

Atchafalaya Basin Program Seeks Project Nominations

April 24, 2015 - The Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) depends on nominations from the public to direct its projects, and the nomination period is now open! All project nominations must be within the Atchafalaya Floodway and either be on public land or have landowner permission. If you are not sure if your project idea is on public land or would like assistance submitting your nomination, contact us at atchafalaya@dnr.gov or by calling (225) 342-6437. Nominations must be submitted by official form, which is available at BASIN.LA.GOV. The deadline for nominations of projects to be included in the next annual plan is May 31, 2015.

Last year, the Atchafalaya Basin Program received a nomination through its annual plan process to remove newly formed land in Grand Lake and to repair the failed canal blockage that caused it. Sedimentation has already greatly diminished Grand Lake, which was once so large that an onlooker could not see from one side to the other. When a formerly blocked canal was breached in 2011, high sediment loads from the Atchafalaya River began to rapidly build land at the canal's outflow in Grand Lake.

This project has now been vetted through the Atchafalaya Basin Program's Technical Advisory Group and Research and Promotion Board, and pending legislative approval, work is expected to commence in Fall 2015.

Although land loss is a major concern in most of coastal Louisiana, in the Atchafalaya Basin, the opposite is true. Increased sedimentation fills waterways, lakes, and swamps, and threatens to convert the nation's largest forested wetland into uplands. In places where the river flows directly into open water, land-building can be rapid. Such is the case in Grand Lake, and thanks to a nomination, the Atchafalaya Basin Program is now working to restore and protect the iconic lake.



A breached canal that directly connects the Atchafalaya River to Grand Lake has caused land growth that threatens to bisect the iconic lake.