

Louisiana Coastal Restoration The NGO Perspective

National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

August 3, 2011

Baltimore, Maryland

Karen Gautreaux

The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana

Passage of WRDA 2007 and LCA Projects

- LCA program contains the necessary large scale work envisioned as necessary for many years
- NGOs continue to work closely with state and federal partners to offer technical and public support toward completion of the program.

CHALLENGES



LCA “4” & Barataria Basin Barrier Shoreline Restoration Projects

- BBBS projects in the vicinity of oiling from the Deepwater Horizon incident now face delays from interpretation of where and how these projects may or may not be moved forward.

LCA “6” Projects

- Uncertain future for White’s Ditch and Blind River Diversions are unclear as a result of November, 2010 Mississippi River Commission memo.
- Resolution of conflicts, clarification of intent and commitment between Corps of Engineers Headquarters (COE HQ), MVD, and the New Orleans District (NOD) must occur quickly.

Beneficial Use of Dredge Material (BUDMAT) Program

- Development of program specifics progressing, but need more creative solutions for beneficial use.
- \$10,000,000/year is insufficient.

Calcasieu River & Pass



Location of disposal
site in the following
photos

Approximate area of
dredging in the following
photos

Black Lake Beneficial Use Site

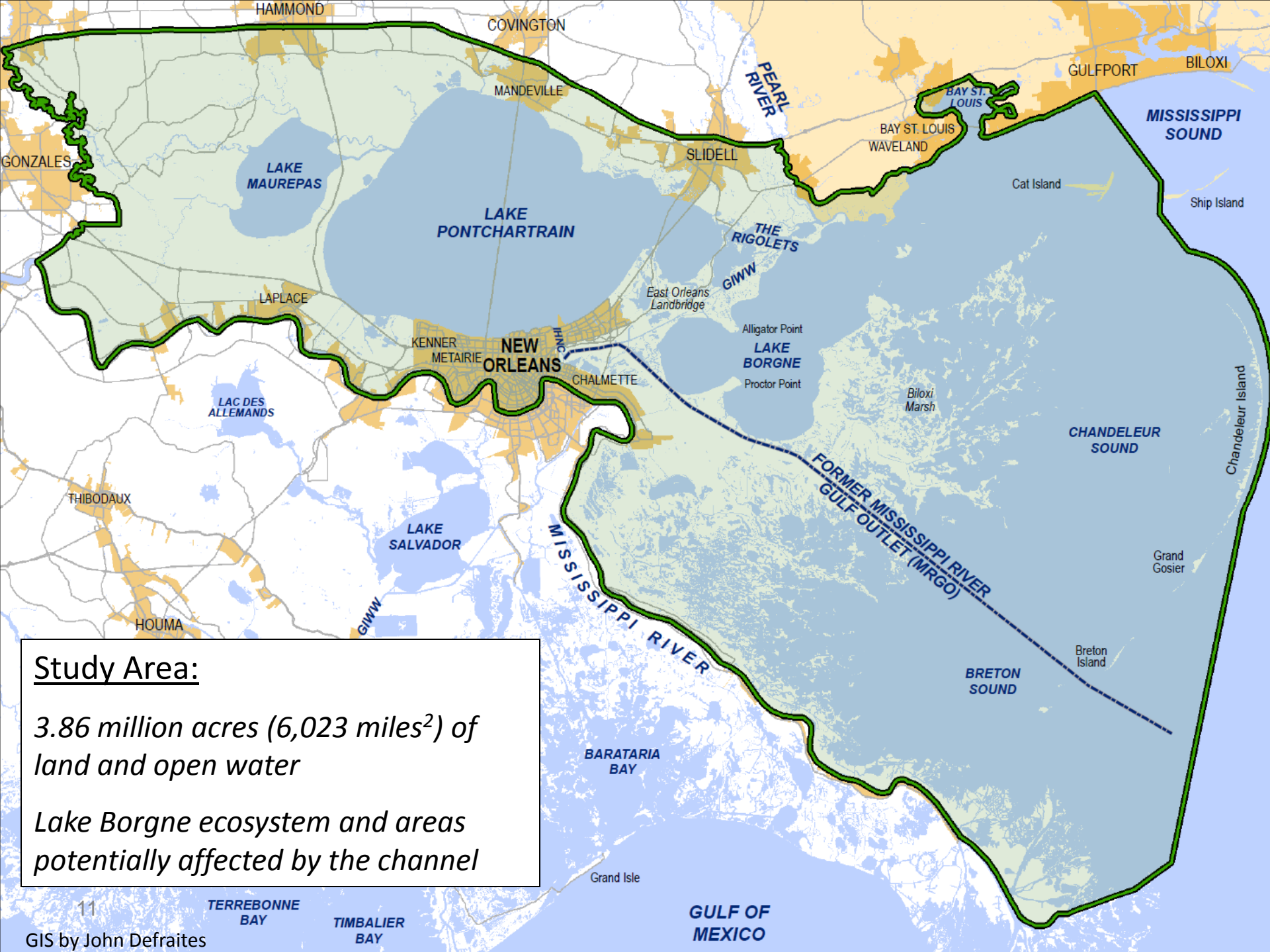




Black Lake Marsh Creation – Eastern View

Black Lake Statistics

- Start Date Sep 6, 2010
- Finish Date Dec 10, 2010
- Acreage 440 ac
- Yardage 2.6M cu yd
- Pipeline 54,000 ft
- Cost \$20.9 million



Study Area:

3.86 million acres (6,023 miles²) of land and open water

Lake Borgne ecosystem and areas potentially affected by the channel

Mississippi River Gulf Outlet

- MRGO team listed 4 alternative courses of action for the MRGO Feasibility Study.
- Team recommended alternative 3, which allowed the Tentatively Selected Plan to be officially altered, even if public meetings would be required.
- All detailed actionable projects would be in the recommended plan except for the specific plan for the Violet diversion (Violet Canal location would have been addressed in the recommended plan).

MVD Recommendation

- Change TSP only to a degree that it does not re-open NEPA public meetings
- Violet Canal design and location will be resolved after the Chief's report (and anything else requiring significant new analysis)
- Phased implementation of projects with priority on projects needing little additional work.

Cost Share Agreements

- Absence of cost share agreements threaten current and future funding.
- Example: Science and Technology Program
- Failure to come to agreement likely to result in \$6.5 million reprogrammed to floodrelated dredging.
- Loss of opportunity to develop system related science, science now incremental cost of projects.

Domino Effect

- Absence of cost share agreements creates difficulties in justifying existing funding or future investments. We've lost funding already.
- Delays have dire implications for the restoration of coastal Louisiana, with all of the natural, cultural and economic resources that are associated with the ecosystem.

NGO Role in Partnerships

- Advocacy for restoration of coastal Louisiana through partnerships at the local, regional and national levels.
- Science support, including modeling of the Atchafalaya Basin and the proposed Myrtle Grove sediment diversion.
- Innovative technology that could serve as ecosystem restoration and economic engines.

Living Shorelines





The Nature
Conservancy 
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The NGO Perspective: Coastal Louisiana is Too Valuable to Lose!

Karen Gautreaux
The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana
kgautreaux@tnc.org