



Lowermost Mississippi River Management Program

Program Scope & Elements

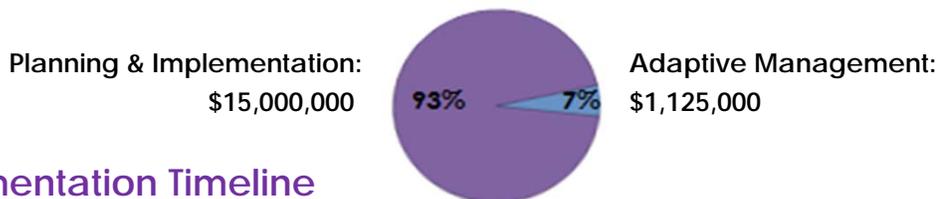
- ▶ The purpose of this program is to refine current river management practices to achieve the Comprehensive Plan's primary goal of habitat restoration and conservation, while maintaining the integrity of flood protection and navigation management projects and goals.
- ▶ A comprehensive assessment of the actual environmental impacts incurred as a result of historic to recent river management practices will be conducted to provide an environmental baseline for comparison with predicted impacts in the original and supplemental EIS for the Baton Rouge to the Gulf deep-draft navigation project, as well as provide a target for restoration and mitigation efforts.
- ▶ Development of the new EIS will rely heavily on numerical modeling tools developed in the Louisiana Coastal Area Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, which has developed single and multi-dimensional hydrodynamic models of the river channel and adjacent basins, including ecological models for estuaries and wetlands.
- ▶ The navigation project's existing EIS' were created 30-40 years ago and do not reflect the current drastically altered coastal landscape or the ongoing efforts to restore it. This program will reassess the accuracy of the predicted impacts and determine if current mitigation activities are commensurate with the actual level of impact.

Ecosystem Outcomes & Economic Impacts

- ▶ The Lowermost Mississippi River, the reach from Baton Rouge to the Gulf of Mexico, is a multiple use resource of national significance. Past flood control and navigation management practices have led directly to the loss and degradation of coastal habitat adjacent to the river, and current management practices often conflict with proposed restoration measures.
- ▶ The ultimate goal of the program is to create an integrated, science-based, management philosophy for the Lowermost Mississippi River that results in restoration of lost wetland habitat and no net loss of wetland habitat in the coastal area affected by navigation and flood protection programs.

Cost

Estimated Total Cost = Estimated Program Cost + Adaptive Management
 \$16,125,000 = \$15,000,000 + \$1,125,000



Implementation Timeline

- ▶ Contingent on funding availability.



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