Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement Task Force

Report Implementation Recommendations to the CPRA Board

March 16, 2022

ARBRE Task Force

Report Approval

August 2021

Report submittal to Governor

September

Presentation of Report to CPRAB

November

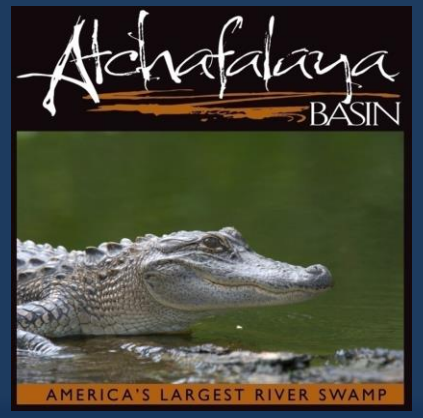
Implementation Measures for CPRAB

March 2022

Implement Reccomendations

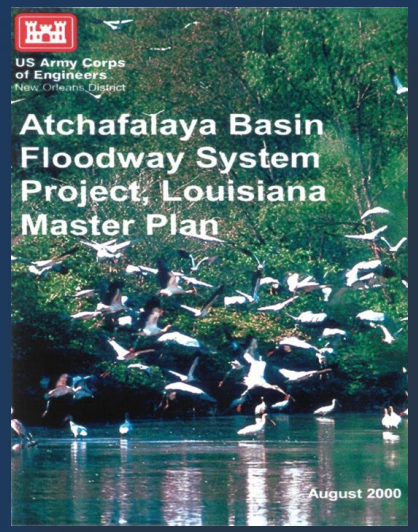
Enhance outreach that highlights the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin locally, regionally, and nationally

- Social media presence
- Additions to CPRA talking points on the Coastal Program and associated climate adaptation as well as other State Programs
- Targeted outreach to Delegation including updated summaries of importance



Urge and request Congress fully fund construction of finalized USACE studies relevant to the management of the Atchafalaya Basin as well as fund authorized studies

- Suggest WRDA language to review AFS costs and update and authorize water quality / control projects
- Streamline efforts for completion

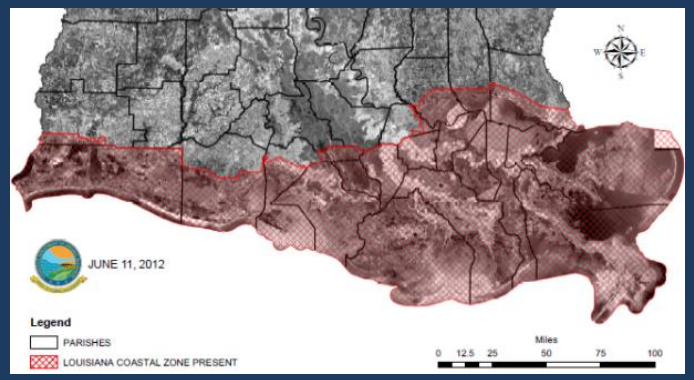


Urge the USACE to approach management of the Atchafalaya Basin holistically, designating ecological restoration as a primary component along with flood control and navigation

- Letter from Governor Edwards to USACE HQ
- Outreach to Louisiana delegation
- Provision of WRDA language
- Current and planned studies

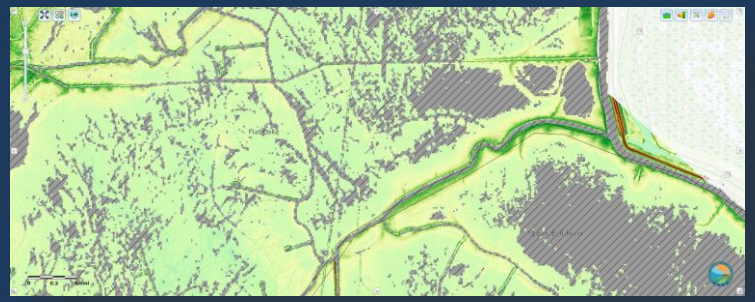
Request the CPRA Board evaluate inclusion of the remainder of the Atchafalaya Basin within the Louisiana Coastal Zone

- Establish an evaluation workgroup (CPRA, DNR, LDWF, State Lands, public input) to evaluate potential inclusion benefits, impacts, challenges



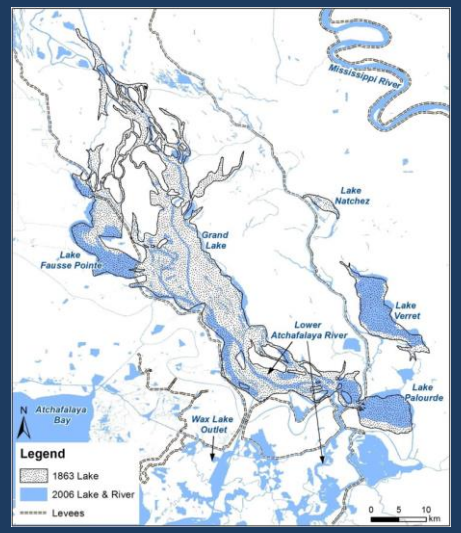
Management actions should where possible restore north/south sheet flow within the Basin

- Developing a spoil bank and barrier to flow inventory – refine and enhance the current data system
- Compile and synthesize available data
- Prioritizing “sheetflow” projects within ABP
- Work with Basin operators and USACE on design and installation



Management actions should, where possible, restore and conserve deep water habitats within the Basin

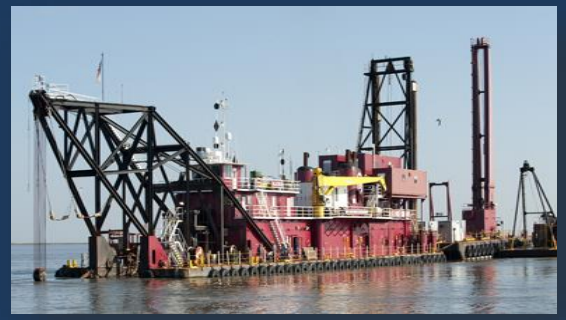
- Utilize the ABP Master Plan revision to prioritize critical areas, especially refugia
- Explore within-project sediment management techniques
- Prioritize implementation within the ABP – WQ program



Reproduced from Mossa 2016

Examine ways to better manage sediment within the ARB

- Use current authorized and future state and federal studies to examine current condition and alternative management techniques
- Compile and synthesize previous and ongoing work to help inform AB actions

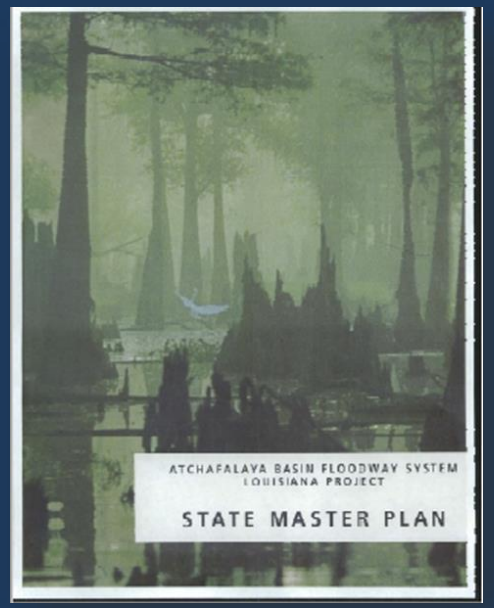


Examine the current hydrology of the ARB, including management of the ORCC and the ARB channel outlets

- Use ongoing and future state and federal studies to examine current conditions and management alternatives
- Re-evaluate the Floodway Study to better align current needs
- Compile and synthesize data; current conditions information in the ABP-MP revision

Update the State's Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan to include current conditions and challenges as informed by the ARBRE Task Force

- Create a data clearinghouse/repository and public-facing portal
- Discuss recreational needs within the Plan (access and navigation)
- Robust scoping process to inform the plan and input throughout formulation

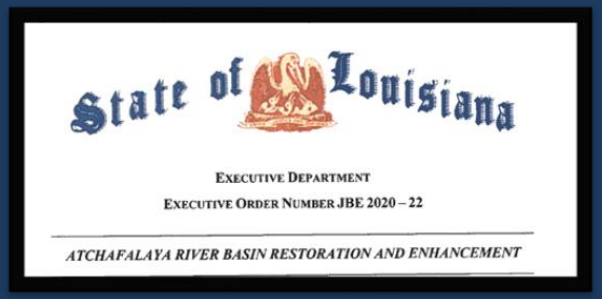


CPRA Board and CPRA to enhance public engagement concerning the management of the Atchafalaya Basin

- Continued ARBRE TF as an engagement platform
- Atchafalaya Basin focused conference / symposia to present ongoing topics
- Increased social media presence and attendance at local meetings

Recommend the ARBRE Task Force be used to discuss and inform potential management actions within the Atchafalaya Basin

- Include routine updates by state and federal managers to the Task Force
- Inclusion of Task Force input into the Atchafalaya Master Plan


State of Louisiana

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

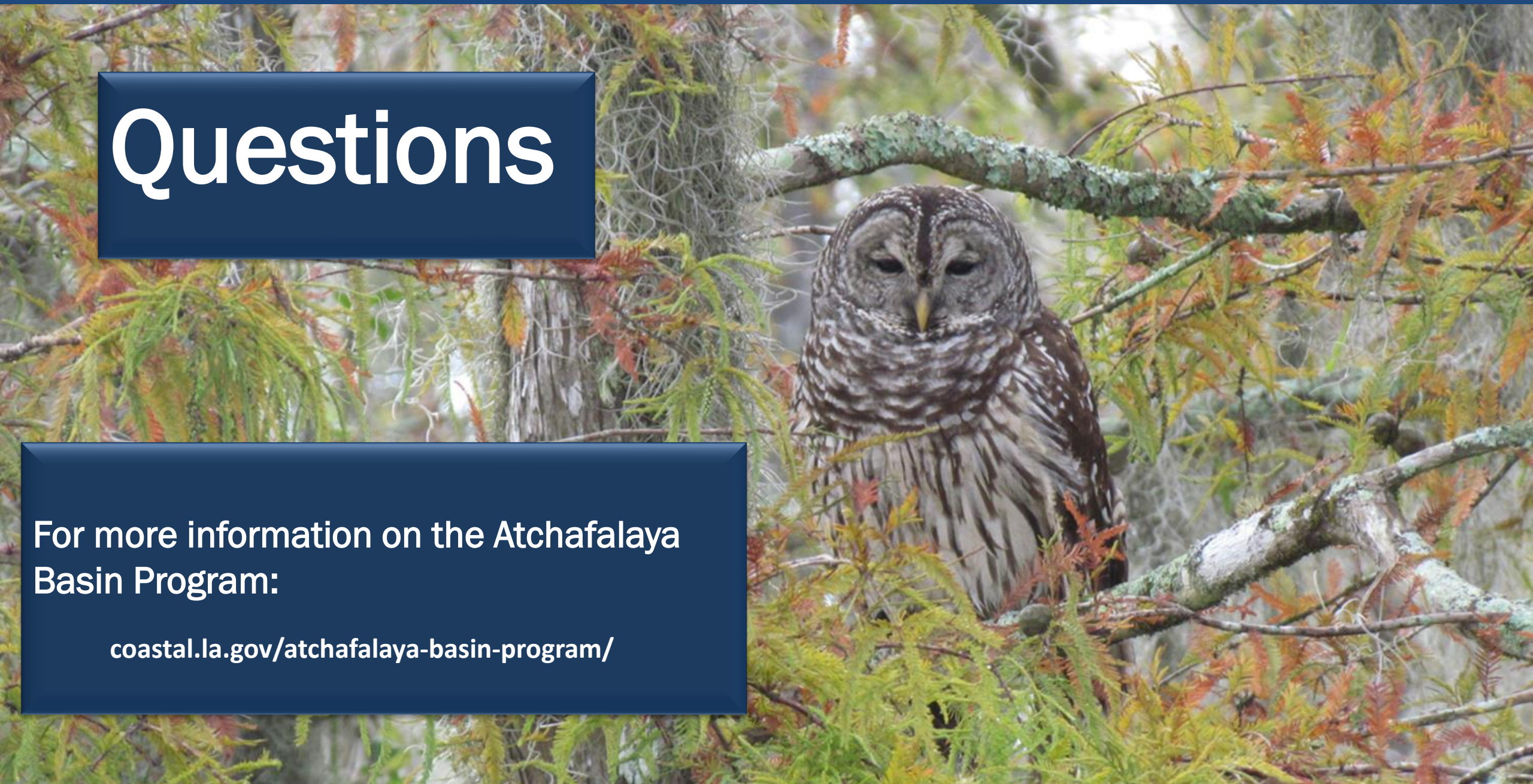
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER JBE 2020 – 22

ATCHAFALAYA RIVER BASIN RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Atchafalaya BASIN PROGRAM

Explore opportunities for significant recurring funding for the Atchafalaya Basin Program

- Engage congressional delegation about the inclusion of the Basin as a federal program on a similar scale to others (i.e. Chesapeake, Everglades)
- Examine the current state funding threshold to determine a likely forecast
- Examine new pathways such as commercial user fees, mitigation programs, etc.



Questions

For more information on the Atchafalaya Basin Program:

coastal.la.gov/atchafalaya-basin-program/