Atchafalaya Group Lists 10 Basin Alternatives

CYPRESS-LADEN BASIN — Five public hearings will be held throughout the state this month to discuss the fate of the Atchafalaya Basin's oil and wildlife-rich wetlands. These cypress trees, along with some cypress knees, are only part of the basin's natural resources. The Atchafalaya Basin Management Group has come up with 10 alternatives for the basin.

The Atchafalaya Basin Management Group, a joint Venture of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisiana officials, the federal Department of the Interior and Environmental Protection Agency — and a collection of four governmental agencies, has compiled a comprehensive study on the basin.

With public input, the group will choose a plan for the basin. The plan will be put into effect next month, allowing the basin to continue to fight off the Mississippi River.

The ten proposed plans follow in an abbreviated format:

- Maintain 90/10 percent distribution flows between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers respectively below Old River; dredge the Atchafalaya River 70 percent and Wax Lake Outlet 30 percent with sediment distribution; construct a ring levee around Morgan City and a low-lying levee southwest of Houma; and establish a management entity of the four governmental agencies.
- Maintain 70/30 percent distribution flows between the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers respectively below Old River; dredge the main channel and deposit the material on its banks to contain the average annual flood; practice some method of sediment control; lower the Atchafalaya River 70 percent and Wax Lake Outlet 30 percent; and construct a ring levee around Morgan City and a low-lying levee southwest of Houma.
- Maintain 35 feet mean sea level at Acme; dredge the main channel to attain 100,000 square foot cross-sectional area from the head of the Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel to the Wax Lake Outlet and to an 80,000 square foot cross-sectional area from Wax Lake Outlet to Stouts Pass; practice some method of sediment control; construct a ring levee around Morgan City and a low-lying levee southwest of Houma; and establish a management entity of the four governmental agencies.
- Maintain 5 feet mean sea level at Acme; dredge the main channel to attain 100,000 square foot cross-sectional area from the head of the Whiskey Bay Pilot Channel to the Wax Lake Outlet and to an 80,000 square foot cross-sectional area from Wax Lake Outlet to Stouts Pass; practice some method of sediment control; construct a ring levee around Morgan City and a low-lying levee southwest of Houma; and establish a management entity of the four governmental agencies.
- Maintain 100 percent control; lower the Atchafalaya River 70 percent and Wax Lake Outlet 30 percent; and construct a ring levee around Morgan City and a low-lying levee southwest of Houma; and establish a management entity of the four governmental agencies.
- Maintain 0 percent control; lower the Atchafalaya River 70 percent and Wax Lake Outlet 30 percent; and construct a ring levee around Morgan City and a low-lying levee southwest of Houma; and establish a management entity of the four governmental agencies.
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