery	X			X			X				X					X						

Smithfield Plantation House	X			X			X				X		X								
St. Delphine Plantation Site	X			X			X			X			X								
St. James Square and Molaisonville	X			X			X			X			X								
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church and Cemetery	X			X			X			X			X								
Sugar Fest		X		X			X			X					X			X			
Sunrise Community Historic Marker	X			X			X					X				X					
The Depot		X		X			X			X								X			
Third Parish Courthouse		X					X			X								X			
Town of Brusly Memorial Plaza		X		X			X			X			X								
Western Baton Rouge Museum		X		X			X			X								X			
West Baton Rouge Parish Fair		X		X			X			X					X						

National Register of Historic Places*

APPENDIXES



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS ABF/P77/107232 SEPTEMBER 2011



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