



S T R A U G H A N
E N V I R O N M E N T A L
S E R V I C E S , I N C .

Environmental Impact Statement Bayou LaFourche Restoration

Location: LaFourche, Louisiana

Client: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Description: Environmentally and economically important, the bayous fringing the Gulf Coast are the focus of multiple projects to restore hydrology and habitat. A multi-agency effort is in place to increase the volume of Mississippi River water to Bayou LaFourche, a key step in the overall restoration. Straughan Environmental Services, Inc. (SES) prepared a socio-economic analysis of project alternatives for this study to support an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Bayou LaFourche Channel, once a substantial tributary of the Mississippi River, was dammed during the early 1900s. During the 1950s, a pumping station was constructed to facilitate irrigation of the sugar cane fields that dominate southern Louisiana; however, current channel flows are inadequate to support wetland hydrology.

Alternatives under consideration consist of channel relocation or dredging options. The overall study area consists of the 55-mile length of the Bayou LaFourche Channel that flows from Donaldsonville, Louisiana to Lockport, Louisiana and the downstream wetland areas that will receive increased volumes of Mississippi River water.

SES performed detailed socio-economic analyses for areas surrounding the Bayou La Fourche Channel, and took into consideration key regional features near the channel. Documentation for the EIS included:

- People and Communities,
- Population and Housing,
- Employment,
- Economy,
- Cultural Resources,
- Transportation,
- Parks and Recreational Facilities, and
- Hazardous Materials.