



# Alternatives Newsletter

Dear Friends,

As you may know, the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Commission (Atchafalaya Commission) is engaged in an effort to develop a management plan that will set the direction for management of the heritage area for the next 10 to 15 years. The National Park Service is assisting the Atchafalaya Commission in developing this plan. We have begun a very exciting phase in the planning process—the development of preliminary alternatives. These preliminary alternatives are concepts that represent a range of options for how the heritage area could be managed to ensure resource protection and quality visitor experiences in the future.

This newsletter presents three preliminary alternatives for managing the heritage area. Each alternative has a slightly different approach to cultural and natural resource management, to partnerships, and to visitor opportunities in the region. The planning team developed these preliminary alternatives based on the heritage area's vision, mission and enabling legislation, issues facing the greater Atchafalaya region, legal mandates, and public comments provided during the scoping period.

We would like to hear your comments and suggestions on these preliminary alternatives. Let us know what you like or dislike, or if we have missed anything. You may like some but not all of the elements in the preliminary alternatives described here, or you may like a particular concept but disagree with the way we are translating that concept into actual visitor experiences or resource protection. Maybe you have an entirely different vision of how the heritage area should be managed. If so, we'd like to hear from you.

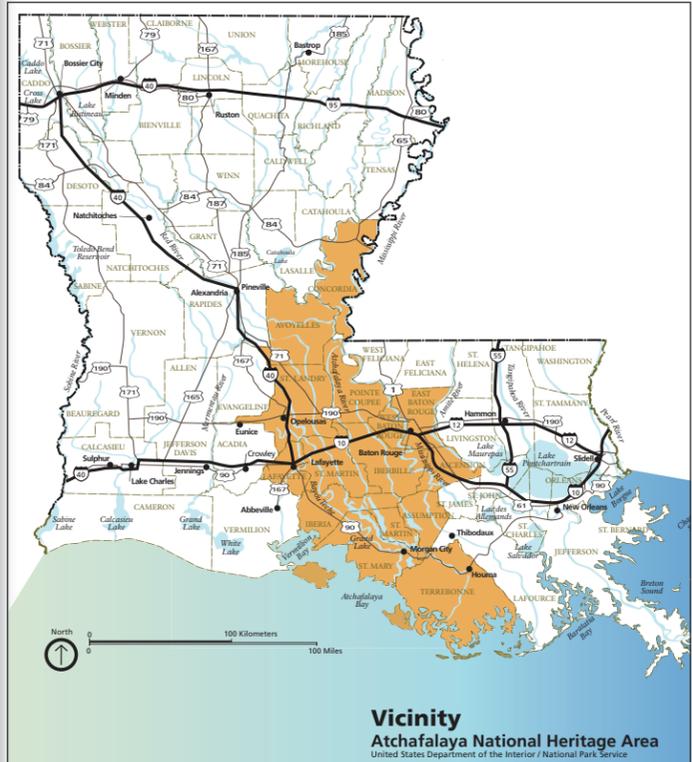
Based on the feedback we receive from you, the planning team will reevaluate these alternatives, modify them as necessary, and develop a preferred alternative. Our preferred alternative may be one of the alternatives in this newsletter, it may combine elements from more than one alternative, or it may be an entirely new alternative. The draft alternatives and an analysis of the impacts of implementing each alternative will be published in the **Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan / Environmental Assessment**. You will be invited to review and comment on the plan. Your comments will help the Atchafalaya Commission and the National Park Service formulate the best possible future for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

We have included a mail-in form for your comments. You may also send in comments via the Internet; please see the comment form for that address. In addition, we will hold open house meetings around the heritage area the week of May 3-6, 2010; please come to meet with us and comment on these alternatives. Specific meeting dates, locations, and times can be found on page 3.

Your input regarding the future management of Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is invaluable. Public communication, collaboration, and cooperation are essential to developing a successful management plan. Thank you for your time and effort. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Debra Credeur,  
Executive Director  
Atchafalaya National Heritage Area



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## YOU ARE INVITED

We welcome your comments and suggestions on the preliminary alternatives presented in this newsletter and hope to see you at one of the public meetings the first week in May. Please see the Atchafalaya Management Plan Public Meeting Schedule on page 3 of the newsletter.



## WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR

Newsletter # 1, Management Plan, was mailed in June 2008 and included the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area's purpose and significance statements and asked for your input regarding management of the heritage area.

Eight meetings were held throughout the area to solicit input from the public. During those meetings, a wide range of issues were discussed, particularly those in relation to increasing public and local residents' understanding of the importance of the unique cultural and natural resources within the heritage area, restoring natural water processes, improving access for recreational activities, and reducing pollution and trash in the waterways. Some members of the public expressed a desire to increase water quality and limit the amount of development and commercialization. Members of the public also stressed the need for protection, preservation, and conservation of the heritage area's natural resources and biodiversity, and for protection and interpretation of the heritage area's unique cultural resources. Other comments generally centered on the need for more trail connections and visitor service facilities (such as boat ramps, parking areas, restrooms, museums, and visitor centers) and interpretive programs. The public comments were summarized in Newsletter #2, Public Comment Summary, which was mailed in February 2009.

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

Park planning is organized around three primary questions:

1. **WHY** was the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area established and what is its overall mission?
2. **WHAT** is the vision for the future (what kind of place do we want Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to be in the next 10 to 15 years?)
3. **HOW** do we accomplish our future vision?

Statements of the heritage area's purpose and significance provide answers to the WHY questions and form the foundation for the general management plan. Developing a vision for the area's future (answering the WHAT question) is the primary function of the management plan. The HOW question will be answered with more detailed implementation plans developed by the Commission in the future.

## ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA PURPOSE

PURPOSE STATEMENTS CLARIFY THE REASONS WHY THE ATCHAFALAYA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA WAS ESTABLISHED AS PART OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA SYSTEM AND PROVIDE THE FOUNDATION FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AREA. SUCH STATEMENTS ARE BASED ON A HERITAGE AREA'S ESTABLISHING LEGISLATION AND LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS, AND NPS POLICIES.

*The purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is to establish and maintain interpretive sites; increase public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural, and historic resources of the area; and implement programs that recognize the important resource values of the national heritage area.*

## NOW: DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

### Requirements for the Preliminary Management Alternatives

Both the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Park Service (NPS) planning process require that the management plan examine a range of different futures or alternative approaches for managing the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Developing a concept for the future is the primary role of the heritage area management plan. Evaluating a range of alternatives allows managers, users, partners, and interested citizens to come together and explore different approaches to protecting resources, managing use, directing development, and resolving conflicts. This ensures that trends, impacts, trade-offs, and the public's ideas and concerns have been considered before a management approach is selected for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

The enabling legislation for Atchafalaya National Heritage Area directs the Commission to create a management plan that includes ways to provide the following assistance to units of government and others:

- carrying out programs that recognize important resource values within the heritage area
- encouraging sustainable economic development within the heritage area
- establishing and maintaining interpretive sites within the heritage area
- increasing public awareness of and appreciation for the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the heritage area

All alternatives must be consistent with the purposes (see inset) for which the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was established. The alternatives also must be reasonable, and they must be consistent with NPS policies and other existing legislative mandates such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Since implementation of any of the alternatives would require the assistance of partners and outside funding, public support is also important in comparing the alternatives.



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## Interpretive Themes

The Atchafalaya Commission has developed five interpretive themes, which tell the important "stories" of the region that are to be shared with all visitors to the area. These themes are

**Survival:** The people survived in spite of isolation and other challenges.

**History:** The people evolved from a rich blend of cultures including multiple races and ethnicities.

**Heritage, Traditions and Lifestyles:** Multi-cultural heritage, traditions, and lifestyles continue through to today.

**The Land:** Subtle and catastrophic natural events and man-made changes continue to influence the landscape.

**Enjoying Natural Resources:** Special outdoor recreation opportunities exist due to the unrivaled natural resources of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

These themes form the focus for the preliminary Alternatives B and C. Each focuses on different themes, but does not exclude the other themes; the others are just given less emphasis. Alternative A is the continuation of current management, and thus does not focus on a theme.

## THE PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

During fall and winter 2009, the Atchafalaya Commission and the planning team developed the preliminary alternatives for managing the heritage area. Each alternative includes a concept statement that generally describes the guiding philosophy or overall direction for that alternative. A general description of the management direction and some broad actions that would be taken for natural and cultural resources, visitor experiences, access, and facilities are also included for each alternative.

The alternatives are conceptual in nature, focusing on *what* resource conditions and visitor experiences should be in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area rather than on details on *how* they should be achieved. Thus, the alternatives remain fairly broad and do not describe specific management techniques, and do not identify specific actions. Additional feasibility studies and more detailed planning and environmental documentation will be required before any facilities proposed in any alternative are built. Further details of how the heritage area will function will be developed in the implementation plan, once this management plan is completed.

No alternative has been selected as a preferred alternative. A preferred alternative will be developed once all public comments have been analyzed.

As you review the alternatives, please let us know the ideas and concepts that most closely represent your desired future for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. You can fill out the comment form included here, or submit your comments online at the NPS park planning website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero> and select **Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Mangement Plan**.

## ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

Regardless of which management alternative is selected, the following actions would occur:

- The Atchafalaya Commission would remain the management entity for the heritage area. The commission is an agency of the Louisiana Office of Tourism under the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism.
- The interpretive themes developed in 2006 and expanded in 2009 would continue to be used, though the emphasis would vary between alternatives.
- The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area would partner with the Louisiana Byways Program to develop interpretive programming for the designated byways within the heritage area, building on the interpretive themes developed for the heritage area.
- The Atchafalaya Commission and partners would develop and implement a comprehensive identity and media program to build “brand” and visibility for the heritage area, using the heritage area’s logo and other identifying information. This program would use some or all of the following media outlets: signs; electronic and print media, including the existing Alliance of National Heritage Areas (ANHA) website; and tourism promotion activities, such as brochures. The emphasis of the program may vary by alternative.
- The National Park Service would provide heritage funds and technical assistance to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area as provided in the 2006 National Heritage Area Act. However, this funding could be stopped if the management plan is not completed and approved by the secretary of the interior in a reasonable timeframe.

## ALTERNATIVE A: NO ACTION

**Alternative A, the no-action alternative, does not propose any change to the current operation and management of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.** Current programs and levels of funding would continue to be administered by the Atchafalaya Commission and the Louisiana Office of Tourism, and no increase in federal funding would be provided.

Alternative A would not increase the emphasis on any of the five interpretive themes established for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. According to the legislation, there could be a complete loss of future federal funds if a management plan is not completed and approved in a reasonable timeframe; total state and federal program funding could be reduced by nearly 50%, affecting program effectiveness.



### ATCHAFALAYA MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC MEETING SCHEDULE

#### May 3, 2010 • Monday, 5:00 pm

Location: Iberville Parish Visitors Center  
17525 Hwy. 77  
Grosse Tete, LA 70740  
ph: 225-687-5198

Parking: Parking available on side of building.

#### May 4, 2010 • Tuesday, 10:00 am

Location: Capitol Park Welcome Center  
702 N. River Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
ph: 225-219-1200

Parking Instructions: Enter garage from North St. and have ticket validated or free lot on MS River across from building.

#### May 4, 2010 • Tuesday, 4:00 pm

Location: Capitol Park Welcome Center  
702 N. River Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
ph: 225-219-1200

Parking Instructions: Enter garage from North St. and have ticket validated or free lot on MS River across from building.

#### May 5, 2010 • Wednesday, 10:00 am

Location: The Old Schoolhouse (pale yellow bldg.)  
Le Vieux Village of Opelousas  
828 East Landry  
Opelousas, LA 71350  
ph: 337-948-0561

Parking Instructions: Parking at entrance. Additional parking: Academy St. (next light) Continue across the next intersection at Vine St. (Hwy 190 E) and there will be an available parking lot on the left. Cross street to Le Vieux Village.

#### May 5, 2010 • Wednesday, 3:00 pm

Location: Avoyelles Parish Tourist  
Commission Meeting Room  
8592 Hwy. 1  
Mansura, LA 71350  
ph: 318-253-0585

Parking Instructions: Parking at entrance.

#### May 6, 2010 • Thursday, 1:00 pm

Location: Wendell Williams Memorial  
Aviation Museum  
118 Cotten Road  
Patterson, LA 70392  
ph: 985-399-1268

Parking Instructions: LA 90 in Kemper Williams Park, adjacent to the Patterson Civic Center. Parking in lot in front of building entrance.

#### May 6, 2010 • Thursday, 5:00 pm

Location: Acadian Memorial Museum  
121 S. New Market St.  
St. Martinville, LA 70582  
ph: 337-394-2258

Parking Instructions: Parking on street in front of and in lot beside building entrance.



## ALTERNATIVE B: FOCUS ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND RELATED RECREATION Concept

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area has unrivaled natural resources, including the nation's largest river swamp. The shape of the land and water systems have influenced where people live, how they travel, and how they use and enjoy the land and water of this special ecosystem. Alternative B highlights the nationally and regionally significant natural and recreation resources of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area available to visitors and locals alike.

### Description

In Alternative B, the natural resources of the region provide opportunities to experience a variety of ecosystems, from hardwood forests to large coastal wetlands. Outdoor recreation options are varied and include viewing an incredible variety of bird species, freshwater and saltwater fishing, paddling through cypress-tupelo swamps, hiking nature trails, and bicycling along the River Road. There are also many opportunities to observe how humans have worked to influence nature through their development of locks, levees, and river control structures. The history of human use of the region's resources, from cypress logging, to oil and gas leasing, to aquaculture and agriculture can also be experienced and studied. Visitors can also explore and learn how the landforms, historic floodplains, and current levee systems have influenced development of agricultural systems, settlement patterns, and transportation options throughout the region.

**This alternative focuses on protecting natural resources and engaging in natural resource-based recreation.** These focal areas would be used to guide visitors' experiences of the heritage area. Strategies and programs would emphasize resources, attractions, and area-wide links that relate to these topics. Programs, educational efforts, and activities would be directed primarily toward visitors with an interest in these natural resources and recreation related topics. Alternative B would include the following elements:

- Existing interpretive and welcome centers would be enhanced to generate more interest in the area and to keep people in the heritage area for longer periods of time. The initial focus would be on improving existing centers at major entry points to the heritage area. Interpretive and welcome centers would orient and provide information to visitors, with an emphasis on experiential opportunities, as well as landforms, and the influences of geology. These centers could eventually serve as gateways for activities and trailheads for land or water trails.
- The Atchafalaya River and associated trails (both land and water trails) would serve as a central spine from which programmatic and physical links would be made to adjacent areas and resources.
- Existing scenic byways would be connected and new ones would be proposed and developed where appropriate.
- Topically organized activities, itineraries, and event calendars would be developed to link natural resources and related attractions with eco-tourism and conservation opportunities. These programs and products would be developed to fit within a consistent, area-wide informational, interpretive, and public relations framework.
- Experiential activities involving regional attractions and key resources would be developed. These activities would be both resource-based (e.g., scenic roads, water trails) and program-based (e.g., audio tours) and would be designed to connect clusters of resources.
- Partners with interests, skills, expertise, and resources pertaining to natural resource-related topics and activities would participate in improving natural resource interpretation and education programs and developing links at a regional scale.
- Coordinated programs would be developed with partners to provide conservation, restoration and eco-tourism opportunities for visitors and locals alike. These programs could focus on cleanup, water quality monitoring, native plant restoration or similar activities.
- Transportation planning for visitors would be emphasized—improving land and water connections, and expanding alternate transportation choices for exploring the heritage area (i.e., bike, paddling, boating, rail, bus, and helicopter).

Today, circulation patterns are generally east-west within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Visitor orientation would be provided along these major transportation routes to intercept the most visitors. These transportation patterns also create the need for improved north-south connections beyond the major highways. Rivers and bayous generally run north-south and provide additional connections and means of travel within the heritage area. The Atchafalaya River, bayous, and the Inter-coastal Waterway already provide links related to heritage topics. Trails and byways along natural ridges and man-made levees could provide a better understanding of landforms and an opportunity to explore the area.



### Related Interpretive Themes

Two main interpretive themes and associated sub-themes would guide interpretation and visitor experiences under Alternative B:

**The Land:** Subtle and catastrophic natural events and man-made changes continue to influence the landscape.

**Enjoying Natural Resources:** Special outdoor recreation opportunities exist due to the unrivaled natural resources of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

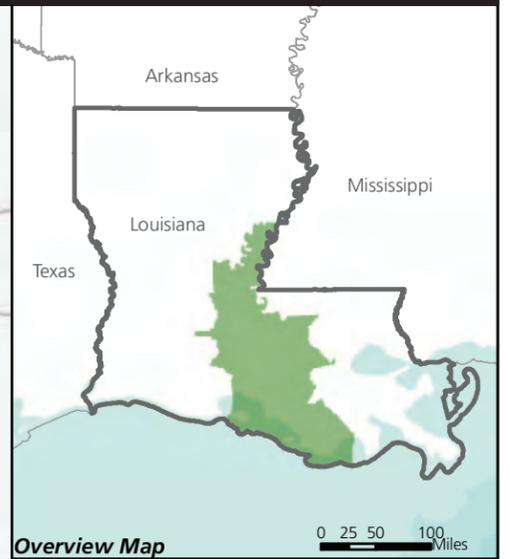
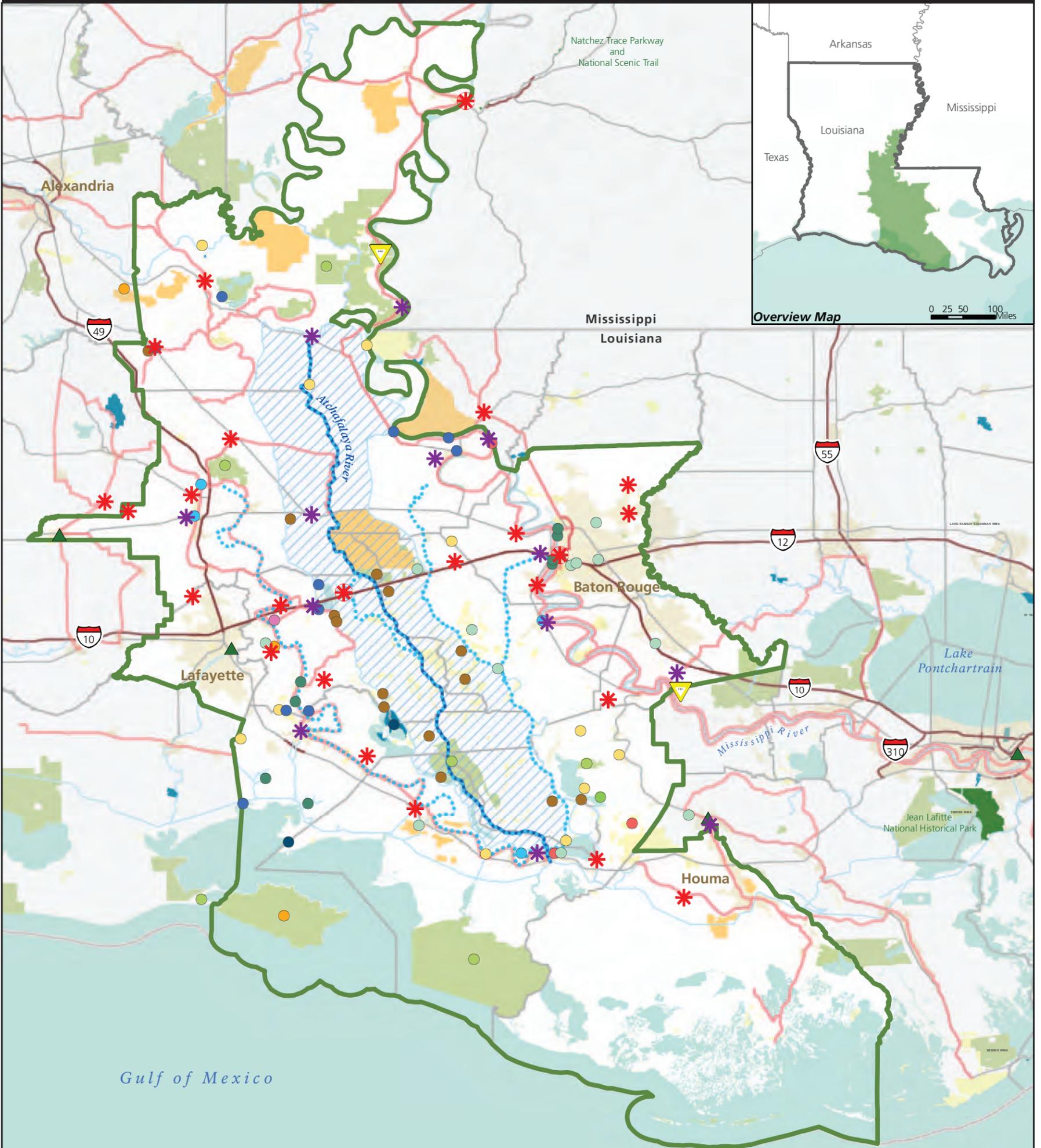
These themes would provide a focus for interpretation, education, partnerships, and future actions. The water/trail system in particular would function as a central, organizing "spine" that ties together sites and experiences throughout the heritage area.

**Alternative B would place the greatest emphasis on strategies designed to link resources at an area-wide or region-wide level.** These strategies include regional-scale protection and restoration of environmental resources, development of outdoor recreational opportunities, establishment of interpretive links, and development of physical links to promote eco-tourism. This alternative would focus education and interpretation on increasing awareness of varied and important natural resources of the Atchafalaya region as well as opportunities to recreate in a natural setting.



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# Alternative B Atchafalaya National Heritage Area • Louisiana



<b>Legend</b>			
State Welcome Center	Natural Resource Other	Proposed Signage	Wildlife Management Areas & Wildlife Refuges
Welcome Center	Nature Center/Botanical Garden/Research	Proposed Water Trails	State Parks
Proposed Welcome Center	Recreation Area	Waterways	State Lands
<b>Resources</b>	Recreation Area, State Park	Water Bodies	Urban Areas
Archeological Site	State Wildlife Management Area	Atchafalaya National Heritage Area	
Cultural Landscape	Trail Opportunity	Atchafalaya Basin	
Historic District	Water Resource	National Park Service Boundary	
Museum	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park	State Boundary	
National Wildlife Refuge	Existing Byways	National Wildlife Refuges	
	Atchafalaya River		

**ALTERNATIVE B: Focus on Natural Resources and Related Recreation**  
 The map for Alternative B highlights recreational areas, wildlife management areas, trails, and byways. Proposed water trails are depicted by dotted lines. In Alternative B the natural resources of the region provide opportunities to experience a variety of ecosystems and diverse recreation options. There are also many opportunities to observe how humans have worked to influence nature. Programs, educational efforts, and activities would be directed primarily toward visitors with an interest in natural resources and recreation related topics.

**NOTES:**

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## ALTERNATIVE C: FOCUS ON HISTORY AND CURRENT CULTURES

### Concept

The evolution of a rich blend of cultures, traditions, and lifeways has created a magical place known as the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The combination of people, places, sites, sounds, and smells makes this a one-of-a-kind mosaic of history and culture in the heart of Louisiana. Alternative C capitalizes on this nationally significant and culturally rich region of the country.

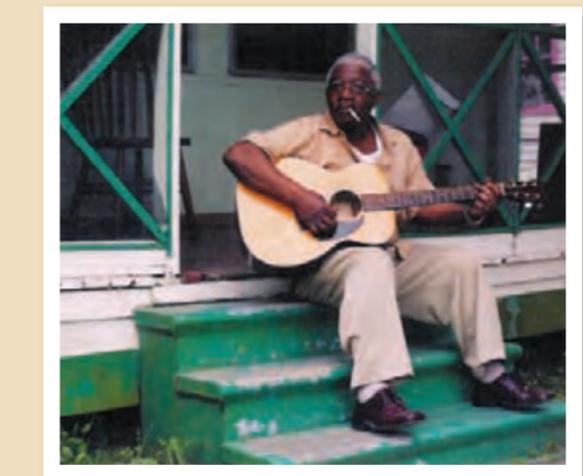
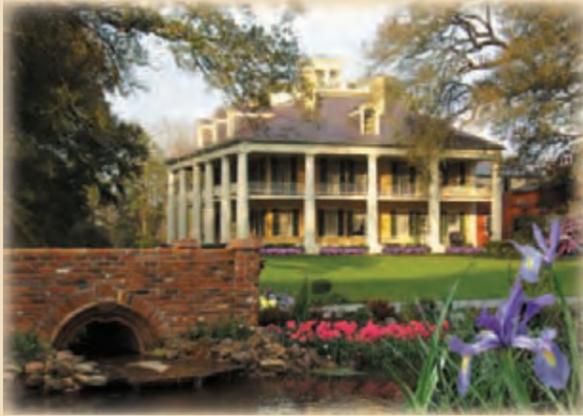


PHOTO CREDITS: STATE OF LOUISIANA TOURISM

### Description

**Alternative C focuses on current and past communities, sites, buildings, languages, religions, music, foodways, history, and cultural traditions.** For centuries, the area's cultural traditions, lifeways, culturally significant sites, transportation patterns, and demographic shifts have been affected by the region's physical geography, particularly as it relates to the historical flow and distribution of the Mississippi and Atchafalaya rivers. The native people of the area, as well as the various waves of migrants into the area, have relied on the area's unique natural resources; these resources, in turn, have had an indelible impact on the blend of cultures that has evolved into the distinct Creole culture of today.

**Alternative C focuses on establishing visitor information and activities related to historic and cultural sites and areas.** Under this alternative, all visitors to the area would be able to find many opportunities to discover the history and cultural traditions of the Atchafalaya region. This alternative caters to local and regional residents, visitors who are passing through, and destination travelers. Information would be available related to area attractions and based on where a visitor planned to enter the heritage area and the amount of time they would like to spend in the area.

**This alternative provides specific opportunities for enthusiasts of particular time periods or events and related resources.** Residents and visitors specifically interested in visiting and learning about Civil War related sites and stories, for example, could access information about opportunities to see and learn about the area's Civil War sites, battles, and related resources. Alternative C would also provide opportunities for destination tourists that may have anywhere from a few days to a few weeks to spend in the area. Alternative C would include the following elements:

- Existing interpretive and welcome centers would be enhanced to generate more interest in the area and keep people in the heritage area for longer periods of time. Initial focus would be on improving the centers at major entry points to the heritage area. Longer term, the desired condition would be for key interpretive centers to offer cultural experiences for visitors such as music, dance, food or local crafts. These visitor centers could serve as gateways for activities, tours, and trails.
- Existing scenic byways would be connected and new ones would be proposed and developed where appropriate.
- Activities, itineraries, and event calendars would be developed to link heritage area cultural resources and associated built attractions. These programs and products would be developed to fit within a consistent, area-wide informational, interpretive, and public relations framework.
- Visitor information and access to the area's unique cultural experiences would be linked by type and topic (such as festivals, parades, or hands-on opportunities).
- Education programs for teachers and students would focus on the history and culture of the heritage area.
- Partners with special interests, skills, and resources pertaining to particular topics and activities would participate in developing links at a regional scale.
- Coordination with partners would help to preserve and restore historic and cultural sites.
- Sustaining the unique cultural identity of the heritage area would be the focus of promotional and economic development initiatives.
- Transportation planning for visitors would be emphasized—improving land and water connections and enhancing alternate means of transportation such as boat, bus, and rail (need to connect cultural festivals, swamp tours, sites, etc.)
- The Atchafalaya River would serve as the spine that connects resources in adjacent communities. Programmatic and physical links would connect resources with related themes.



### Related Interpretive Themes

Three main interpretive themes and associated sub-themes would guide interpretation and visitor experiences under alternative C:

**Survival:** The people survived in spite of isolation and other challenges.

**History:** The people evolved from a rich blend of cultures including multiple races and ethnicities.

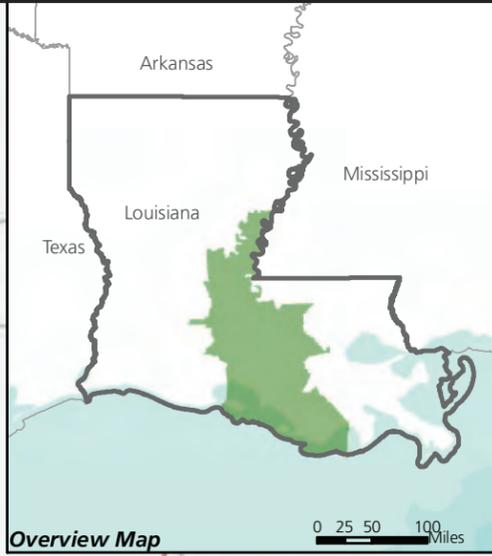
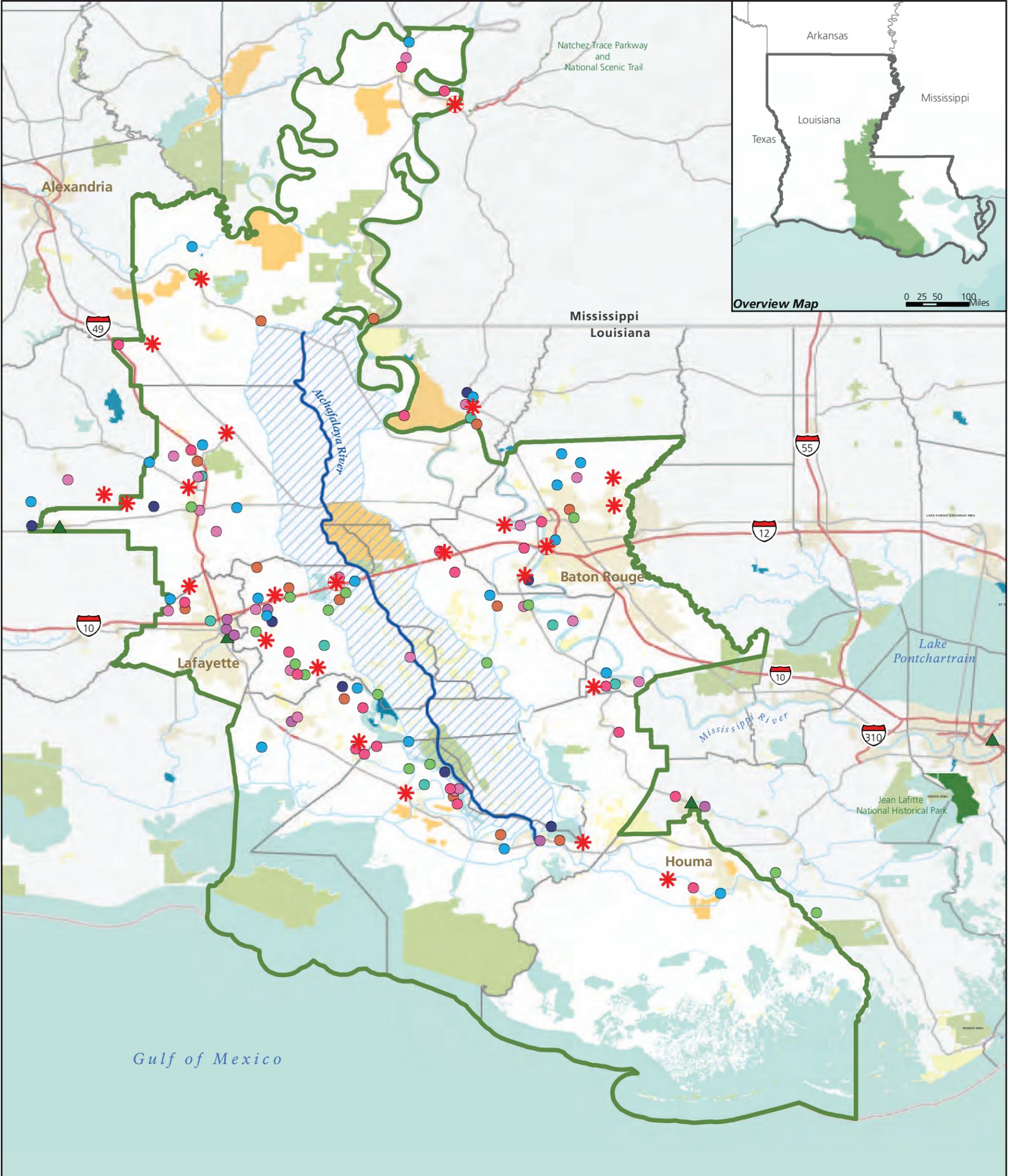
**Heritage, Traditions and Lifeways:** Multi-cultural heritage, traditions, and lifeways continue through to today.

These themes would provide a focus for interpretation, education, partnerships, and future actions. Tourism information would be organized by type and topic, focusing on particular areas of culture, traditions, or history such as food, music, antebellum life, or cultural festivals.

**Alternative C would place the greatest emphasis on strategies designed to provide visitor information and activities tailored to visitors' interests in particular topics or activities.** Alternative C would increase the emphasis on community revitalization and preservation of historic structures and landscapes, in contrast with the focus on understanding and protecting natural resources and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities in Alternative B.



# Alternative C Atchafalaya National Heritage Area • Louisiana



**Legend**

State Welcome Center	Historic District	Waterways	Wildlife Management Areas & Wildlife Refuges
Welcome Center	Main Street	Water Bodies	State Parks
<b>Resources</b>	Museum	Atchafalaya National Heritage Area	State Lands
African American Trail	Native American	Atchafalaya Basin	Urban Areas
Arts/Culture	Plantations/Historic Properties	National Park Service Boundary	
Civil War	Jean Lafitte National Historical Park	State Boundary	
	Atchafalaya River	National Wildlife Refuges	

Scale: 0 5 10 20 30 Miles

North Arrow

**ALTERNATIVE C: Focus on History and Current Cultures**  
 The Alternative C map shows the rich diversity of cultural and historic resources within the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Note the historic districts, arts/culture sites, Native American sites and museums located throughout the area. Alternative C focuses on establishing visitor information and activities related to historic and cultural sites and areas. Under this alternative, all visitors to the area would be able to find a many opportunities to discover the history and cultural traditions of the Atchafalaya region.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**Alternatives Newsletter**

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area • Louisiana  
 Newsletter #3 • April 2010

**LOUISIANA**  
 Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism



National Park Service  
 U.S. Department of the Interior



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 1051 North Third Street  
 P.O. Box 94291  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70804-929

NPS P77/101582

Planning Process for the Management Plan		
Estimated Timeframe	Planning Activity	Public Involvement Opportunities
Spring 2008	Project Startup	
Summer 2008 - Summer 2009	<b>Scoping</b> - hear from the public, heritage area staff, partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders regarding concerns, expectations, and values related to the heritage area.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form or online at <a href="http://www.atchafalaya.org">www.atchafalaya.org</a> .  Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
Fall 2009 - Spring 2010	<b>Develop and Evaluate Preliminary Alternatives</b> - Develop different possible futures for the heritage area and provide opportunities for review and comment by the public, heritage area partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review newsletter and send us your ideas and concerns using the response form or online at <a href="http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero">http://parkplanning.nps.gov/sero</a> .  Attend public meetings and voice your ideas and concerns.
Summer - Winter 2010	<b>Prepare and Publish the Management Plan / Environmental Assessment</b> - Review comments from the public, heritage area partners, government agencies, and other stakeholders.	Review the <i>Management Plan / EA</i> and provide comments in early 2011.
Spring 2011 and beyond	<b>Implement the Approved Plan</b> - If no serious issues surface, prepare and issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" and implement the plan as funding allows.	Work with the Atchafalaya Commission and partners to implement the plan.