

## Mississippi River Delta Watershed

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)

**Project Details:** This large-scale planning project would 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 planning effort would 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) would 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 would be full and equal partners in this planning effort, with funding being split evenly between the two parties. The specific roles and responsibilities of both parties would be defined prior to publication of the final FPL, subject to approval by the Council, USACE and the State. This proposal would further develop the science needed to adequately inform decision makers on future LMR management and would include 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 could include alternatives and/or key elements developed during the conduct of 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 would not include updating existing or developing new environmental compliance documentation associated with the Mississippi River.

**Environmental Benefits:** The proposed project would 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:** Planning 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.

