

State of Conisiana JAY DARDENNE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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July 12, 2012

Michael Saucier Chief, Natural Resources Management Function U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-OD-T P.O. Box 60267 New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

> RE: Draft Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System Project Louisiana Master Plan, June 2012

Dear Chief Saucier:

The goals of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area as stated in the Management Plan are to 1) Raise awareness of the area's key stories; 2) Support cultural economic development; and 3) Raise awareness of both cultural and natural resources.

Greater interest does not always result in higher levels of conflict over resource management. The growing awareness of the culture, traditions and resources has stimulated dialogue among and clarified the roles of various organizations and agencies involved in activities in the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System. Educating people about the resources creates opportunities for exploring our interpretive theme "Influence of the Water on the Land and the People." An example of this is an increased interest in tours covering the convergence of the three rivers, the role of locks and dams and the area's geological and hydrological history.

Please feel free to use the 14-parish inventory of resources completed by the Atchafalaya Trace Commission. This inventory, completed in 2011, is part of our Management Plan and may be of value to you as you implement your Plan. The resources are listed by parish, resource type, theme, integrity, accessibility, and visitor value. The inventory can be viewed and downloaded at http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=423&projectID=22438&documentID=46849 (Management Plan Volume 1, Resource Theme Matrix, beginning on page 128).

Because of our broad scope and partnership focus, we recognize the potential of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to serve as a catalyst in certain situations to facilitate agencies and organizations working together. We look forward to partnering with the USACE to achieve common goals related to outdoor recreation and related cultural traditions.

Yours truly,

Debra Credeur, Executive Director Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

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