

THE PROBLEM

LOUISIANA'S LAND LOSS CRISIS

The Barataria Basin has lost more than 276,000 acres of land since the 1930's.

If we do nothing to address our land loss crisis, the Barataria Basin is projected to lose an additional 274,000 acres (over 430 square miles) of land over the next 50 years.

A number of factors have contributed to this severe and detrimental loss of land, including:

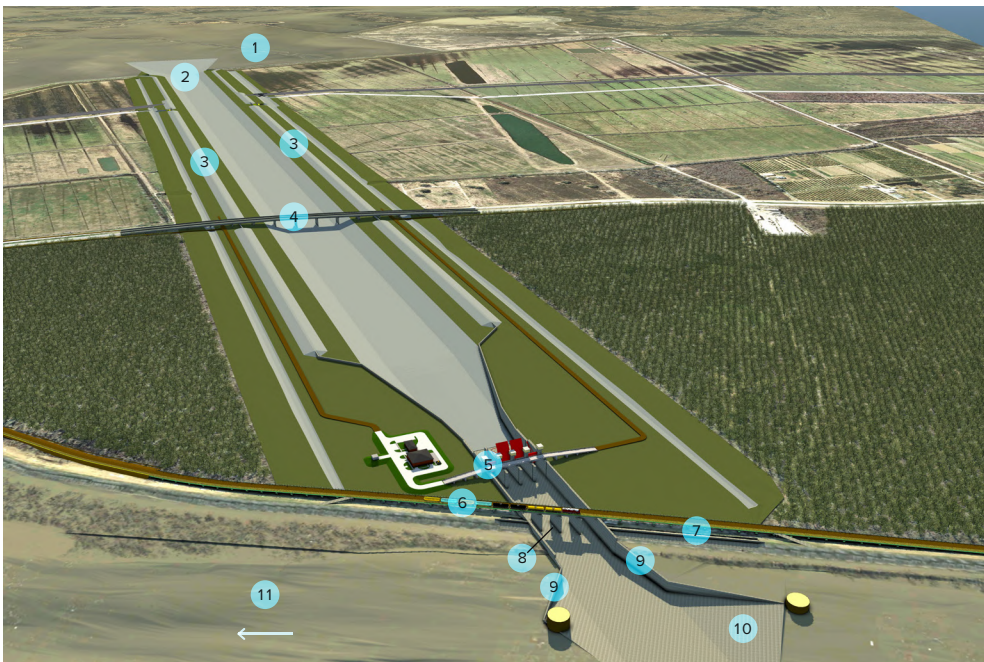
- Sea level rise
- Subsidence, saltwater intrusion, and increased erosion
- Side effects of our current levee system
- Impacts of the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill
- Human activities, such as oil and gas canals and privately-owned projects

This loss of coastal wetlands has led to instability in our estuaries. The communities, wildlife, and fisheries that depend on functional estuaries are facing serious challenges today due to rapid loss of wetland habitats, large swings in estuarine salinities, and continued sea level rise and subsidence.

THE SOLUTION

MID-BARATARIA SEDIMENT DIVERSION

- A sediment diversion in Barataria Basin is the state's best chance at restoring, building, and sustaining wetlands and retaining a functional ecosystem that will preserve the communities, culture, wildlife, and industries that rely on it.
- Sediment diversions are designed to re-establish the natural processes that originally created the delta and sustain the wetlands – something other projects, like dredging and barrier island creation, cannot fully do.
- The proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion is a controlled structure designed to efficiently transport and deposit sediment, freshwater, and nutrients into the Barataria Basin. At peak capacity, the sediment diversion would transport 75,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) of freshwater, sediment, and nutrients into the Barataria Basin.
- The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion represents one of the **largest and most innovative coastal restoration efforts ever undertaken**, as well as one of the largest environmental infrastructure projects in the history of the United States.
- The proposed funding source for the project is dollars from the State of Louisiana's *Deepwater Horizon* natural resource damages settlement.



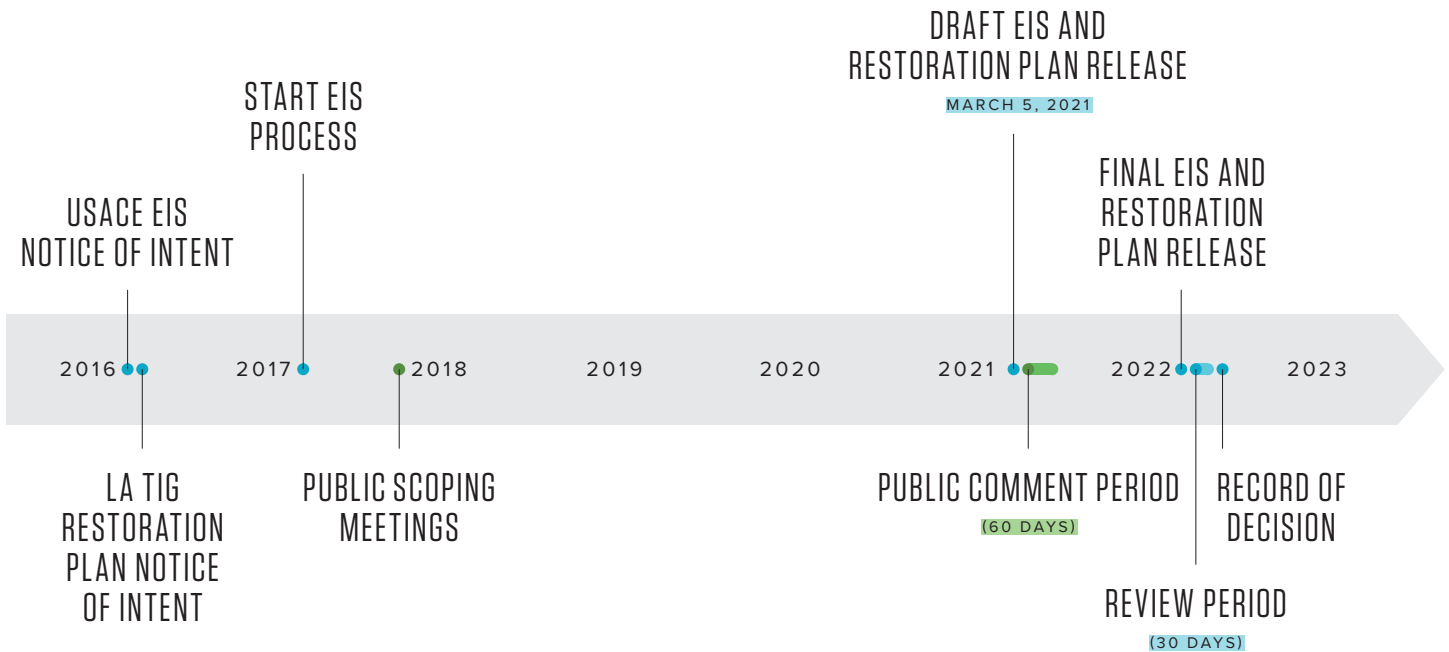
- 1 BARATARIA BASIN
- 2 OUTFALL TRANSITION
- 3 CHANNEL GUIDE LEVEES
- 4 HWY 23 BRIDGE
- 5 GATED STRUCTURE
- 6 RAILROAD ACCESS BRIDGE
- 7 MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEVEE
- 8 U-FRAME INTAKE STRUCTURE
- 9 U-FRAME TRAINING WALLS
- 10 INTAKE ARMORING
- 11 MISSISSIPPI RIVER

THE PROCESS

PERMITTING PROCESS, MITIGATION, AND MONITORING

- The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), released March 5, 2021, includes an extensive review of the benefits and adverse impacts to the Barataria Basin’s physical, biological, and socioeconomic environment as a result of building and operating the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, projected over the next 50 years. It will also evaluate the environmental impacts if the project is not built.
- At the same time the DEIS is issued for public comment, the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG), has also published a Draft Restoration Plan for public review and comment. The Draft Restoration Plan will explain the Trustees’ considerations and evaluation as they decide whether to fund the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

- The LA TIG includes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Department of the Interior (DOI), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the State of Louisiana. The State of Louisiana is represented by CPRA, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office (LOSCO), Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), LA Department of Natural Resources (LDNR), and LA Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ).
- **The DEIS and Draft Restoration Plan include a detailed proposed monitoring, mitigation, and adaptive management plan.** The mitigation and stewardship measures included are informed by extensive outreach and engagement with community members, the seafood industry, scientific and academic communities, residents, navigation representatives, and other stakeholder groups.
- The DEIS and Draft Restoration Plan have been developed through extensive scientific review and analysis. **CPRA, USACE, and the LA TIG engaged a wide range of scientific experts to evaluate the project and disclose its potential environmental impacts and benefits.**
- After public review of the DEIS, USACE will review comments received, prepare a Final EIS (FEIS), and make a final decision whether to authorize construction and operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. Similarly, the LA TIG will review comments received on the Draft Restoration Plan, prepare a Final Restoration Plan, and make a final decision on whether to fund the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.



● OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC INPUT

The DEIS and Draft Restoration Plan will be available for public review and comment for a 60-day period. Those interested in the project are encouraged to review the documents and provide comments and feedback to USACE and/or the LA TIG during this period.

PROJECT BENEFITS

THOUSANDS OF ACRES OF LAND BUILT AND SUSTAINED, CONTINUOUS MARSH CREATION

The Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion has the capability to build and sustain an estimated 13,000 to 26,000 acres (about 20 to 40 square miles) of wetlands, depending on the rate of future sea level rise.

After 50 years of operation, under the higher sea level rise assumptions used in the environmental review process, about 20% of the wetlands remaining in Barataria Basin will only be there because of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

STORM SURGE AND STORM PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES

Wetlands in the Barataria Basin created and sustained by the project would help to push back storm surge and reduce wave impacts in Jefferson, Orleans, and portions of Plaquemines Parishes.

FUNCTIONAL ESTUARY FOR WILDLIFE, ANIMALS, AND AQUATIC SPECIES

Re-establishing the natural processes and river flow into the Barataria Basin would create a more productive and sustainable estuary. By comparison, if natural processes are not re-established, the steady and dramatic decline currently underway will worsen. This sustainable system will support healthy marsh and habitat for a variety of seafood, fish, and other aquatic life that would be lost without the project.

SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR COASTAL PARISHES AND BEYOND

Significant economic boom for Plaquemines, Orleans, St. Bernard, and Jefferson Parishes over a five-year construction period, including:

- \$1.4 billion increase in sales
- \$648 million increase in household earnings
- 12,400 additional direct, indirect, and induced jobs
- \$890 million in gross regional product

PROJECT IMPACTS

As a result of sea level rise and changing estuarine conditions, communities near the project site and aquatic species will continue facing significant impacts with or without the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

CPRA recognizes that the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion would accelerate the timing of some of these impacts and has worked with industry representatives, community leaders, coastal residents, and other stakeholders to develop a series of proposed mitigation or stewardship measures intended to address them.

The mitigation and stewardship measures defined in CPRA’s proposed monitoring, mitigation, and adaptive management plan include actions to be taken before and during construction, as well as throughout operation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion.

IMPACT	PROPOSED MITIGATION/STEWARDSHIP MEASURES
<p>It is expected that there will be increased water levels and storm surge in several communities outside of existing levee protection, near the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion location.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with property owners and communities to identify structural mitigation measures, such as elevating homes and roadways, upgrading utilities, or building water and flood control structures • Work with landowners to acquire voluntary easements to compensate owners for the impacts to their properties, without displacing these communities • Monitoring and adaptive management
<p>Due to a decrease in salinity during sediment diversion operation, it is anticipated that there may be a lower survival rate of dolphins in the Barataria Basin.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced monitoring to provide information to allow CPRA to minimize impacts to dolphins and build sustainable marsh • Enhance statewide stranding network • Fund efforts to reduce other manmade stressors on dolphins • Establish a contingency fund to address potential Unusual Mortality Event (UME) declaration in Barataria Basin
<p>Due to a decrease in salinity during sediment diversion operation, there would be permanent changes to the oyster population in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish new public seed grounds in areas of Barataria Basin that become suitable because of sediment diversion operations • Provide cultch material to be used for the betterment of the oyster resource • Create reefs to provide oyster larvae supply in areas that are isolated from other spawning oysters or those that become isolated with diversion operation • Invest in Alternative Oyster Culture (AOC) initiatives, including training programs, startup grant assistance, and designated areas for AOC • Fund marketing programs and communication initiatives to promote buying Louisiana oysters • Facilitate workforce and business training programs to assist individuals with continued business operations or transitioning into new fields, industries, and/or markets • Develop specific programs and criteria for low income and minority oyster fishers to ensure that they have access to and receive the benefits of these measures • Build piers and launches to increase water access for both recreational and subsistence fishing • Monitoring and adaptive management
<p>Due to a decrease in salinity during sediment diversion operation, there would be a permanent changes to the brown shrimp population in the area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund grant programs to purchase vessel refrigeration equipment to extend the time a vessel can fish and transit shrimp while maintaining quality • Fund marketing programs to promote buying Louisiana shrimp • Fund grant programs to offset the cost of vessel equipment upgrades • Facilitate workforce and business training programs to assist individuals with continued business operations or transitioning into new fields, industries, and/or markets • Develop specific programs and criteria for low income and minority shrimp fishers to ensure that they have access to and receive the benefits of these measures • Build piers and launches to increase water access for both recreational and subsistence fishing • Monitoring and adaptive management