

ATCHAFALAYA UPDATE

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WATER QUALITY/WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Grimmett Canal Improvements

The Grimmett Canal project is located west of the Atchafalaya River, north of Henderson Lake and the ABP's Dixie Pipeline Spoil Bank Gapping Project. This project proposes to clear and snag Grimmett Canal and improve water flow from Grimmett Canal through Bayou Fardoche. The goal of this project is to increase north to south water flow from the Bayou Courtableau floodgates to Henderson Lake. This will improve floodwater movement through the interior swamp, improving water quality and alleviating flooding events in adjacent communities.



Figure 3: Locations of the two proposed efforts of Grimmett Canal Improvements project.

Project Status

This project is currently undergoing engineering and design and permitting for two proposed efforts in the project area. Project design will include clearing and snagging along the Grimmett Canal channel and dredging at the powerline crossing at the south end of the bayou to improve drainage during flooding events.



Murphy Lake Depth Restoration

The Murphy Lake Depth Restoration project is located on the southern end of the ABP's East Grand Lake Upper Project. The project proposes to dredge a portion of Murphy Lake to improve access and water flow into the lake as well as reestablish historical deep water habitat. Additionally, this project will improve the capacity of southern water flow through the interior Basin that is expected to increase following the construction of the ABP's East Grand Lake Upper Project.



Figure 7: (Left) Surveying effort map for the Lake Murphy project. (Right) Sediment plug located at southeastern corner of Murphy Lake.

Project Status

This project is currently undergoing permitting and engineering and design. Bathymetric, magnetometer, and topographic surveys were completed in FY24. The surveys provide necessary information for CPRA and an engineering and design team to determine the feasibility of proposed dredging in the area.



Dredging in Big Bayou Pigeon

The Big Bayou Pigeon project is located south of two previously approved (FY23) ABP projects, the East Grand Lake project and the Murphy Lake project. Big Bayou Pigeon has been infilling with sediment since the mid-1960s. This project proposes to dredge the Big Bayou Pigeon area in order to increase water movement through adjacent areas to benefit both terrestrial and aquatic habitats as well as provide a southern drainage outlet for areas north of the project. Spoil bank gaps will be installed to allow for improved north to south water flow during high water events. Spoil placement options will be evaluated during the engineering and design phase to determine optimal sediment placement and/or disposal.

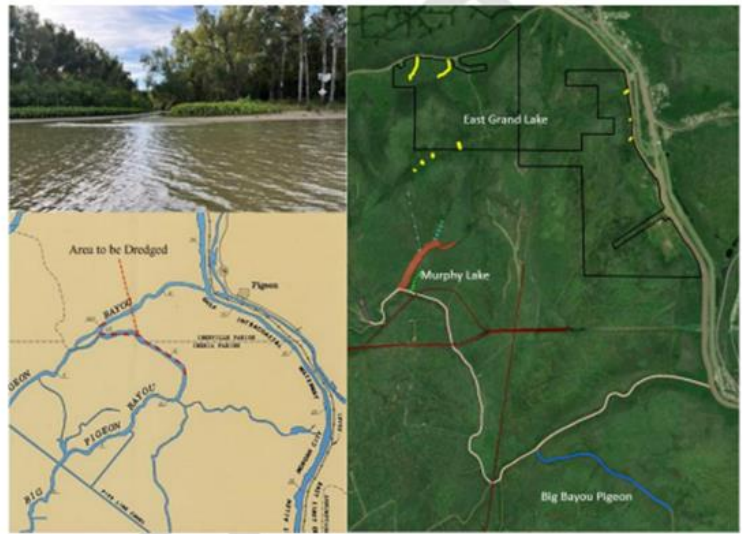


Figure 2: (Left-Top) Point bar formation at the confluence of Little Bayou Pigeon and Big Bayou Pigeon. (Left-Bottom) Depicts proposed project location. (Right) Project location is in the vicinity of other on-going CPRA water quality projects.

Project Status

This project is currently undergoing permitting for engineering and design. Surveys will be conducted to determine feasibility of proposed dredging and spoil bank gapping, and to determine optimal sediment placement or disposal methods.



Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements

The Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvement project is located in Pointe Coupee Parish in the northern Atchafalaya Basin. Currently, the project area has multiple water drainage obstacles, including collapsed culverts, leveed roads, and siltation and debris within bayou waterways. The project proposes to correct these drainage issues by replacement or new installation of reinforced concrete culverts in 24 locations as well as clearing and mucking four major bayous within the area (Johnson Bayou, Bayou Gerance, Bayou Close, and Stiff Bayou).



Figure 4: Locations of the proposed efforts (culvert placement and bayou clearing/mucking) of the Pointe Coupee Water Flow Improvements project.

National Estuarine Research Reserves



People



Science



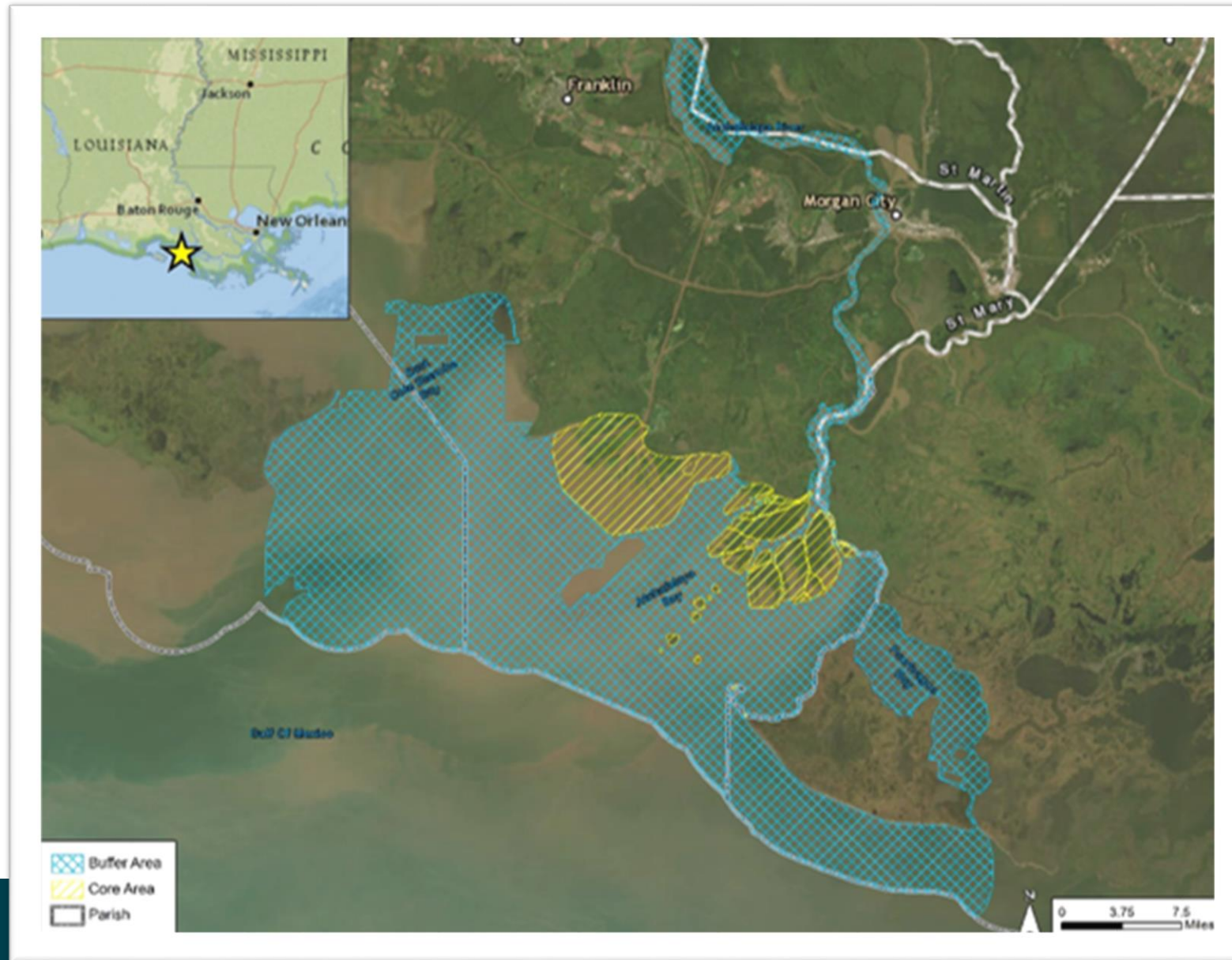
Protected Places

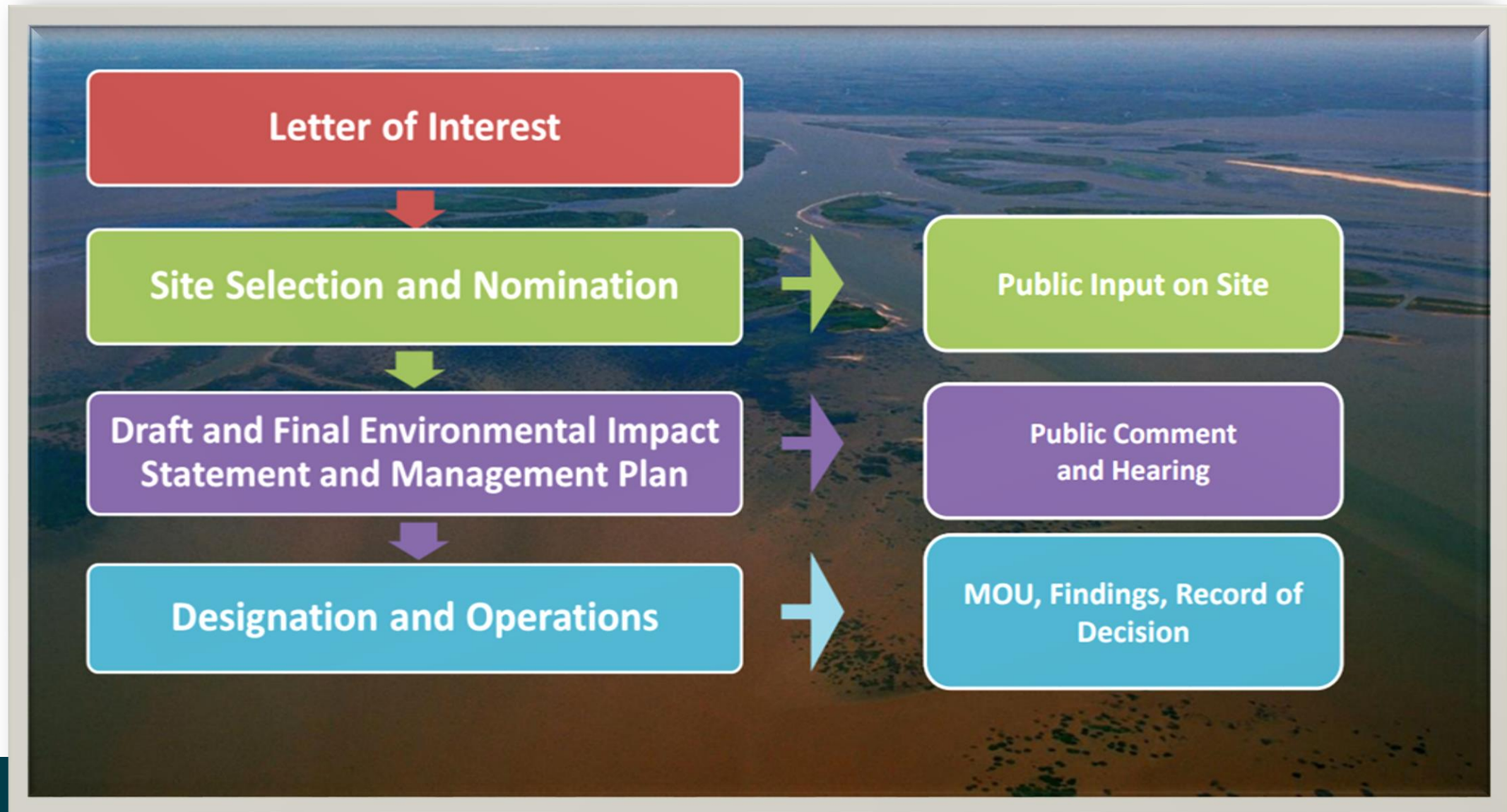
State role

- Land ownership and management
- Reserve staff members
- Program implementation
- Funding (30 percent match)

Federal role

- National policy and program guidance
- Technical assistance
- Program coordination
- Funding (70 percent)







ATCHAFALAYA MASTER PLAN BOUNDARY

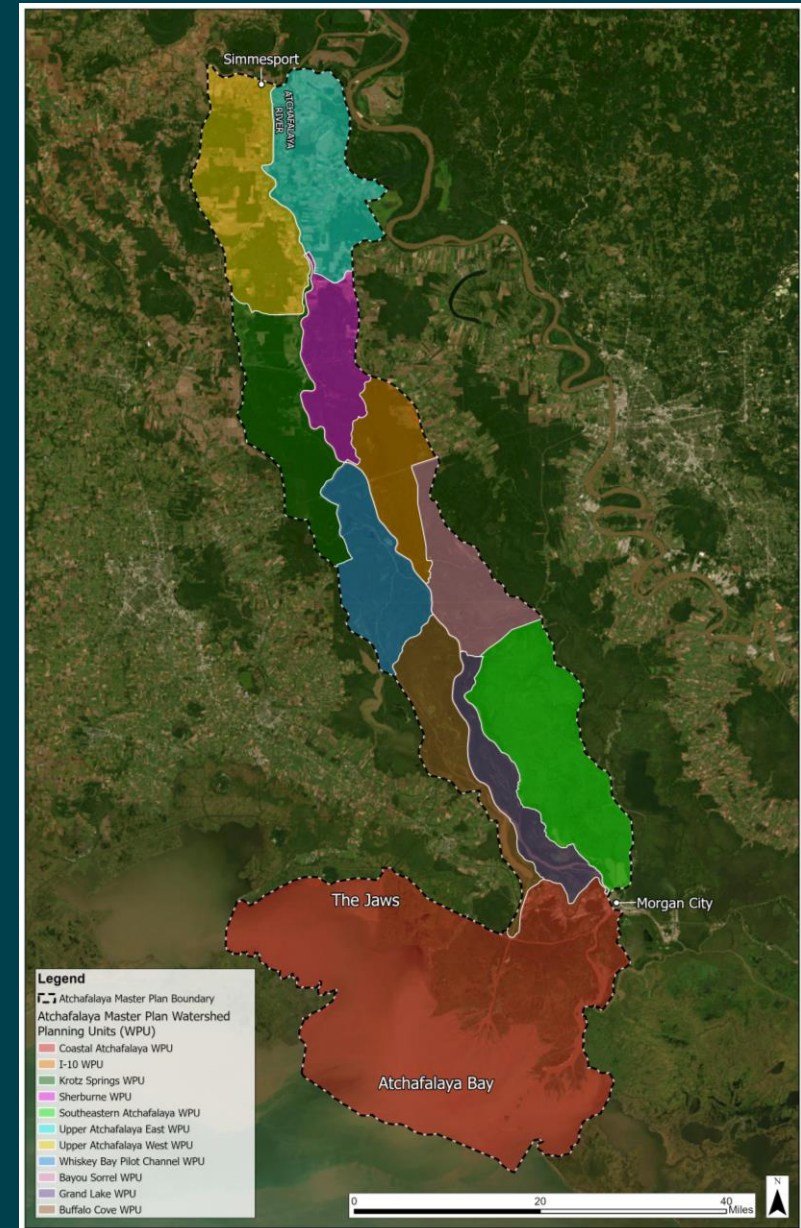
- 1.5M acre Atchafalaya River System

Boundary

North: Simmesport

South: Gulf of America

- Area divided into 11 Watershed Planning Units (WPUs)
- Represent the diverse challenges and needs across the system



ATCHAFALAYA MASTER PLAN



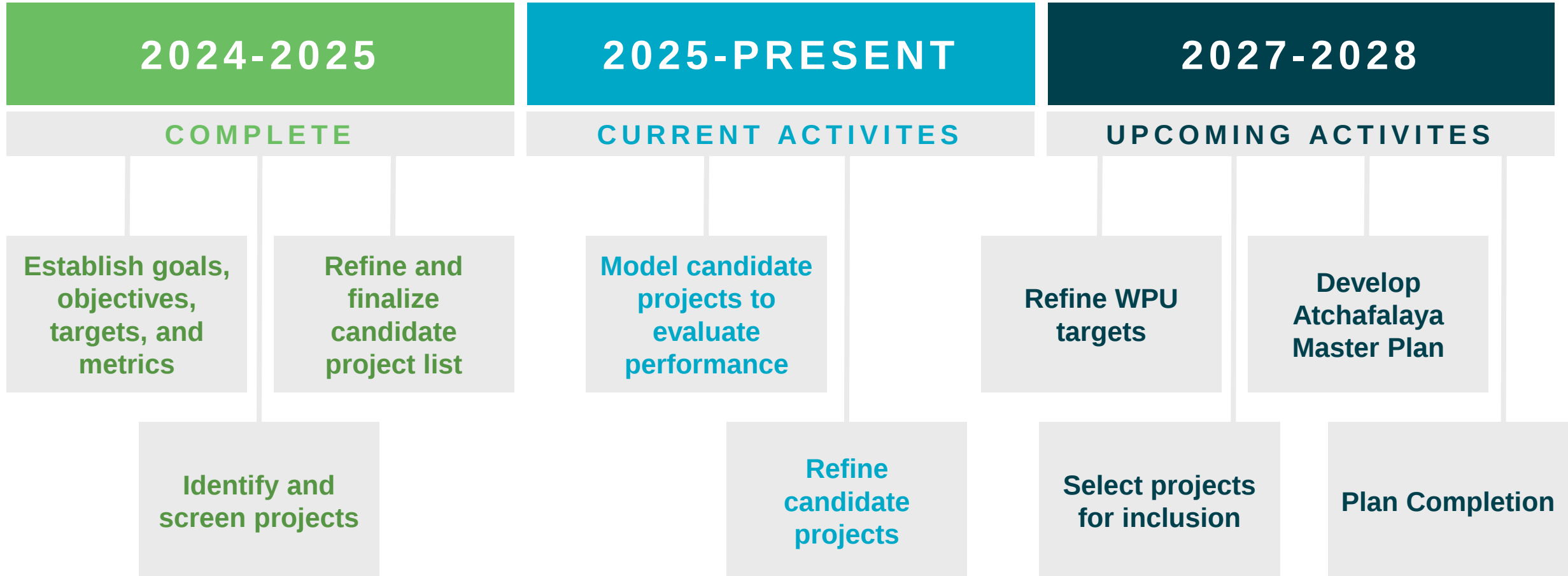
Murphy Lake, August 2026 (drone)

GOAL

MANAGE THE USE OF ATCHAFALAYA RIVER SYSTEM SEDIMENTS AND WATER TO MAXIMIZE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS AND SUPPORT CONTINUED HUMAN USES

- Guides future investments across the Atchafalaya River System
- Describes and considers multiple potential future conditions
- Includes projects to address some of the key challenges
- Maps important issues such as sedimentation, water quality, and habitat degradation

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

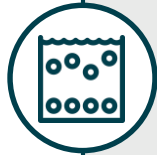


KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

AS IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC & KEY ENGAGEMENT GROUPS
(STEERING COMMITTEE, COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT GROUP, AND WORKING GROUP)



**HYDROLOGIC
MODIFICATION**



**EXCESSIVE
SEDIMENTATION**



**WATER
QUALITY/HYPOXIA**



**HABITAT
DEGRADATION
AND LOSS**



**RECREATIONAL
AND COMMERCIAL
ACCESS**

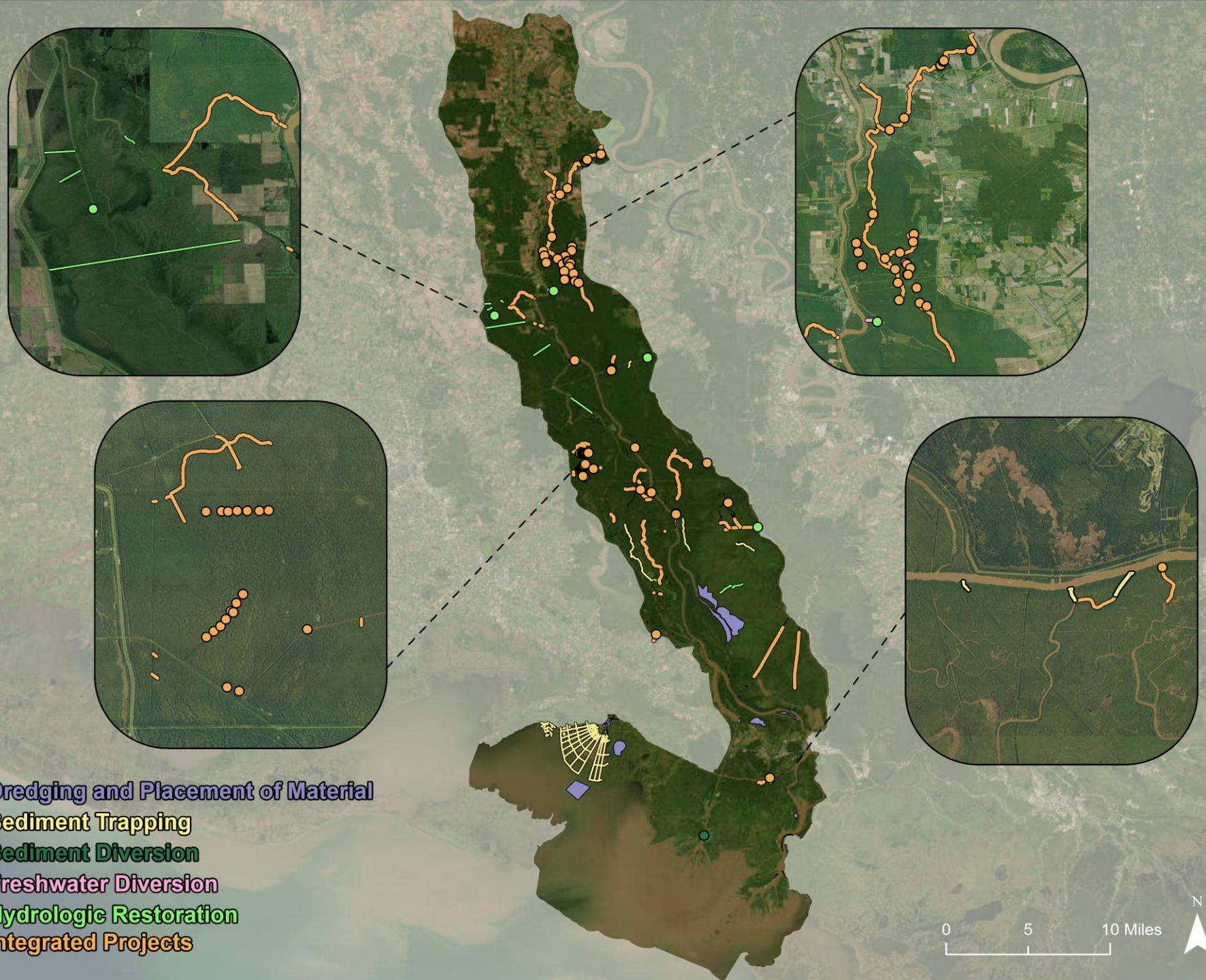


**SYSTEM FLOOD
CAPACITY**

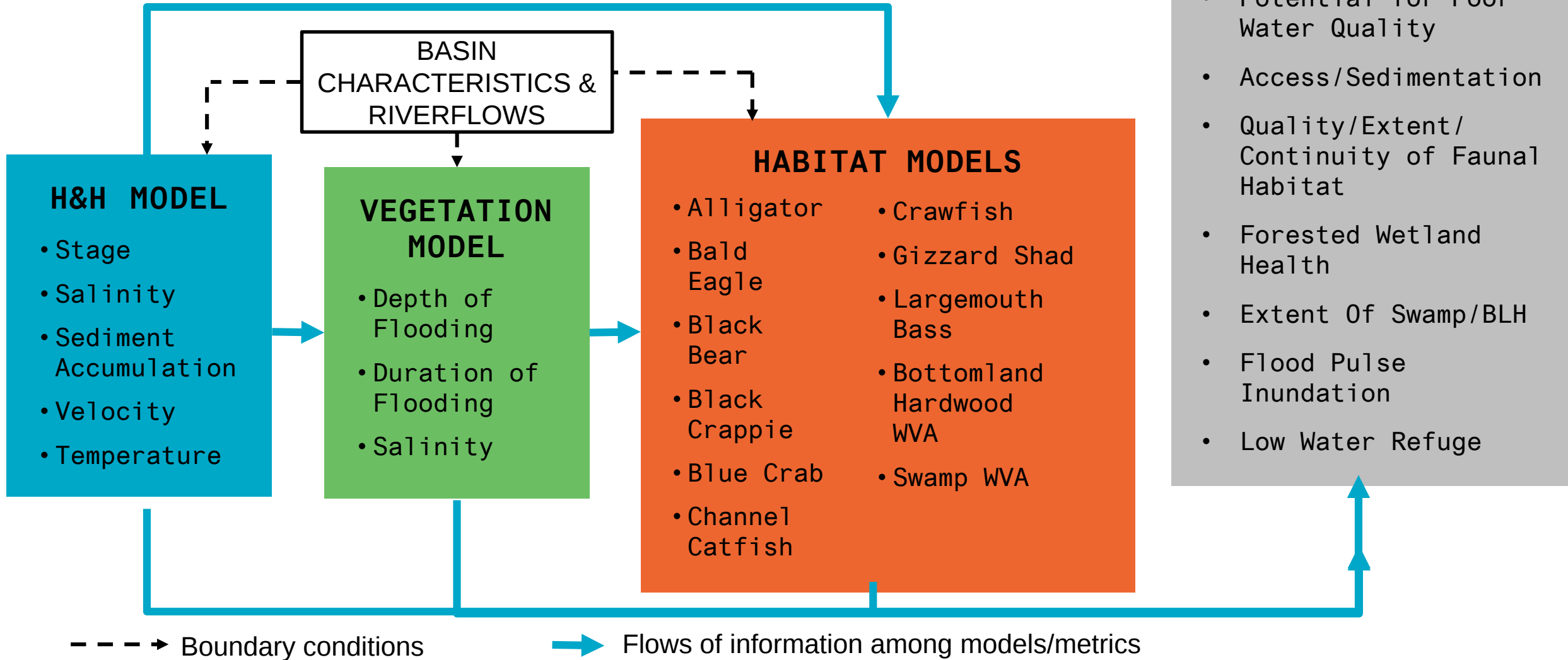
CANDIDATE PROJECTS

- 19 INTEGRATED PROJECTS
- 13 DREDGING & PLACEMENT
- 12 SEDIMENT TRAPPING
- 1 SEDIMENT DIVERSIONS
- 1 FRESHWATER DIVERSIONS
- 8 HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION

Dredging and Placement of Material
Sediment Trapping
Sediment Diversion
Freshwater Diversion
Hydrologic Restoration
Integrated Projects

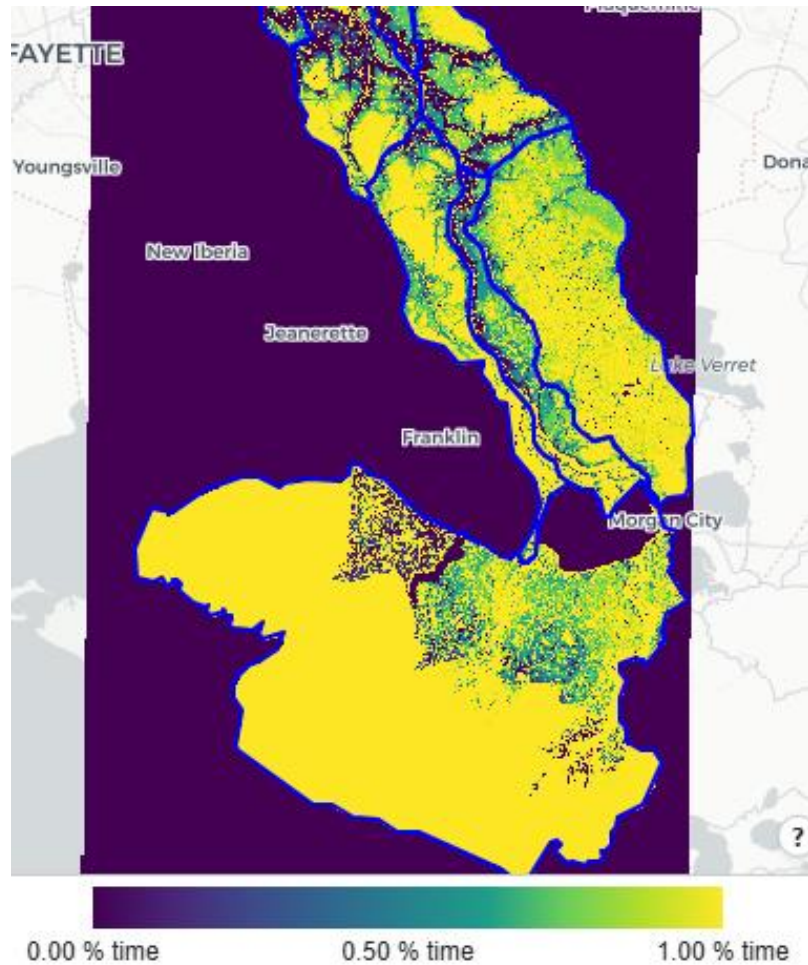


MODELING APPROACH

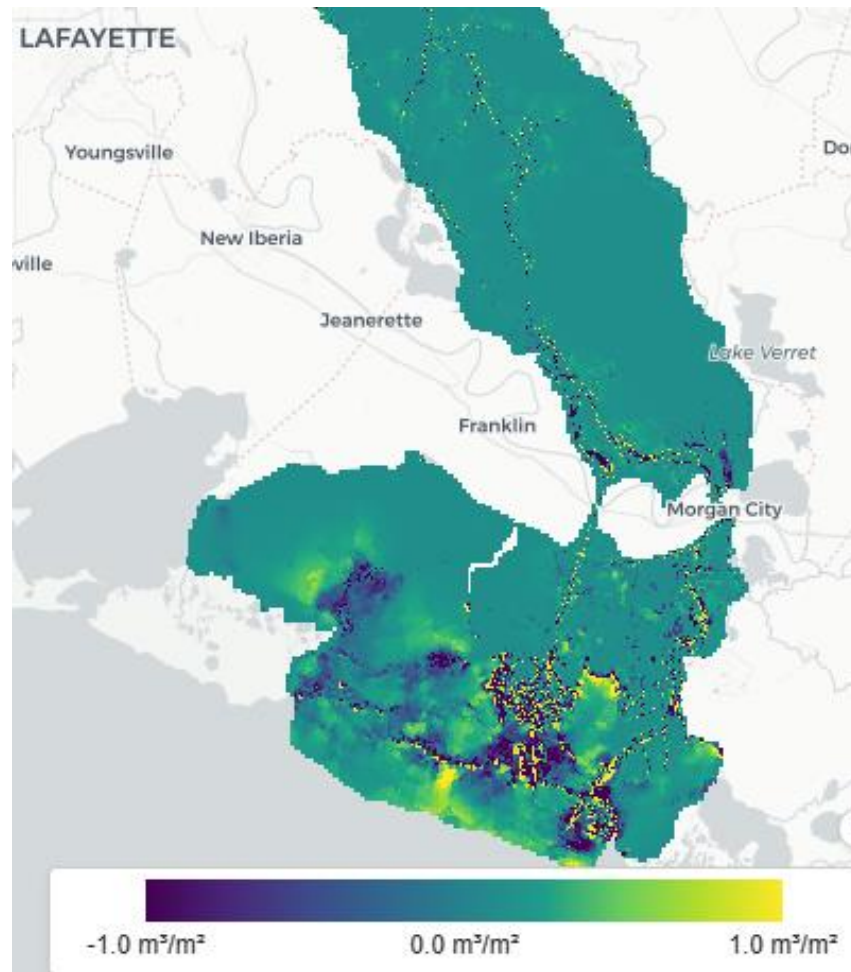


WITHOUT PROJECT CONDITIONS

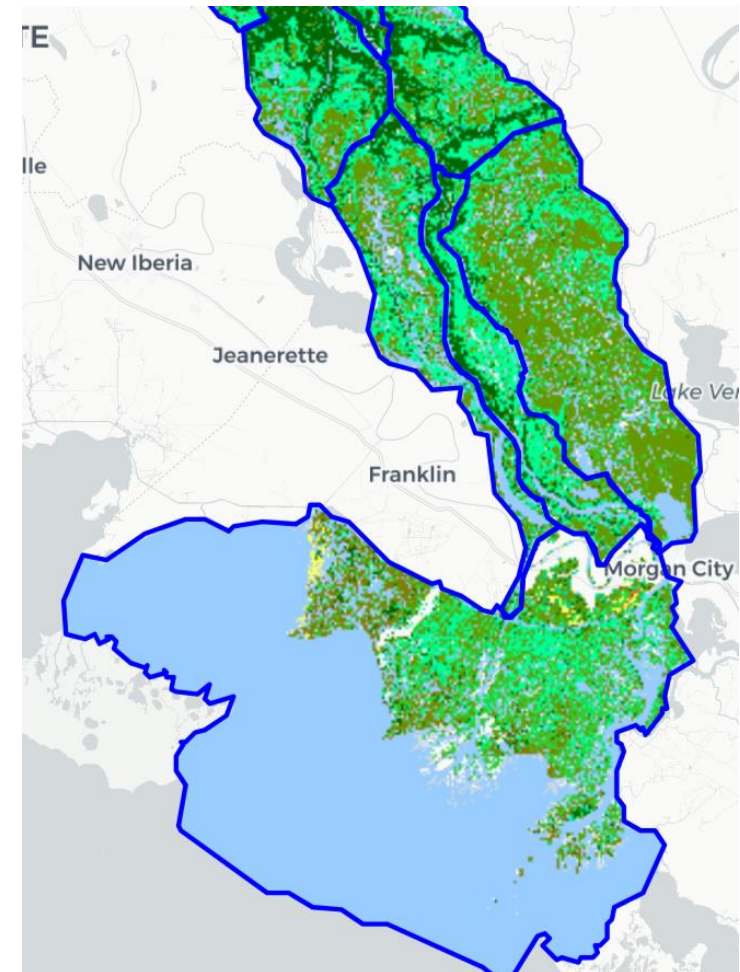
ANNUAL INUNDATION DURATION



SEDIMENT TRANSPORT



VEGETATION TRANSITION





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