

LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA (LCA), LOUISIANA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY

## Beneficial Use of Dredged Material (BUDMAT) Program

Scoping Meetings  
September 2006




US Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District

# INTERAGENCY



## Scoping Meeting Agenda

- Open House 6:30 – 7:00 pm
- Welcome, Local Host 7:00 – 7:05 pm
- Study Overview 7:05 – 7:15 pm
- Questions & Answers 7:15 – 7:45 pm
- NEPA Overview 7:45 – 8:00 pm
- NEPA Scoping 8:00 – 10:00 pm

## Scoping Meetings

Wed, 6 Sep: Morgan City Auditorium  
728 Myrtle Street

Thurs, 7 Sep: Lake Charles Civic Auditorium  
Jean Lafitte Room, 900 Lakeshore Drive

Mon, 11 Sep: University of New Orleans  
Lindy Boggs Bldg., 2000 Lakeshore Drive

Tues, 12 Sep: Larose Civic Center  
307 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Wed, 13 Sep: Houma Municipal Auditorium  
800 Verret Street

Scoping comment period :  
September 6, 2006 to October 14, 2006

## Study Area



New Orleans District's  
Primary Beneficial Use Navigation Channels

## History

- 1967 – Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Study authorized
- March 17, 2002 – LCA Coastwide Comprehensive Ecosystem Restoration Study initiated
- January 31, 2005 – Chiefs Report signed for LCA Ecosystem Restoration Program (not yet authorized)

## *LCA Near Term Plan Components*

- 5 Features for Conditional Authorization
- 10 Features for Future Congressional Authorizations
- Investigations into Modifications of Existing Structures
- Science and Technology (S&T) Program
- S&T Program Demonstration Projects
- Large-Scale and Long-Term Studies
- **Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program**

## *Federal Standard*

- Federal Standard requires that maintenance activities be conducted in the most cost-effective, environmentally acceptable manner.
- 20-30% currently used beneficially under the Federal Standard
- LCA BUDMAT program would pay the increment above the ordinary costs incurred by the Corps of Engineers in maintenance and dredging operations to use material beneficially beyond the Federal Standard.

## *Study Purpose*

The LCA BUDMAT will produce a program to optimize the beneficial use of dredged material from federally maintained navigational channels to:

- create, restore and/or nourish coastal wetlands
- create or restore coastal landscape features, including barrier islands, chenier ridges, and shorelines
- provide protection to coastal wetlands or coastal landscape features

## *BUDMAT Components*

- 1) Programmatic Report
  - Identifies and evaluates beneficial use opportunities and recommends a plan of action
  - Contains program guidance, management and decision making process for 10 year program implementation
  - Describes adaptive management process
  - Programmatic EIS for recommended plan of action
- 2) Rolling 3-year plan for implementation of projects
- 3) Detailed engineering and environmental clearance for projects

## *Study Objectives*

### **Dual track effort**

- 1) 10-year program:
  - evaluation of beneficial use potential locations
  - not projects per se
  - reconnaissance level of design
- 2) Years 1 through 3 plan:
  - specific projects identified and evaluated
  - feasibility level of design
  - specifically addressed by EIS

## *Alternatives*

Alternatives recommended for consideration presently include:

- **The No Action plan**  
Use dredged materials only within the current Federal Standard, which is not necessarily for beneficial use
- **Within each navigation channel, beneficial use sites would be examined to maximize the environmental benefits and needs**

Questions regarding Draft Study Report should be addressed to:  
Mr. Bill Hicks, Project Study Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PM-OR  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267  
Telephone: 504-862-1945

Questions regarding Louisiana Department of Natural Resources as Local Sponsor of the Study should be addressed to:  
Dr. Ken Duffy, Project Study Manager  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Engineering Division  
P.O. Box 44027  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4027  
Telephone: 225-342-4106

## *Informal Question and Answer Session*

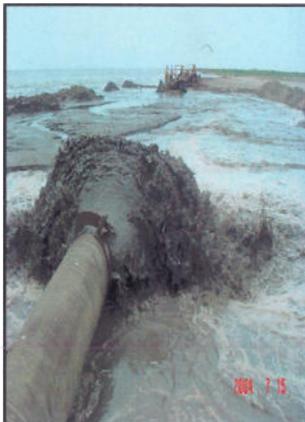
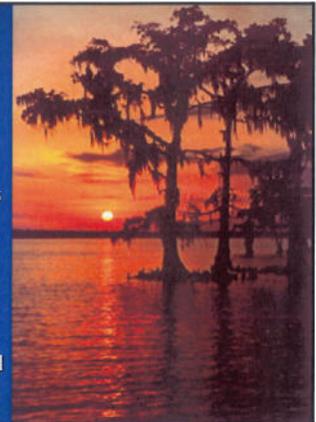
*Formal NEPA Scoping Process will follow*

### *Why Are We Here?*

To determine the scope of significant issues for preparation of the draft programmatic EIS for the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Program (BUDMAT).

### *NEPA and the SCOPING PROCESS*

"There shall be an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action."



### *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)*

Environmental information is made available to the public before decisions are made and before actions are taken.

### *Scoping Questions*



#### Question #1:

What are the critical natural and human environmental problems and needs that should be addressed in the EIS?

#### Examples:

- specific sites for restoration
- hurricane and flood protection
- protection of human infrastructure

## Scoping Questions



### Question #2:

What are the important resources that impact the natural and human environment?

#### Examples:

- wetlands habitat
- cultural resources
- socioeconomic resources
- fish and wildlife habitat
- water quality
- threatened and endangered species

## Scoping Questions



### Question #3:

What are the reasonable restoration alternatives that should be considered in the EIS?

#### Examples:

- marsh creation
- barrier island restoration
- ridge restoration

## Providing Scoping Comments

- Provide oral or written comments at scoping meetings
- Worldwide web at: [www.LCA.gov](http://www.LCA.gov)
- Email: [LCABUDMAT@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:LCABUDMAT@mvn02.usace.army.mil)
- Letter: postmarked not later than October 14, 2006 to Ms. Elizabeth McCasland, CEMVN-PMI-RS, P.O. Box 60267, New Orleans, LA 70160-0267
- Fax: 504-862-2088; Attention: Elizabeth McCasland



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
New Orleans District

### SCOPING REPORT

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA),  
Louisiana — Beneficial Use of Dredged  
Material Program Feasibility Study

Scoping Comments

November 2006

*A Scoping  
Report will be  
prepared that  
summarizes  
all scoping  
comments.*

## Request for Scoping Comments

### The Ground Rules

- Comment period is not a forum to debate differing opinions
- Each person is entitled to their opinion
- Be polite and courteous
- Comments will be taken in order
- 3-minute per person comment period

Questions regarding the Draft EIS should be addressed to:

Ms. Elizabeth McCasland, Environmental Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CEMVN-PMI-RS  
P.O. Box 60267  
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267  
Telephone: 504-862-2021

[LCABUDMAT@mvn02.usace.army.mil](mailto:LCABUDMAT@mvn02.usace.army.mil)