

Atchafalaya

BASIN
PROGRAM

Task Force for the Restoration and Enhancement of the Atchafalaya Basin



committed to our coast

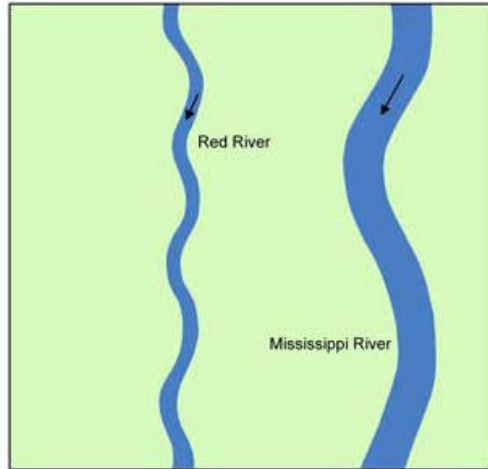
Mississippi River & Tributaries (MR&T): 70/30 Split



Response to the Geomorphology of Old River

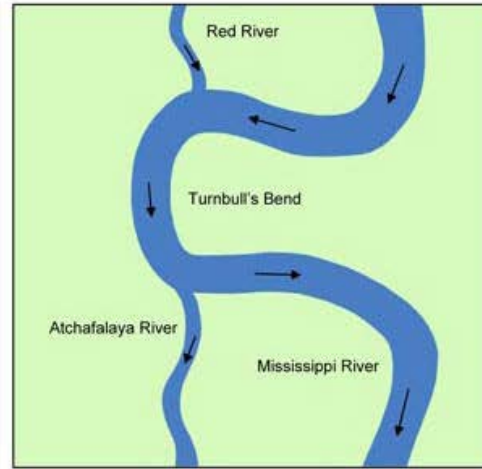
- The Atchafalaya – a distributary of the Mississippi River – provides a shorter steeper path to the Gulf of Mexico than the current Mississippi path.
- The Corps of Engineers regulates flow through the Old River Control Structure at a 70-30 split
 - 70 percent of the combined flow of the Red and Mississippi rivers
 - 30 percent passes down the Atchafalaya.
- Sediment and Water Budgets developed by the LCA Science Advisory Panel revealed that sediment is not distributed in a likewise fashion.

Prior Millennium



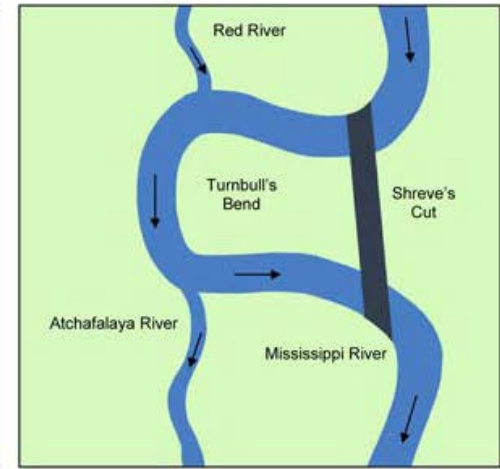
Red River and Mississippi River were parallel rivers each flowing south to the Gulf of Mexico.

15th Century



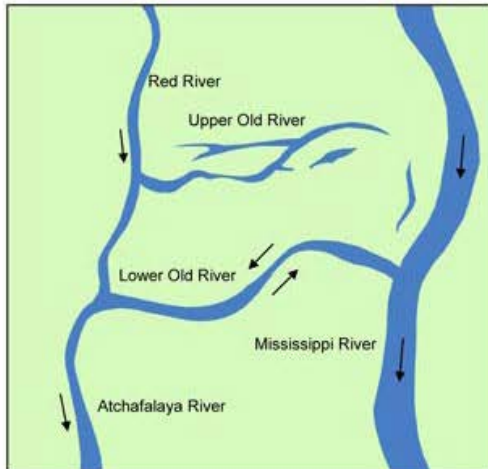
Westwardly meander belt of the Mississippi intercepts the Red. The upper Red becomes a tributary, the lower Red becomes a distributary, named the Atchafalaya.

1831



Shreve cuts off Turnbull's Bend

1950



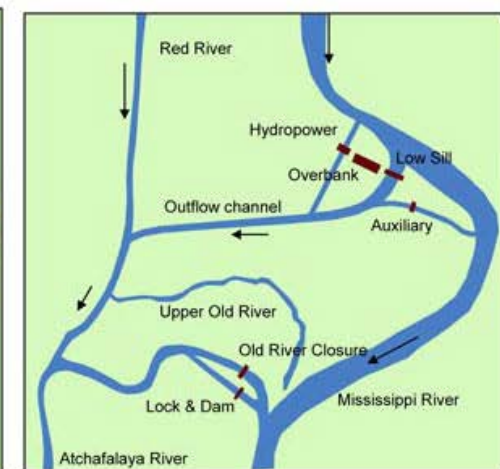
Upper Old River channel abandoned, Lower Old River links the three rivers, log jam in Atchafalaya is removed. Atchafalaya becomes deeper and wider carrying more and more Mississippi flow.

1963



New Orleans District completes construction of Overbank Structure and Low Sill Structure in 1964. Completes Navigation Lock and Old River Closure in 1963.

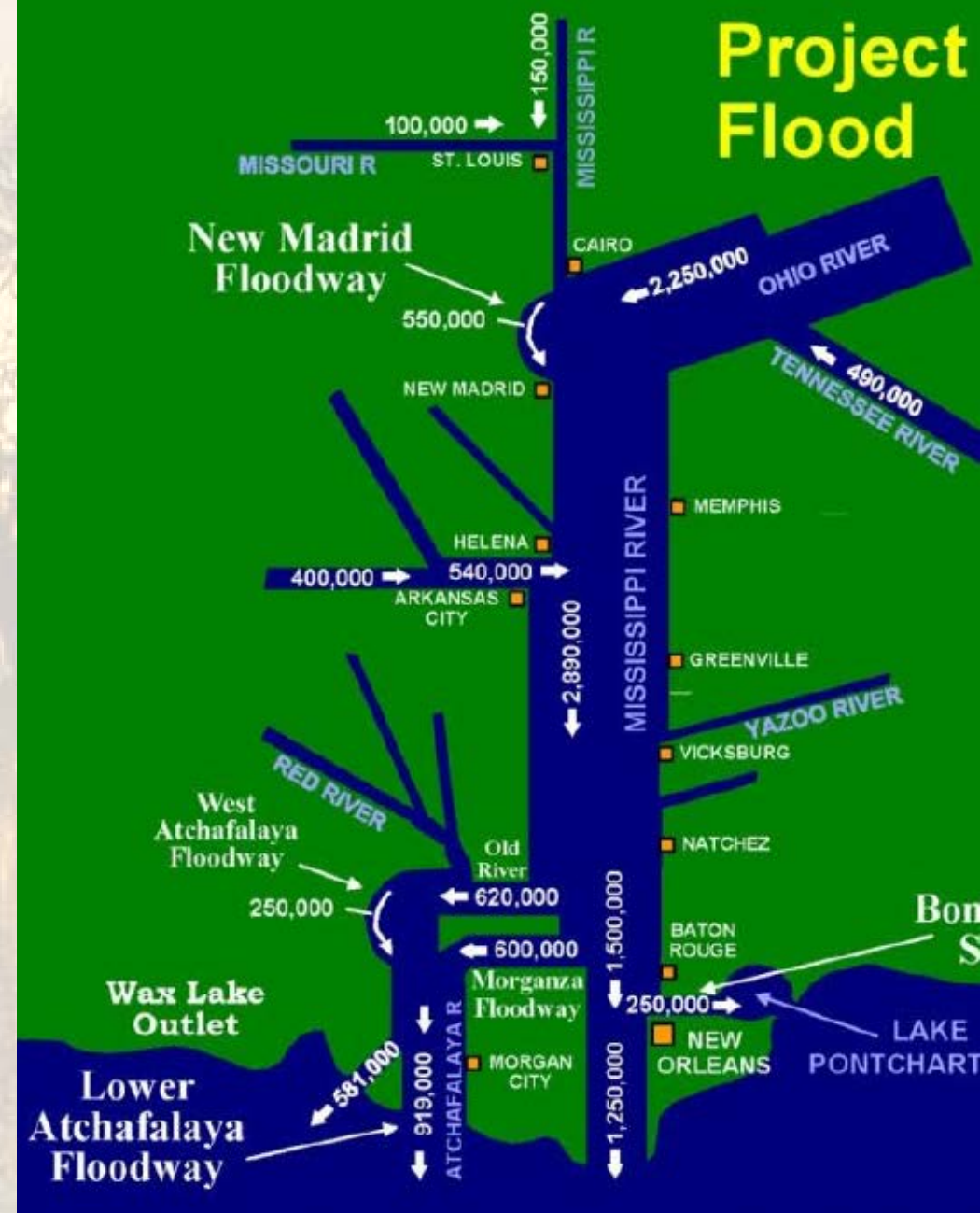
2010



Auxiliary structure completed in 1986. Hydropower plant completed in 1990.

Jadwin Plan: Project Design Flood

- authorized by the 1928 Flood Control Act
- system of public works within the lower Mississippi Valley providing flood risk management and a stable, efficient navigation channel
- Uses levees and floodwalls, floodways, channel improvements and stabilization all to ensure that the Project Design Flood can safely pass limiting damages
- The Morganza Spillway is meant to divert 600,000 cfs from downstream communities on the Mississippi River and alleviate stress on downstream levees.



Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System

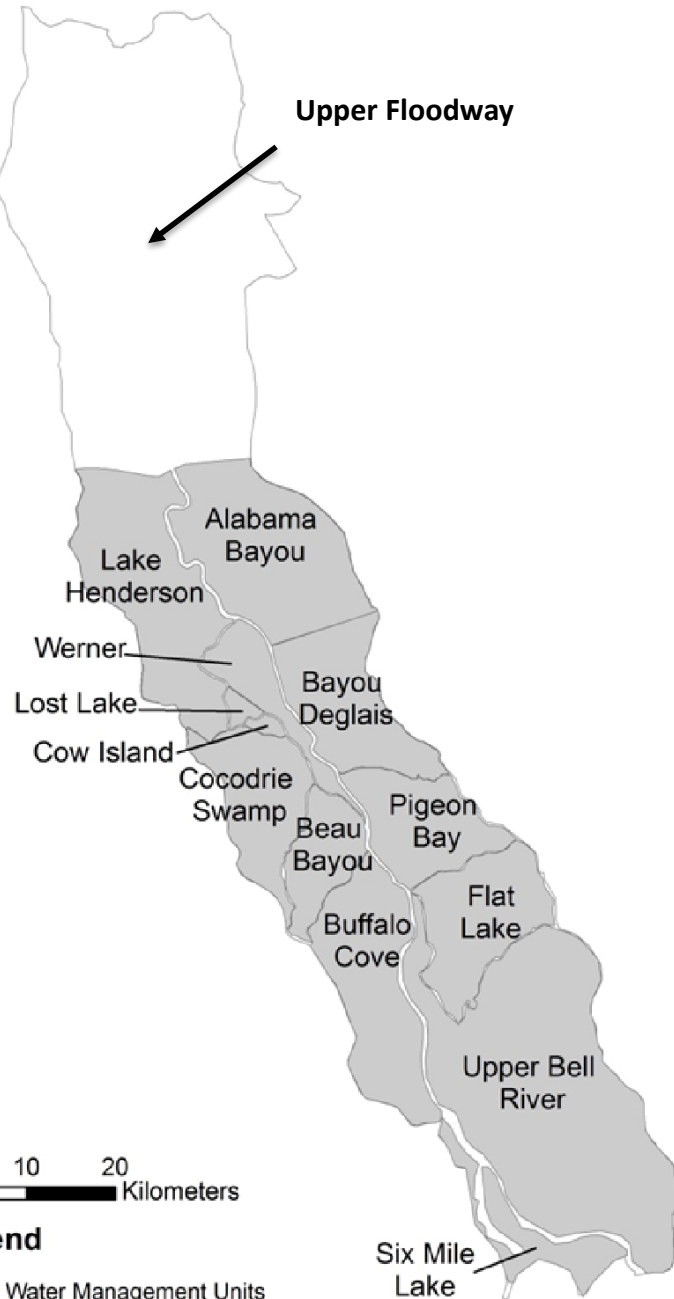


Lies within eight parishes:

1. Assumption
2. Avoyelles
3. Iberia
4. Iberville
5. Pointe Coupee
6. Saint Landry
7. Saint Martin
8. Saint Mary

Water Management Units

1. Alabama Bayou
2. Lake Henderson
3. Werner
4. Bayou des Glaises
5. Lost Lake
6. Cow Island
7. Cocodrie Swamp
8. Pigeon Bay
9. Beau Bayou
10. Buffalo Cove
11. Flat Lake
12. Six Mile Lake



1. Poor water quality which occurs because poor connectivity leaves many areas stagnant and with low dissolved oxygen.
2. Sedimentation: sheet flow over the basin has been fragmented meaning that areas that do receive flow come to dead ends within the confines of the levees, energy drops and with it large amounts of sediment.
3. Invasive, aquatic plants such as water hyacinth and hydrilla.
4. Stakeholder Conflict

Atchafalaya Basin Timeline



YEAR	DESCRIPTION
1960's	Increased Interest in establishing the basin as a national recreation area and protecting its fish and wildlife resources in light of imminent hydrologic modification
1971	Governor McKeithen agrees to be a sponsor for efforts to conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources as part of ABFS and creates Atchafalaya Basin Commission
1981	Treen Agreement settles dispute after elements of proposed multiuse plan pits landowners against environmentalists
1982	USACE EIS completed, Comprehensive Master Plan drafted
1985/6	WRDA Authorizes land acquisition, easements, and other actions as part of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System
1996	Governor Foster identifies DNR as lead agency as the non-federal sponsor to the ABFS
1999	State Basin Master Plan adopted with the mission to "conserve, restore, and enhance (where possible) the natural habitat and to give all people the opportunity to enjoy the Atchafalaya experience



- Capital Outlay
- Trails Grant Program
- Natural Resource Inventory and Assessment System, CPRA
- Donations
- Act 541 of 2009

- CPRA Board
- Technical Advisory Group
- Legislative Oversight Committee

- Perception of urgency and severity of habitat change in the basin
- Paucity of funding
- Stakeholder conflict and stagnation of ABFS program

- Elevate the critical issues facing the basin today
- Identify and create support for new funding streams, including working closely with the Corps to reinvigorate the MR&T ABFS program
- Identify project types that would benefit the basin and the larger coastal program
- Serve as a proactive means to identify mutually beneficial solutions

- Nicholls Coastal Center
- Sustainable Rivers Program (USACE + TNC)
- USACE Technical assessment – OMAR
- WRDA2020 – Lower Mississippi River Study
- National Estuarine Research Reserve – Search for a Louisiana site

- Governor signs Executive Order
- Identify membership
- Outline Workplan to meet report deadline one year from signing

Questions?

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