



Friends of the Atchafalaya

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FOA Resolution for LWF2010 - Operation of the ABFS

February 25, 2010

Friends of the Atchafalaya works to promote the conservation of the Atchafalaya Basin, and we work closely with the Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) and the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to draw attention to the importance of the Atchafalaya Basin.

With the increasing interest in coastal protection and restoration, significant changes have been made or are proposed to be made in State and Federal government programs and several of the changes could affect the future of the Atchafalaya Basin.

The Atchafalaya Basin Program is now a part of the LA Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Office of Coastal Management and is recognized as sharing many of the same problems as the coastal areas, but offering additional resources for reduction of our coastal land loss problems.

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is in the process of collecting public input and preparing Management and Implementation Plans with environmental, recreational and cultural features.

At the national level, several large environmental groups, including our own National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, and the Environmental Defense Fund, have joined in an initiative to promote a unified approach to water management in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Basins and along the coast.

Partially in response to the above-mentioned Coastal Initiative, Congress has directed the US Army Corps of Engineers to review the operation of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System (that portion of the Atchafalaya Basin within the Atchafalaya protection levees, below Highway 190 and above Morgan City) in light of the needs of coastal restoration programs.

We think that an integrated approach to the entire Mississippi/Atchafalaya coastal region makes a lot of sense and we support a review by the Corps, but we feel that the environmental, recreational and cultural value of the quasi-natural environment of the Atchafalaya Basin should be placed high on the list of priorities as changes in the operation of the floodway are considered.

For these reasons, Friends of the Atchafalaya has offered this resolution for the consideration of the Federation and supports its passage by this Convention.

Please vote for this resolution.

Charles Caillouet, President
Board of Directors
Friends of the Atchafalaya