

Lowermost Mississippi River Management (LA_RESTORE_004_000_Cat1)



Project Name: Lowermost Mississippi River Management - Planning **Cost:** Category 1: \$9,300,000 **Responsible Council Member:** State of Louisiana **Partnering Council Member:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

OAST ECOS

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration

Council

Project Details: This large-scale program will help move the nation toward a more holistic management plan for the Lower Mississippi River, one which seeks to both enhance the great economic value of the River while also elevating the importance of ecological maintenance and restoration of the landscape through which it flows. This effort will enhance the science developed under the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study (MRHDMS) to form the foundation for any future river management analysis by creating an integrated science-based management strategy for the Lower Mississippi River (LMR) to improve navigation, reduce flood risk, and provide for a more sustainable deltaic ecosystem.

Activities: The State of Louisiana (State), USACE, and the RESTORE Council (Council) will develop a mutually acceptable scope of work that specifies tasks to be completed for this study of the Lower Mississippi River. The State and USACE will be full and equal partners in this planning effort, with funding being split evenly between the two parties. This program further develops the science needed to adequately inform decision makers on future LMR management and includes establishing existing and future without project conditions, and developing alternate river management schemes based on numerical modeling tools and other analyses developed under MRHDMS. These management plans can include alternatives and/or key elements developed during the Changing Course competition, as well as any other alternatives that optimize a balance between navigation, flood risk management and ecosystem restoration. The scope of work will not include updating existing or developing new environmental compliance documentation associated with the Mississippi River.

Environmental Benefits: The program will result in a plan to enhance ecosystem sustainability in the Mississippi River Deltaic Plain without negatively impacting navigation and flood risk management on the Mississippi River.

Duration: Programmatic activities are estimated to take three years to complete.

More information on this activity can be found in Appendix D. Mississippi River Delta; Unique Identifier: LA_RESTORE_004_000_Cat1.

