

Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan - Comments Received During Public Scoping (2008-2009)

Public Comment Questions:

1. What makes the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area special to you?
2. What do you enjoy most about the national heritage area?
3. What do you enjoy least about the national heritage area?
4. Describe what you would like to see or not see in the national heritage area in the next 20 years.
5. What opportunities and/or management direction would you like to see explored in the management plan?
6. What is your current concern about the future of the national heritage area?
7. Additional comments or concerns.

For each piece of correspondence received and input below, the comments are numbered according to the respective question being answered unless the comment was received via letter format.

Public Comments Received	Receipt Date	City	State
1. Natural beauty, the wildlife. 2. Hunting, fishing. 3. The silting up of natural bayous. 4. Bayous and canals that are silting up need to remain open. Improved water flow. Improved fishing. Public access. 5. Keep it natural and wild. No parks, campgrounds, bridges or roadways. 6. Public access and silting of waterways. 7. Keep the funds for "inside the levees" - no monies funneled outside of the spillway.	9/1/2008	Addis	LA
1. Roy O. Martin owns several 1000's of acres in the A.N.H.A. timber and wildlife, along with recreation, are very important to us. 2. Wildlife, recreation, timber. 3. Hydrology has been altered. 4. Would not like to see any further constraints on timber harvesting. Would like to see help with drainage problems. 5. Management plan should address the economic impacts of forestry and the importance of silviculture. 6. Constraints on harvesting timber. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Alexandria	LA
1. It is a unique natural environment that has shaped cultural elements of the area in a profound way. On its own it is an important ecosystem and it serves a very important social and economic function. 2. Not much there as yet. 3. See above. 4. Protection of natural habitat and effective water management. 5. Emphasis on conservation and wilderness experience - less emphasis on providing for RV visitors et al. 6. That it becomes "Disneyfied." 7. Blank.	10/31/2008	Alexandria	LA
1. Blank. 2. It is a rich area for growing trees and producing other natural resources. 3. Its threat to rights of property owners. 4. I would like to see coordination among all users of the area. I would NOT like to see exclusion of timber harvesting in the area. 5. Full sustainable use of all resources. 6. That it will intrude upon the rights and activities of private property owners. 7. Blank	10/31/2008	Alexandria	LA

1. A place to visit. 2. Meet new people (tourist). 3. Blank. 4. More people getting together. 5. Blank. 6. Being sure money is available to complete plans and support it. 7. Blank	9/1/2008	Arnaudville	LA
1. The wildlife, scenery and close proximity to my home make it an irreplaceable natural resource! I grew up hunting and fishing in the Basin! 2. It's part of what makes Louisiana unique. A great place to enjoy the outdoors and to get away from the everyday pressures of life. 3. It is not maintained well - it could be so much more of an experience with federal funding. 4. The proliferation and creation of even a better home for wildlife. I want the future generations to have an experience that is as good, or better than I had. 5. Focus on the habitat potential for wildlife. Maintain the heritage area as a public domain. Spend money on public facilities (federal and state funding). Educate people on the historical aspect of this area and what it takes to perpetuate this going forward. 6. That it will fall victim to environmental and civic pressures to become annexed. Leave and preserve it to be as nature intended it to be. 7. Keep the Atchafalaya Basin and this heritage area open to the public for public hunting and fishing activities! Get funding to keep it well preserved.	9/1/2008	Avery Island	LA
1. Because of tourism promotion. 2. Cultural aspect (promotion). 3. Need to expand for the whole state. 4. That our culture is widely known nationally. 5. Blank. 6. Funding may not be available. 7. Blank	9/1/2008	Baldwin	LA
1. It allows me to step back in time and try to enjoy a pristine environment. 2. Birding and wildlife. 3. Too much has been ravaged by farming and poor management. 4. Reduce permanent residence by attrition. Limit hunting. 5. Establish an education program for staff to include all species in the area. Instill in them a strong sense of stewardship. 6. That it will eventually be cleared and overrun for recreation and farming. 7. The road between whisky bay and LA-190 needs resurfacing.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1-6. Blank. 7. Leave the Basin along. Don't turn it into a tourist attraction.	7/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. The area is unique because of its size and nearness to large urban areas in Louisiana and other states. 2. Its flora and fauna. 3. Its use of commercial interest, shipping, and oil interest. 4. More points of public access developed, more land preserved. 5. Managed for preservation and education. 6. The continued destruction of the Basin by the oil and shipping interests. Corps of Engineers. 7. We need to start now on preserving this unique area.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. This is the area for which I reside and choose to raise my children in. 2. Beauty of nature, family oriented culture and agricultural by-products of the area. 3. Destruction of wetlands and natural resources. 4. I would not like to see destruction of our wetlands. I would like to see more of an investment in our coastal region and agriculture. 5. Blank. 6. Whether the local elderly are called upon to assist in the plan development and implementation. 7. Meeting dates and times not included in packet.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. This is a big and beautiful part of our heritage and next door to me. 2. I enjoy fishing and bird watching. We also take our friends to see the Atchafalaya. 3. Being stuck on interstate with no exit over Atchafalaya on I-10. 4. More interpretive setups like you have on I-10 rest area over Atchafalaya on I-10. 5. Perhaps another state park with boat launch for fishing, etc. 6. Blank. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA

<p>1. Primarily the Atchafalaya swamp. It has incredibly beautiful areas that are unique because of the flora and fauna there as a result of a wetland ecosystem. That it is a roadless area minimizes development outside the swamp, many areas are still rural and not urbanized! 2. The beauty of the swamp, the wildlife and birds, what little is left of what used to be thousands of acres of bottomland and upland hardwood forest, and longleaf pine savannah. 3. The denuding of the land for urban sprawl. Abandoned, leaking oil fields in the swamp. Legal clear-cutting and subsequent invasion by Chinese tallow and privet and water hyacinth. Urban sprawl in EBR and Ascension Parishes. Cutting cypress trees for the mulch industry. 4. I would like to see intact forests protected from logging, hydrological restoration projects, invasive species control, areas with house power limits, NO jet skis. Restoration of longleaf pine savannah. Oil and gas activities should be stringently managed to minimize local environment and degradation. 5. Hydrology restoration in the Atchafalaya spillway. Designated, pretty camping areas, some not accessible by cars, protection and restoration of black bear habitat. Delta building projects. Tourist and local "destinations" in camping, access, education about local cultures. Bayou Manchac and other waterways included in the National Scenic Rivers program. 6. The silting in of the Atchafalaya swamp and coastal erosion from oilfield canals. The plan (and impact) to build a huge highway around Baton Rouge. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>I am presenting these comments as an individual citizen of the region. All management considerations for the Atchafalaya Basin region should be environmentally sustainable and should conserve native ecosystems. They should also support cultural authenticity, while helping support a high quality of life for residents of the region. We should take our lesson from other areas of the country and the world, which boast some sort of spectacular natural resource to experience and enjoy. Some have been better managed than others. We want to make sure the human actions we encourage with this commission uplift people by upholding the integrity of the resource itself, and we need to consider the resource as consisting of both the wetland and the people who are rooted there. It might be a good thing, if this body hasn't already, to make contact with a group called The International Ecotourism Society (TIES). They are a Washington D.C.-based politically nonpartisan nonprofit non-governmental organization which helps communities around the world make crucial decisions about sustainable development and nature-based sustainable tourism. I found out about them several years ago in preparing a public radio piece on ecotourism in Louisiana. Thank you for considering these comments.</p>	7/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA

<p>1. 1) Nature - its beauty and abundance. 2) Place to fish and paddle. 3) Place to get away from civilization. 4) Culture - unique and authentic, not dominated by chain stores and malls. 2. 1) Birding Whiskey Bay Rd., seeing Bald Eagles Morgan City. 2) Fishing all over Basin. 3) Eating at local spots like Gracie's City Cafe Plaquemine, Love Pierre Part Store, Joe Dreyfuss, various places in Henderson. 3. 1) Litter and industrial abandoned oil/gas installations. 2) Lack of a cohesive, coordinated public plan to sustain ecosystem, resulting in (sometimes) spectacular and damaging resource management blunders (i.e., logging active swallow-tailed kite breeding colony on public land). 4. 1) See - more boat landings (motorboat), a no-motor paddling area, a children's fishing pier at Atch Rest Stop I-10. 2) Not See - more camp developments, big box chains, sprawl, and swamp converted to ag. 5. 1) Make contact with ecotourism development orgs like TIES and get them down here. 2) Adopt a "sustainable tourism" ethic. 3) Actively encourage and incentivize grassroots sustainability groups in each community, enjoying. 6. That the national culture of living a completely indoor, virtual world will overwhelm the communities and they'll lose their connection to their land and natural heritage. 7. Don't try to please everyone in every way, but find out what seems to be the common threads and build your vision on that. Concentrate on sustainable economic and environmental models rather than quick, "love it to death" exploitation.</p>	7/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>There should be no problem working with the Corps of Engineers. They have some excellent employees and they are looking for ways to develop better relationships with people of interest. They are capable of doing excellent work. The problem is the overall focus. They are part of the U.S. Department of Defense and their base or overriding mission is to protect us from the enemy. This mission does not translate well if they have to consider much beyond drainage, flood control and navigation. When they get into esthetics, historic preservation and fish and wildlife resources and habitat then things and the mission gets very fuzzy. The Corps of Engineers has some excellent staff and contractors who can deal with all of these resources and do an excellent job. Unfortunately this is not the mission they were trained to develop. Nature is not the "enemy" and nature is not really able to negotiate a "peace" with either us or the Corps of Engineers. Whenever natural systems are modified, such as the creation of the shipping channel in the mouth of the Mississippi river or the Atchafalaya floodway and Nature is expected to respond favorably to the designs and projections that were developed back in the planning office then problems appear that were not anticipated. These same types of problems happen when industry builds an oil refinery, chemical plant, paper mill or power plant. Up until recently the engineers and corporate managers figured out what they wanted to build and operate and where to build the facility. What they have not quite figured out how do is to consider things outside of their fence line. Originally if they had a waste generation then their solution was to get the waste off of their property. This led to massive dumping of some extremely toxic and hazardous waste into the air and rivers, streams and lakes. Some clever engineers figured that injecting waste down wells would get the "problem" away from the facility and out of sight. Only in the last twenty years has industry begun to take these problems seriously. The failures of the mining and oil and gas drilling industries in this and other countries is a much longer discussion. Then we have all of these businesses and governments using throw away packaging, containers to replace bottles, and the result is giant landfills and oceans and the gulf of Mexico full of debris. These problems do not need to happen but some real up front thinking needs to happen before new products, or industrial facilities, or mining operations, or waste disposal facilities are started. The use of the questions developed in the IT Decision</p>	7/28/2009	Baton Rouge	LA

<p>is a good place to start. Unfortunately, even today things like the IT Questions are pulled in after the decisions are made about the chemical, dam, levee, etc. are already well advanced. Over the years I have developed some good relationships with the Colonels, Generals and other officers in the Corps of Engineers. Some of them had excellent understandings of things like the IT Questions but not everyone in the decision making process agreed with their approaches to dealing with issues or problems Even some of the civilians who have served as the heads of the Corps of Engineers at the Pentagon were excellent people to work with but their influence is pulled in many directions.</p>			
<p>Monday, July 27, 2009 Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. Capitol Annex P.O. Box 44027 Baton Rouge, LA 7084-4027 Dear CPRA, This letter is a response to the posting of the consolidated list of concerns and suggested interim solutions combined with the call seeking input and support from the public to identify the most critical challenges facing coastal restoration projects. If we are to accomplish coastal restoration and flood protection in Louisiana then I believe we need to consider what is happening in the entire Mississippi River Basin. The current process of discussing alternatives in Louisiana alone is not adequate to deal with land losses on our coast. I also believe that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers needs to be replaced as the lead agency responsible for navigation, flood protection, and the protection and restoration of natural resources in our state and the entire USA. This letter will explain my reasoning. Our officials and state agencies, and especially our Governor and members of Congress, must not limit the research and actions to activities in Louisiana. We must have a clear and affirmative program of working with the other states in the Mississippi River Basin to restore or compensate for the massive amounts of sediment that the river no longer delivers to our state. Because of the major dams that have been constructed in every state in the basin, very little sediment is washed down to Louisiana today. This letter also points out some laws that officials and agencies must follow when considering projects that may impact or alter the coastal areas of the state and the sediment loads of the Mississippi River Basin. They too are described in this letter. CPRA apparently believes that the Corps of Engineers should have a stronger presence in Louisiana. I believe that military control of civilian programs, like navigation and flood control, and should be under the control of agencies with civilian leadership rather than the Department of Defense. I would also like to point out that the public needs to receive full and accurate information about the cost versus the benefits to the state with respect to maintenance of the deep shipping channel at the mouth of the Mississippi River. The adverse impacts on Louisiana from the artificial channel built and maintained by the Corps of Engineers is one of the most costly and environmentally destructive shipping projects in the United States. Sediment and Land Loss The loss of sediment in the Mississippi River and our land losses in Louisiana are definitely related. Further, our land loss is a national problem, which requires a national solution. Many major dams and bank stabilization projects have been constructed in every river in the more than thirty states that are drained by the Mississippi River Basin. Cumulatively, these projects have dramatically reduced the amount of sediment that the Mississippi, Atchafalaya and our other delta rivers deposit in coastal Louisiana. For thousands of years these rivers moved sediment, building up the Louisiana coast. This build up has almost totally stopped. It appears that the Corps of Engineers and many other federal and state agencies have built the scores of dams and other structures upriver without proper consideration of how the resulting losses of sediment in the Mississippi River would adversely impact Louisiana and the Gulf of</p>	7/28/2009	Baton Rouge	LA

Mexico. The Corps of Engineers has also maintained a deep-draft ship channel in the mouth of the Mississippi River for the last hundred years, which is shooting massive amounts of river sediment into the deeper waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The natural process of the river's bird foot delta system would be to deposit sediment over hundreds of miles of our coast. The artificially-deep ship channel in the mouth of the river today extends the mouth further out in the deeper waters of the Gulf of Mexico than the river has ever been. Basically the Corps has established a channel for ocean going ships that is unsustainable and very destructive to the fragile coast. Other human-induced causes of land losses in coastal Louisiana are the result of the digging and dredging of thousands of miles of canals and drilling wells, waste storage pits, pipelines, and roads through the coastal waters and wetlands. The oil and natural gas industry has for the last hundred years dumped and discharged billions of gallons of highly saline produced waters and large amounts of toxic and hazardous waste, which have damaged many thousands of acres of our coast. Laws regarding the posted consolidated list of concerns, 2. "NEPA Requirements" I believe this argument incorrectly criticizes the National Environmental Policy Act. The document states, "Federal Requirements geared toward protecting the environment are delaying the restoration and enhancement of the areas that they are designed to protect." I believe this criticism is misdirected and shows a lack of understanding of both federal and state laws as well as the Louisiana Constitution, which was adopted by the voters of the state in 1974. In 1984 the Louisiana Supreme Court rendered a unanimous 9-0 decision in a case entitled "Save Our Selves versus the Louisiana Environmental Control Commission," (SOS v. ECC, 452 So.2d 1152). This decision is often called "The IT Decision" because the case dealt with a proposed commercial hazardous waste facility called IT Corporation. In "The IT Decision," the Louisiana Supreme Court gave us the first interpretation of Article Nine, Section One of the 1974 Constitution, which states, "The natural resources of the state, including air and water, and the healthful, scenic, historic, and esthetic quality of the environment shall be protected, conserved, and replenished , insofar as possible and consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the people. The Legislature shall enact laws to implement this policy." In "The IT Decision," the Supreme Court ruled that all state agencies and officials must insure that in all actions they have considered alternative sites, alternative projects, alternative processes, and that the project selected is the one that will best protect, conserve, and replenish the natural resources of the state. Under NEPA, federal agencies and officials must apply these same basic protection standards but only applied to "major federal actions." Therefore, the requirements established in the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 are actually much broader and cover all state government actions that may adversely impact human health and the environment. More than one hundred court decisions since The IT Decision in 1984 have upheld and supported the Supreme Court's decision. I believe the delays mentioned in "2. NEPA Requirements" have, for the most part, been caused by agencies, officials and businesses that have intentionally or incorrectly applied or avoided both federal and state laws. These delays are especially apparent when applicants and agencies seeking permits do not properly consider possible adverse impacts to the natural resources of the state before applying for permits that will adversely impact people, property, and resources like fish, wildlife, forest, farmlands, cities, waters, and wetlands. If the Corps of Engineers and all of the thirty-one states in the Mississippi River Basin had applied something similar to the requirements of NEPA when they were planning to build any one of the multitude of major dams upriver they would have realized their proposed actions would have dramatic negative impacts downriver

<p>in Louisiana. If they had identified the downriver impacts of their dams, and properly included these adverse impacts in their project, then our state would not be losing tens of thousands of acres of land every year. If the Corps of Engineers and the proponents of deepening the mouth. Unfortunately the Corps of Engineers was not ordered to protect the people and land in the Missouri River Basin or to protect New Orleans and the Mississippi coast from Hurricane floodwaters. I believe that a federal agency headed by civilians would not need to be "ordered" by Congress to provide the protection needed to save our coastal residents and natural resources. An agency headed by civilians, rather than the Army, would be more flexible in approaching problems like flood prevention systems and would recognize and protect the important, valuable, and irreplaceable natural resources, which are under threat in every river basin and coastal area presently managed by the Corps of Engineers. Diversion versus Navigation The U.S. Congress, the Louisiana Legislature, and the Corps of Engineers have for more than a hundred years been narrowly focused on maintaining navigation in the Mississippi River for ocean going ships. The second priority has been control of the river following the flood of 1927. Since the breach of the levees following Hurricane Katrina, which created the preventable flooding of New Orleans, and the devastation of the Gulf Coast caused by the hurricane itself, a spotlight is finally on the vulnerability of coastal areas across the country. Most of the sediment which used to be deposited in coastal Louisiana is now settling in the lakes behind the dams in the Ohio River Basin, the Upper Mississippi River Basin, and the Missouri River Basin. The smaller remaining quantity of sediment that does reach the mouth of the Mississippi River is shot out or barged out into the deeper waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Even in Louisiana the dams built on the Red River to promote barge traffic between the Atchafalaya River and Shreveport, have dramatically reduced the quantity and quality of the sediment now being deposited in Atchafalaya Bay south of Morgan City. The present channel, which the Corps of Engineers maintains in the Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River is, without question, one of the most destructive activities in coastal Louisiana. This deep, and very unnatural, canal is not sustainable. The benefits versus the actual cost of maintaining the present shipping channel at the mouth of the Mississippi River needs to be clearly and fully explained to the people of the state. Our government agencies should be smart enough to develop a better system for getting ships in and out of the Mississippi River without unnecessarily adding to the destruction of the state. I hope the above comments and observations may be of some value to you.</p>			
<p>1. I am a life member of the Sierra Club and also a member of The Nature Conservancy, and I feel it is important to preserve wild things (nature) and land and water resources. 2. History of the area; social meanings of food; America's largest ecosystem; swamp tours for Yankees. 3. Overfishing of the area. 4. 1) Attempts to commercialize area (build Disneyland) should be avoided, 2) Consider bike paths on secondary roads. 5. Careful attention given to reducing water contamination from agricultural or business drainage (prevent dumping!!) 6. That business concerns (oil and gas industry) will destroy the area due to USA dependence (I am not suggesting windmills in the swamp). 7. I lived in Florida for 6.5 years and the Sierra Club and other environmental groups were always in conflict with business (sugarcane industry) and Homestead trying to expand airport noise abatement. I am concerned with similar issues in Louisiana.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA

<p>1. It's so unique and wonderful; paddling amongst the cypress, meeting crawfishermen pulling in their traps, stopping for fabulous meals in little Mom and Pop places. It's like nowhere else! 2. The restaurants, dance halls, shops in the little communities, festivals, listening to the way people speak. 3. Difficult access into the swamp - a primary attraction. 4. Overall connectiveness - more trees planted - more signage - transportation around the Basin - bus routes for tourists - development of water trails for canoeists, kayakers, etc. 5. Encourage package tours - B&Bs, museums, festivals, swamp tours. Involve people from all the communities. Develop a user friendly updated website for exploring possible trips. 6. The culture of the area is built upon the cypress tupelo swamp. My concern is that the cypress trees are being cut and cannot regenerate due to the seasonal flooding! 7. Thank you for taking on this multi-faced area - we need to open it up to the rest of the U.S. to enjoy!</p>	7/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>1. The Atchafalaya is a gem of unmatched beauty that must be saved for all to enjoy. 2. Paddling the many bayous & bays at different times of the years. 3. Oil companies, loggers, and all the other idiots that take but don't give back. 4. This area must become a National Park to save it. 5. To develop a plan to make this area a National Park so it can be regulated to protect its environment. 6. That like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that has been mandated by Congress to develop this area into a recreation area since the early 1970's, do nothing but lip service! 7. The time to do something is now!</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>1. I have fished in the area many times and hunted on the edge of it too. It is a special recreation area that holds many memories. 2. The scenery, the serenity, recreational boating, fishing and hunting. 3. When you see areas that are littered or growth that is totally haphazard. 4. I would like to see a few more interpretive sites and I wouldn't like to see it lost its "wildness." 5. I wouldn't want it to be hyper managed, over bureaucratized. I hope the management is kept in land and state control. 6. That someday willy nilly uncontrollable development would destroy the serenity and beauty of the area. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA

The following comments and enclosures are provided on behalf of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) regarding the development of the management plan for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. The LWF has had a long history of involvement with the conservation and management of the Atchafalaya Basin (AB) and appreciates this opportunity to participate in the NHA planning process. The AB is unique in North America with respect to the services it contributes to the citizens of Louisiana and the Nation. The combination of vast size, habitat variety, constant change, accessibility, ability to accommodate many users simultaneously without depreciating its capacity, floodwater conveyance, "and rich history of use and abundance make it a popular, even revered natural resource icon. Fishing, paddling, birding, hunting... even swimming, is an adventure in the AB. The landings may be packed with vehicles and trailers on a summer weekend, but the swamp soaks up anglers and boaters like a sponge soaks up water. Even with a crowd, you can almost always find fresh (unfished) water to drown a cricket, flip a jig or pitch a crankbait. The State of Louisiana's Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) has developed an excellent plan for the enhancement of the AB. The APB has just been given a boost with the adoption of HB 1135 of the 2008 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The new statute restructures the ABP and focuses it more precisely on water quality improvements and the development of public access opportunities. Another piece of legislation, HB 420, proposes a constitutional amendment, which among other things if approved by the electorate, will dedicate up to \$10 million a year in state mineral revenues produced within the AB to the work of the ABP. We highly recommend that the management plan for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area be coordinated with the ABP. Enclosed you will find 3 resolutions [1) Preserving the Swamp Forest Character of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway; 2) Assessment of Bayous in the Atchafalaya Basin for Suitability for Nomination for Scenic Streams Designation; 3) Placement and Remediation of Pipelines, Flowlines and Locations in Wetlands] addressing matters pertinent to the conservation and management of the Atchafalaya Basin that have been adopted in recent years by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation and that may be relevant to the development of the management plan for the ANHA. One resolution recommends the acquisition of the timber rights on private land in the AB from willing sellers. The resolution sufficiently articulates the rationale for the recommendation, so it will not be repeated here. Another resolution urges the evaluation of the waterways in the AB for suitability of inclusion in the Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System. A third addresses the need to remediate oilfield infrastructure (in the AB and elsewhere) that has been abandoned or is no longer in service, including pipelines, flowlines, tank batteries, wellheads and associated structures that are eyesores, hazards and potential sources of environmental contamination. Although the AB and environs is a great asset, it can stand some improvement. Another relevant issue that has come up from time to time that bears on the goals of the ANHA is the quality of information conveyed by tour guides as they interpret the area to their customers. It would be appropriate and of value to establish an educational tour guide certification program so that the correct information about the Atchafalaya is conveyed to visitors to the area. Along those same lines, certification should discourage tour operators from feeding of wild animals, particularly alligators, a practice that can encourage dangerous confrontations and is always detrimental to the health and welfare of the wild animals of the swamp. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to participate in this effort. Please feel welcome to contact us if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the foregoing in more detail.

7/1/2008

Baton Rouge

LA

1-7. Blank	7/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. Scenery, wildlife, fisheries – proximity. 2. Tranquility, fishing. 3. Aquatic nuisance species . 4. Dredged and better flow, removal of largemouth bass, size limits. 5. Remove 14" minimum, use spillway to improve water quality. 6. Silting in, flow, water quality. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. Beautiful bottomland hardwood ecosystem; Excellent fishery; Historical treasure; Important provider of natural resources for our nation (timber and petroleum, fish and game). 2. Recreation and viewing of plants and animals; Fishing, hunting, paddling, and camping. 3. Difficult to access and/or navigate by road and water. 4. Improve access and signage; Manage the timber quantities to achieve the highest degree of forest health; Improve hydrology. 5. Improve access and signage or roadways and waterways; Forest health; Manage aquatic invasive species. 6. I do not want private landowners/timber manager to be negatively impacted under any management plan (i.e. no halt to timber harvesting or silviculture practices). 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. The beauty, abundance of flora and fauna, fishing, and bragging rights. 2. Fishing and "just to be there." 3. When I see trash at the boat landing areas and anywhere else. 4. I would like to see marked trails, short and long, for adventure and sightseeing via canoes, kayaks, and boats with no more than 3 hp engines. 5. A national and international plan to attract people to see and enjoy and discover ANHA. 6. Not to promote and utilize the ANHA to its fullest. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. It is close and convenient. 2. The beautiful sights of nature - water, trees, animals, birds, etc. 3. Mosquitoes. 4. More sightseeing boat trips for tourists. 5. Special huts and/or cabins for tourist camping. 6. Continued maintenance. 7. Some type of concession stands for refreshments.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. Ecosystem (unique) for flora, fauna for land and aquatic species as well as geological bottomland and swamps. 2. The peacefulness, quietness you find in arid desert lands except you are in an aquatic area. Unique for hearing, feeling, seeing nature. 3. Pollution (water, land, and sometimes air). 4. I would not like to see urban and industrial development unregulated! I would like to see better management of land and water and growth of ecotourism! 5. Ecotourism with emphasis on conservation education, development, as well as sports related activities. 6. Oil and gas development (exploration and production) unregulated! 7. Paddle trails (canoe, kayak) developed for short and long excursions to assist in education and conservation activities would be beneficial.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. It shaped the majority of the culture of south Louisiana. 2. The people. 3. Not being able to experience it as it should be. 4. I would not like to see it changed a great deal. I would also not like to see exploding population in the sensitive areas. 5. Make development more efficient so as not to have as much "sprawl" working with local communities. 6. The changing way of life due to population growth. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
1. Because it's "nature in the raw" and it should stay that way - one of the few such places in this part of the world. 2. I don't use it but the fact that it's there for us to use in all its pristine quiet is important to me. 3. Weaving into the area in a boat and just sitting. 4. Some way to limit is great and give to people who have teaching in mind. 5. Protection of communities in the area in an unobtrusive way as possible. 6. The "old river" structure - if it fails we have a mess. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA

<p>1. St. Landry Parish is where my family is from. I was raised in this area. I've watched the wildlife that inhabit this area diminish over the last 40 years, at an unbelievable rate. I believe we can implement programs so we can all live in harmony. 2. Its natural beauty and swamp ecosystem, the wildlife and Cajun culture. 3. Hunting (killing animals), pollution in the rivers and streams and the disrespect humans have to the wildlife habitat and swamp ecosystem. 4. Hunting more regulated would be nice to see. No timber or logging (especially of the old cypress trees). 5. Importance of preserving the cultural heritage and swamp preservation regulations. Pollution control. 6. The over population of campsites and residences along the river and bayous. No treatment regulation in place (i.e., sewer). 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>1. The need to keep an ecosystem as balanced as possible and maintained for our descendants is upper most in my mind. My ancestor was brought in as the commandant of the post of Opelousas by the King of Spain so my ancestors and their children settled there - new roads, Arnaudville and St. Martinsville. 2. The sheer beauty and tranquility. Knowing that so many who occupy and live together with nature are doing their utmost to maintain a delicate balance. Most who live there respect and treasure their environment with pride. 3. The abuse of the area by the ignorant and outsiders. The commercial plunderers who manipulate laws and lawmakers for personal gain at the expense of ANHA. The trash - more signage - dark green with gold lettering (blending) warning about littering. "Don't mess in our Nest." 4. A splendid museum, near the waterways but adjacent to I-10. This would give the history of the area, the lives of the people still living there, the story of "correct" commercial use within, and swamp tours. Perhaps a small zoo of native animals, too! This would allow the tourist passing through the opportunity to realize the richness of the area and allow them to explore alternative vacation opportunities. 5. Because the area is so vast it is difficult to control and manage. An impact tax, perhaps 1/2 percent should be put upon any and all construction in the restricted area would enable the enforcers to better patrol and control illegal usage. 6. That the commercial and corporate usage will continue to erode the area. The hurricane protection areas should be protected. My family once owned the Timbalier Islands; now they are commercially owned. There must be control and balance in all dealings with this delicate area. 7. There is incredible potential there - not for exploitation but rather enhancements and to educate. It is costly to educate; revenues from a "minor" tax and a small "Disneyland" type museum along the interstate which depicts life in the lowlands and swamps would help offset educational expenses.</p>	7/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>1. It's where I grew up and live now. It's part of my past and future. 2. The history, scenery, beauty and it exists in Louisiana. 3. The abuses people contribute to the area. It's taken for granted because it's "natural" and part of nature. 4. I would like to see more money being used toward preservation of these areas, more enforcement. I would like to see less logging, less construction, etc. 5. More of a "grand plan" that's made the public aware of the direction we should travel toward preservation. 6. Pollution of False River. 7. Please continue publicizing the importance of our "National Heritage Area" preservation/legacy.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>1. It's one of the few places in America for public hunting, fishing, camping. (Stress public access) 2. Fishing, camping. 3. Bayous and canals and rivers that public is now shut off to. 4. Public access to all waterways! Not land just water! 5. State parks (nice). 6. Sediment in the spillway (Atchafalaya). Good fishing. 7. Former Governor Kathleen Blanco and present Governor Bobby Jindal have done nothing for the Louisiana sportsmen.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA

<p>1. Wildlife, forest, the feeling of wilderness. 2. Areas that are in their natural state or are returning to their natural state. 3. Logging and other development activities. 4. I would hope to see a decrease in the amount of habitat destruction and that management would focus on restoration of the natural environment. 5. Government purchase of private property from willing sellers; purchase of conservation servitudes and development rights. More restrictions on habitat destruction. 6. That it will be overrun by human activity and spoiled by unsustainable practices. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Baton Rouge	LA
<p>1. I was born and raised in the area. I love this place! I can tell you many stories about this area! I remember when the water and air was pure. I remember when the bayous and lakes had abundant fish. 2. Hunting! Fishing! What I enjoy most is freedom; I thank God for being born in America! I enjoy the bayous and lakes near my area. 3. The water is not pure anymore. Chemical plants are polluting the waters. Trash along our bayous and roads. 4. I would like to see stronger laws on chemical plants in Louisiana! Also litter - stop litter; why do people trash where we live. 5. That it is not about control of these areas, but people would have a voice in the matter, and not just politicians! 6. The area is not made into a National Park where people could not hunt! 7. I have many things in mind but, I have trouble to put on paper. I learned English in school. I am French descent.</p>	9/1/2008	Belle River	LA

<p>1. "The natural habitat" - because this phenomenon was created by God: I believe that everything and every aspect of this area should be preserved and observed by everyone that comes into its environment with pleasantness and appreciation for this wonderful experience. 2. Within the USA and overseas, as a successful project facilities engineering planner, designer, builder, constructor, manager of buildings and appurtenances, other structures, highways, the environment, coastal restoration facilities projects: I have to admit that this national treasure is a natural "diamond-in-the-rough" that continues to emulate ever-developing, always showing off its wonderful splendor, to be enjoyed by all of the world: tourists, scientists, researchers. 3. Environmentally: we should try our best to restrict, through enforcement of laws and regulations, to the highest degree to prevent pollution from making its way in and into this preserve, whether by natural means or by human error: i.e., chemicals: air and water borne, trash, waste materials, substances, etc. - this is evident along our beautiful highways and in and around the waterways. 4. I would like to see greater emphasis be placed in developing a data base spectrum of information centers and landmarks for each community, town, city, province within each of the parishes: regards historical designation of each, from their beginning and forward progression, kept up to date on an interim basis - with emphasis on tourism, cultural activities, research, development. 5. I would like to see more preservation - of the existing physical characteristics of the natural habitat - in the context of change: with each parish making its contribution to the collective criteria regards needs and requirements of each sector's responsibilities to keep the natural state of the environment in protective modes at all times. 6. My greatest concern at this time is preservation: there is vital need, at this time, to continue the push in Washington, our State of Louisiana and the collaboration of efforts of the parishes, as a while, to promote and support coastal and wetlands restoration projects of coastal Louisiana at the Gulf of Mexico. 7. Besides the natural habitat - I would like to see the construction - development of several designated locations in and around the waterways: miniature aquariums: along the Gulf of Mexico shores in inland - for research and studies for students: grade school through college, scientific and technical research; tourism, recreational, walk trails and boat travel. I would like to see more research done to ensure that there be complete and concise synopsis of the history of each culture and heritage of the people of all races and traditions and experiences, from their birth to early childhood through and to further developments, improvements, progressions forward and showing how that the progression of the relationships of each parish's inhabitants intertwines with each other, as a whole area concept.</p>	9/1/2008	Belle Rose	LA
<p>1. The uniqueness! 2. Outdoor recreational activities. 3. Not knowing enough! 4. Shared with others, destruction, abuse, neglect. 5. Recorded educational material from the people who live in the basin. 6. Change- slipping away- water control- 7. Have Parish Representative contact people who actually have an interest in the Atchafalaya and inform them of such a management plan.</p>	7/1/2008	Breux Bridge	LA

<p>1. Its beautiful! Wildlife, birds, hunting, fishing, sports, forestry, swamps, river, water, levee. 2. A place to bring your family, friends and for tourists to enjoy. For wild creatures to roam and live. 3. Abusing by cutting cypress and many of our rare trees. 4. Restrictions on destroying our wilderness. Preservation of what we have at this time to last forever. 5. Bring in the Atakapa-Ishak Indian tribe and other Indian tribes to share this land that was theirs to begin with first. 6. That mankind will keep chopping away at it 'til it will dwindle to become a big subdivision and malls. 7. Many of "privately owned" lands are allowing the cutting down of cypress trees for mulching for Wal-Mart.</p>	9/1/2008	Breaux Bridge	LA
<p>1. Wilderness, culture, history, plants & animals. 2. Wilderness, canoeing, fishing, cultural history, architecture, crafts, hiking, camping, bird watching. 3. Trash, litter, air boats. 4. Mandatory garbage pick-up in each parish, litter education, and build on tourist industry - culture, crafts, architecture, history, etc. 5. Clean water, regulate water for crawfishing, more open land and less private land. 6. Neglect, poor management judgment, less wild, poor water quality, siltation, too much access to public. 7. Blank</p>	9/1/2008	Breaux Bridge	LA
<p>1. One of the last great wildernesses not spoiled by man. 2. The abundance of waterfowl and game in the area. 3. I moved to the Atchafalaya Basin about 20 years ago. I was told this is wetland and could not be destroyed! What a joke! I have seen dozers, chainsaws, excavators destroying it for the almighty dollar. 4. I would like to see the state or federal government purchase all the property in the Basin. 5. I would like to see the Atchafalaya Basin run like a business. Seems to work at Lake Faussee Point. Pay to play! 6. If you keep pecking at it, it won't get any better! 7. I would like to know what wetland is? What you can do or can't do!</p>	9/1/2008	Breaux Bridge	LA
<p>1. I was born and raised there. 2. Everything there is part of me. 3. It has been abused by oil field type of work. Talking about the Basin area. 4. Properly managed! 5. Blank. 6. Basin - it will never be what it was. Never! 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Breaux Bridge	LA
<p>1. Promotes my culture and heritage, as well as preserving areas for future generations to enjoy. Promotes tourism for any state. 2. Interpretive themes. 3. Nothing. 4. Walking trails, biking trails, increase recreational areas. 5. Recreational area increased for local residents, as well as visitors to our state. 6. It doesn't get developed. 7. Make it happen!</p>	9/1/2008	Breaux Bridge	LA
<p>1. Second to largest in the U.S. 2. The wildlife and trees. 3. Blank. 4. Keep it looking natural. 5. Keep the fishing and hunting open. 6. Blank. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Breaux Bridge	LA
<p>1. It represents our history for several hundred years. Many interesting old towns, historic homes and a vibrant culture. 2. The Basin provides a unique sanctuary for wildlife and provides many recreational opportunities. 3. Trash on the roadsides. 4. Commercial development not in keeping with the area. 5. Build an interpretive center near Lake Palourde. But have it 1st Class. Lots of hands-on learning experiences about the Basin. 6. That we'll let it slip away and not preserve it for future generations. 7. I would like to see us develop the "Atchafalaya Trace Bicycle Way!" It would provide a slow paces way to explore the area.</p>	9/1/2008	Broussard	LA

<p>1. Louisiana home and history. Opportunity to show Louisiana in a positive light. 2. It's beautiful - a wonderful place to bring visitors to. 3. The litter that is always there - EVERYONE needs to be part of a non-litter environment. 4. Preserved in its natural state - but with opportunity for people to enjoy and appreciate. 1) Do not allow to become a "tourist trap." 2) Project good image of state and people. 5. Tell our history. 6. The "tourist trap" atmosphere - and the image of LA as a backwood, illiterate people; litter. 7. Get people to be LA proud and live that concept.</p>	9/1/2008	Bunkie	LA
<p>1. The natural beauty, the wildlife, & the Cajun people. 2. Recreational opportunities & the commercial fishery. LCPA-West and all the commercial fishermen are fundamental to my enjoyment of the national heritage area. 3. The pollution, trash, and oil & gas junk left behind. 4. Clean up the trash, get rid of the spoil banks and the location canals, and enforce the 404 permits. 5. Enforce the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. 6. That the oil & gas industry will use the Basin as a trash heap. 7. Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association-West needs to be a consulting party under the National Historic Preservation Act. LCPA-West is a nonprofit organization.</p>	7/1/2008	Carencro	LA
<p>1. One thing it is my home and one of the most beautiful places in the world. 2. The friendliness of the people. 3. The trash that is thrown along our highways. 4. We have had a real good freshwater fishing industry all around the Atchafalaya Basin and the fin fish is going away. I would like to see a museum to show our children and grandchildren what a pleasure it was to work at that kind of living. 5. I would like to see some kind of hi-tech industry here in this area to have work for our young women at a good wage level. 6. How good it would be managed. 7. We need more attractions to bring more tourists into our area.</p>	9/1/2008	Charenton	LA
<p>1. It is home. Our heritage is based on our ancestral ties and our ancestors were dependent on the land and its resources. We should also lay claim to preserving the bountiful resources of the Atchafalaya Basin. 2. The recreation, the scenic outlooks and the food provided by the heritage area. 3. The tremendous pollution made by people who do not care in preserving the land. 4. More recreational areas, i.e. boat landings, tours, and greater production of food. 5. Take advantage of the wealth of the area and plan on its management and care to the best of all abilities. 6. What will happen when the "old folks" are gone and no plan is in place to continue their work. 7. Take care of our area and make a management plan that will address those needs.</p>	9/1/2008	Cottonport	LA
<p>1. Undeveloped wild area. 2. Undeveloped wild area. 3. Any human development. 4. See - undeveloped wild area; No see - over development; Develop access areas only. 5. Undeveloped wild area. 6. Over development as tourist area. 7. Probably unrealistic but you asked.</p>	9/1/2008	Denham Springs	LA

1. It is part of my home. Its beauty, uniqueness is unquestionable. The fishing, crawfishing, boating, camping, hunting, trapping. Provides our people with food and money. It is a main part of who we are as Cajun/Creoles here in Acadiana. It is a big tourist attraction. It's the life of a lot of locals. It's how a lot of folks here make their income. It is a true swamp. 2. Its beauty, the camping, the boating and recreation, fishing, hunting. A place where we enjoy getting away and spending quality time with family and friends away from everyday B.S. 3. The trash left by the oil industry, wells no longer in use, rusting away into the water to be hit by a boat or a kid waterskiing! How the oil field cut right-of-ways and shortcuts in the swamp with no supervision whatsoever. The oil industry has really messed up the area. We lose so much land every day thanks to them. Politicians are afraid to stand up. What the oil industry didn't mess up, and then we have the Army Corps of Engineers. 4. We need more projects geared toward land restoration. We need the oil industry to remove all those old rigs and pipelines. With record profits, they need to pony up and fix the problem they caused. We need more public areas for tourists to visit and spend money. Nicer boat launches and recreation camping/picnic areas. A program to educate our young students about coastal erosion and getting them involved in its restoration, etc. 5. Opportunities in tourism are there. Instead of hotels, tourists want to stay where it's at, more cabins and camping areas, a lot of cabins. With that comes more affiliated businesses such as convenience stores, supply stores, fuel outlets, etc. A lot of illegal politics here, so boards and managers need to be monitored if not changed yearly. Everyone has a price and power goes to people's heads. 6. That before anyone gives a crap it'll be too late. Do what needs to be done asap, do not wait for bureaucratic red tape. Time is of the essence. The government wants our resources, but doesn't give a damn about the effects on our environment and our people. They suck us dry but cry about California, Alaska, Florida, etc. Louisiana is self-sufficient and the USA relies on us for energy. Take care of us. 7. I hope you have at least been here and seen what goes on if you're in a position to figure this out. Do not judge unless you have not been here. Check out voiceofthewetlands.com.

9/1/2008

Eunice

LA

<p>1. Throughout the fourteen (14) parishes in the Atchafalaya Heritage Area, there are many very diverse ethnic and unique cultural groups who have maintained many of the customs, language and music of their ancestors. 2. Its diversity in natural landscape, rural areas and different and unique cultures and customs which are still practiced today. 3. The difficulty to see the area. There is no continuous or clear way to travel through the area, even by waterways. Also, many of the people in the area are unfamiliar with activities, history and attractions in the different areas. 4. In the next 20 years, I would like to see a comprehensive map and guidebooks to the area that can help people explore the area. I would also like to see all of the schools have included in their regular curriculum the history of the National Heritage Area. I would not like to see physical development of the area. 5. First and foremost I would like to see an educational program developed and instituted in schools in Louisiana, especially in the fourteen (14) parishes in the Heritage area. I would also like to see the management plan to include the documenting of information and history, through folklorists, of the cultures in the area. 6. That there will not be proper funding to develop educational programs and to properly document its history and that the land in the area will be overdeveloped and lost along with the cultures of the people who settled the area. 7. I attended the public meeting on June 25, 2008 at the Jean Lafitte Prairie Acadian Center in Eunice, LA and found it very informative and helpful through the comments from other people in attendance and the members of the National Park Service.</p>	7/1/2008	Eunice	LA
<p>1. Its unique, unspoiled beauty - it's got wonderful historical composition that showcases various "systems" existing side-by-side: economic, environmental, ethnic, and architectural. 2. Historic points of interest; natural beauty. 3. Any attempt to commercialize it! 4. 1) More preservation/restoration of sites, like buildings, that contribute to its [incomplete thought]; 2) More documentation/recording of history of area; 3) No commercialization - more sensitive planning. 5. 1) Let historic preservation specialists/planners guide management and not let local politicians interfere; 2) Attempt to get collaboration/coordination between parishes, contributing group. 6. Local politics and politicians that are not focused on the larger issues of historic preservation and the larger picture of the national heritage area and how this relates to American history. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Eunice	LA
<p>1. An "opportunity" for both economic and environmental (as well as cultural) preservation of landscapes to general local people??? The restoration part is of great interest to me personally. 2. A real opportunity to see the natural history of this local area be preserved and promoted for the "right" reasons in the "right" ways - for our children. 3. The long time of "necessity" to get through all the state & federal details and requirements to get something done - not enough public education and awareness on what this is all about? 4. A more concerted effort to make local cities aware of this project. 5. Full speed ahead! 6. That with a lack of patience and or progress the effort to do this might "fail" - or stall? 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Ferriday	LA

1. Joint promotion between northern section (Concordia Parish) and southern area - reinforce blending of several cultures. 2. Unique ecology - story of environment's effect on man and his work, music, culture & food. 3. Need more development in Concordia - museums, exhibits, etc. Better roads in area - signage. 4. Enough public access but no over development. Cooperation & joint promotion between parishes, state agencies & government agencies. 5. Input from the people who actually LIVE in the basin - farmers, trappers, fishermen, etc. 6. In 33 years working for CRT I have seen many management plans written. I hope there will be continuity & completion of this one. 7. Blank.	7/1/2008	Ferriday	LA
1-7. Blank.	7/1/2008	Ferriday	LA
1. It is environmentally significant to the state's natural resources. 2. Potential to protect cultural & natural resources. 3. Planning processes can stall on the ground actions. 4. Active protection & preservation of cultural & natural resources. Designation through DOT as Natural Scenic Byway. 5. Protection of the future of the basin and slowing the deterioration of coastal south Louisiana. 6. Habitat loss in south Louisiana. 7. I would be interested in meeting 1 on 1 to discuss how this affects refuges within the area & discuss matching [funds].	7/1/2008	Ferriday	LA
1. It is a natural wild refuge for plants and animals, its close proximity to my parish (St. Mary), good fishing areas. 2. Sights and fishing. 3. Not utilized to its maximum potential. Need to be more accessible to the "locals" as well as visitors. Fishing warfs, bait ships, tourist "house", etc. 4. A source of hurricane evacuation ("north and south") road from Hwy 90 to I-10. More availability for sportsmen without boats, etc. 5. A tourist map, including pathways, shops, hunting and fishing areas for everybody. Not only the ones that have "camps", etc. 6. Let it be as much meaning to South LA as the French Quarter is to N.O. 7. The Atchafalaya Basin should be commercialized as much as "Mount Rushmore", "Ruby Falls", Grand Canyon, etc. I'm sure it would create less money, especially being so close to N.O.	7/1/2008	Franklin	LA
1. The economic opportunities for this area. The cultural exposure possibilities. 2. Waterways, land, cultural resources. 3. Would like to see our waterways clean, navigable and connected for ecotourism - canoe, boating experience. 4. Trash - we need a state-wide push to stop not only trash but dumping of tires and appliances in rural areas. 5. Blank. 6. Funding and continued funding. 7. Blank	10/31/2008	Grand Coteau	LA
1. My ancestors lived in Bayou Chene in the Basin hundreds of years before now. The land I own there has been passed down from generation to generation. 2. Its beauty, its bounty of wildlife and all of the natural resources it provides. 3. It is so far from where I live that I have trouble getting there. 4. Some economic growth for residents and land owners. 5. Attractions for tourists without spoiling the land. 6. That the interests of the landowners will be overlooked while all of this planning is going on by people with no connection to the land. 7. I would like to be better informed about what goes on in the Basin.	9/1/2008	Great Falls	VA

<p>1. I was raised in this area, hunting and fishing in this area for 50 years. This area has a history all of its own. It is one of the best places in the world to enjoy our hunting and fishing, it holds a special place in my heart. 2. The many places that are still wild and pristine. You can go into many areas and feel close to nature. The beauty of the swamps, rivers, the wildlife, all just breathtaking. 3. The people who "trash" such a treasure. Once destroyed it can be fined but never, never like it was. The trash that is left will remain for years. Four-wheelers should be banned in such areas, they destroy fragile wetlands. 4. I would like to see this area remain as "natural" has humanly possible. I would like to see my great-grandchildren be able to enjoy what has been enjoyed by "responsible" people for so many years. 5. The opportunity I would like to see explored is the opportunity that we have to save this area for future generations. The management direction would be to have management that really want to save this area. 6. I am concerned that special business interests will have "big money" talking and it will talk loud enough to sway votes and ideals until this area will become a commercial interest and a play land for people who do not really care about the area. I am concerned that this area will become a rich man's playground and a place to become rich, instead of a place to make memories and a place for caring generations to come. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Greensburg	LA
<p>1. What makes the ANA special to me is the abundant wildlife and beautiful land and waterscape. 2. What I enjoy most is to take my family for a shady boat ride down Bayou Grosse Tete and into the intercoastal waterway. 3. I don't enjoy untidy banks in people's yards, trash floating, impassable log jams and poor water quality for fishing and swimming. 4. I would like to see a small steady flow of water in Bayou Grosse Tete, located in Iberville and Pointe Coupee Parishes and lots of people catching fish along its banks. 5. I would like to see more use of water pumps, best management practices and a huge campaign to stop litter. 6. I am concerned about waterways clogging up and the water quality being unsuitable for something as basic as a cool swim or a fish fry. 7. My immediate concern is Bayou Grosse Tete. Bayou Grosse Tete is a beautiful waterway which courses through two parishes, Iberville and Pointe Coupee. It needs a constant steady flow of water to ensure water quality.</p>	9/1/2008	Grosse Tete	LA
<p>1. We live in the heart of this area so it's important to treasure this natural treasure. It's one of LA's best "medals" - like the mighty Mississippi River. 2. Telling and visiting the area with family, friends, and tourists. The beauty and ever changing seasonal landscape is beautiful, intriguing and a legacy to our children and grandchildren! 3. Most parts are inaccessible and of course, litter ruins the picture. Both are easy to improve. 4. Strict environmental laws concerning the usage and not exploiting the area. Educational, boat landings, picnic, scenic spots, lighted security in select areas. Another bridge across the area. 5. More trails, boat ramps, camping areas, house boat rentals. Please, please do not exploit the area or allow others to do so (no private ownership!). Lease, maybe. Management by national and local citizens. 6. Overuse, overkill. Keep it natural and allow nature to do most of the changes - such as water level, natural selection (bird, fish, insects, etc.). Nature's smarter than man! 7. We're very interested in the interest of the nation and would like to be a part of the planning. Get lots of input! We're proud!</p>	9/1/2008	Grosse Tete	LA

<p>1. This area has been my home for 77 years. I enjoy hunting and fishing in the Basin. It is excellent habitat for all game as well as crawfish and blue crabs. I had occasion to be working on a pipeline from the east to the west levees during the 1973 high water. It is hard to believe the difference the high water makes. 2. The scenery is breathtaking. Recently, we had three generations in our boat catching sac-a-lait and bream. 3. As large as it is, it is getting very crowded at times. 4. I can think of nothing I would like to see changed. 5. No major changes. 6. I hope it doesn't get too commercial. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Grosse Tete	LA
<p>1. I live in the Basin; so it's very special to me. 2. The Basin's abundance of wildlife and the ability to replenish itself after constant harvest. 3. The influence of people outside this area and their effects on our heritage and the ecosystems of the swamps. 4. I would like to see the state have total control of areas that are controlled by the bureaucracies of the Corps of Engineers. Management done by a commission like the Mississippi River Commission. 5. Water quality, normal access to lands controlled by the Corps of Engineers, address the siltation problems, and allow more water in Basin from the Mississippi River in the Spring. 6. The Corps of Engineers (COE) has bought lands under the pretense of greater public access. Instead they put so many restrictions (that do not apply on any other Corps properties). That normal use, by people who have used these lands all their lives cannot. We cannot go on COE property with airboats, houseboats, PWCs. The hunting season is different than outside. They close the duck season during either male or female deer hunting which is not done anywhere else. Night time access is restricted. When Hurricane Rita was approaching our coast we begged the COE to lower the water in the Henderson area. They refused and every fish in the lake died!! It is disruptive to the eco-cycle of the swamp to hold water. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Henderson	LA
<p>1. What makes it special to me is that it is the largest freshwater swam in Louisiana. We are building a camp for disabled children and adults adjacent to the Atchafalaya Basin. I am glad to hear that it will be a national heritage area. It is about time. 2. I enjoy the area for fishing, crawfishing, boating, canoeing and other outdoor activities in the Basin. 3. Not a single thing. 4. I would like to see the institution of Camp Atchafalaya. More land uses for the public like boat launches, picnic areas, and more educational tours for the study of wildlife and ecosystems. 5. I would like to see the management plan work with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Department of State Parks, and other state entities. 6. My main concern is that we will lose a very special place and recreational value of the Atchafalaya Basin. 7. In the future there will be a camp for disabled children and adults adjacent to the Atchafalaya Basin and I am hoping that with the national heritage area that we can count on the help and assistance from the National Park Service working with our Louisiana State Parks and the U.S. Department of the Interior to financially assist in making this happen.</p>	9/1/2008	Independence	LA
<p>1. Cypress trees, bayous, culture, serenity. 2. This is where I grew up (Pointe Coupee Parish). The beauty of nature is at every turn. 3. It's not taken care of properly, waterways are dirty, and roadways unkempt. 4. Restoration of the coast, our cypress forest paved, and beautification of our waterways. Culture saved for future generations. 5. Blank. 6. It's being lost, we need to educate our children in school about our heritage and how they can learn to enjoy and save it. 7. Blank</p>	7/1/2008	Jarreau	LA

<p>1. I am now in my mid-seventies, but I grew up spending a lot of time boating and swimming in Lake Fausse Point, one of the many lakes in the Atchafalaya Basin. 2. The natural beauty of the cypress swamp is a treasure that must be preserved. It is also an area with a rich cultural and historical background. 3. I think that the natural flow of the waters in the Basin has been interrupted by siltation, levees, land reclamation and other forces. There is an on-going feud between crawfishermen who want free access throughout the Basin and farmers whose interests lie in reclaiming land. 4. In my area (Jeanerette, LA located on the southern shore of Lake Fausse Point), there is a beautiful and pristine site where a local group has been formed to develop Eagle Point Park. Funding has always been a problem. Another worthy project in Jeanerette is the Harry Hewes House, a museum dedicated to the cypress lumber industry in the Basin. Both projects have tremendous potential but need more funding. 5. The projects mentioned above offer enormous and wonderful opportunities. These include development of ecotourism themes, educational programs and seminars, and vast recreational opportunities. The reservation of the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana is also located nearby and offers rich opportunities for study of this Native American culture. Management should include local, state and federal agencies. 6. With cuts in funding of projects of this nature at both the federal and the state levees. I am concerned that the necessary funds and resources will not be allocated to fulfill the purposes of the national heritage area. 7. The scenic Bayou Teche as part of the Atchafalaya Basin offers yet another great opportunity. A project developed by Dr. Thomas Himel of the Louisiana State University Experimental Station at Jeanerette is a good example. His project, the Bayou Teche watershed, has great potential.</p>	9/1/2008	Jeanerette	LA
<p>1. It is what we do when we are not working and for some it is our work. The history that is here and what this area has gone through. 2. The wildlife and the outdoors. The out-of-state visitors tell us, "It is so green!" 3. Poor roads, bad directions, little access to the real Atchafalaya. 4. I would like to see good maps that are updated. Also for all parks and boat ramps to keep their present names. Maps have been produced in the past only to have some of these sites change their names (parks, boat landing names have been changed by local government). 5. Tourism and tourists are here now, but we are not ready for them. Hikers, bird watchers and paddlers cannot explore the real Louisiana because we do not give them what they need to navigate. We are directing them to hotels and bed & breakfasts which they can find in any state. 6. We are not protecting the historic sites. 7. We always promote Louisiana as swamps, cypress trees, alligators, and birds. But if you are not from here and do not have a guide try to find this.</p>	9/1/2008	Jeanerette	LA
<p>1. I live in the Basin. My home is 7 miles south of Krotz Springs on LA Hwy 105. I also own several hundred acres used for timber production. 2. The wildlife and privacy from the general public. No smog, no traffic and congestion, etc. 3. Changes that are proposed. 4. Area to remain just as it is. We need no government improvements! 5. Leave it alone! It's a great place if government does not mess it up and tourists overrun it. 6. As stated above, government screwing it up, with changes, tourists, and useless rules! 7. Nature will take its course; leave it alone (no dikes or changes in water flows)!</p>	7/1/2008	Krotz Springs	LA

<p>1. It's where my family was born and is my heritage. It's what I manage for visitors to experience on my refuge. 2. Culture. 3. Lack of outdoor opportunities available for the public. 4. Publicity. 5. Develop publicity about festivals, events, public outdoor opportunities. 6. Being lost as a culture. 7. Please include Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge and Sherburne complex opportunities in your publications. Check www.fws.gov/atchafalaya/</p>	10/31/2008	Lacombe	LA
<p>1. There is no other place like the Atchafalaya Basin and it should be preserved for future generations to enjoy, just as we are enjoying it today. 2. My family and I have been fishing, birding, etc. in the Basin for many years and hope to do the same for many more years to come. 3. The fact that much of its waterways are slowly being choked by introduced plant species. 4. I would like to see the Basin - if not brought back to its original state, at least kept in its present state. 5. A great problem on the west side of the Basin is the presence of hydrillia. It appears to grow only in the shallow part of the lake and not in the channels. Would keeping the water at a higher level solve the problem better than the application of chemicals that have only temporary effects. 6. Great plans for the Basin have been introduced over the years but they eventually fall by the wayside without being implemented. Let's hope that this time people are serious and the work gets done. 7. Don't wait too long before going beyond the planning stage.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. 1) The history and culture of the people it includes; 2) The ecological/environmental aspects of the area; 3) The cultural and ecotourism potential of the area. 2. The people who grew up in and around the area - in particular, their resourcefulness, independence, self-sufficiency, and fun-loving lifestyle. 3. That private landowners are permitted to privatize water bodies and destroy cypress forests for their own profit and enjoyment and that oil companies are not held responsible for the spoil piles they created. 4. We need a watercraft museum, probably located in Henderson. This museum should also offer classes in boat building and boat handling, and opportunities to use traditional Atchafalaya boats should be made available to visitors and tourists. 5. We need a competitive project grant program. Successful grants should be selected by a panel of experts. The grants could require a non-federal match, to ensure the sense of partnership. The primary mission of the grant program should be to "conserve local culture and heritage." 6. Continued environmental deterioration; Non-sustainable exploitation for the benefit of the few; Traditional method of sustainable exploitation will be lost. 7. I was part of the consultant team assembled by Mary Means. Thus, my thoughts and ideas are represented in foundations of this heritage area.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. The wilderness. The ability to hunt and fish in this wild area. The heritage. 2. Hunting, fishing, sightseeing. 3. Politics, differing desires cause rifts in interested parties. 4. Restore natural waterways. Oil canals and dredge banks disturb this. 5. Purchase private lands to add to public domain. 6. Commercialization. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA

<p>1. I grew up surrounded by the Atchafalaya Basin in Morgan City. It taught me the beauty and rawness of nature, how to live in harmony with it, how to respect its power and beauty, and how to use it respectfully. 2. Just being in it, that it remains the pride of the local folks. That we really feel like it's our Basin. 3. Its exploitation. The ways the Basin has been used without regard to its preservation. The loss of the cypress forests. 4. I would like to see that it remains first and foremost for and about the local people. I would not like it to become Disneyworld. I would like to see trilingual signage. 5. a) A local advisory board that has a final say in projects. b) Trilingual signage, English, French and Spanish. 6. My current concern is about pollution of the Basin by people and chemicals. 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. The Atchafalaya has always been important to those of us of Acadian descent. The greatest regret of many of the old-timers who helped log off the great cypress trees was that they had changed the area in a way that wouldn't be corrected for a hundred generations. What remains of the area is still special. When outsiders think of Cajun Louisiana, the image that comes to their minds is the wild landscape of the Basin. 2. Being in the Basin is like being a million miles from anywhere, in terms of nature and culture. 3. I hate to see the level of development that's occurring in the Basin today. Areas that were wild and open to the public not too long ago are becoming suburbs for people who want to live in the Basin, but want to change the Basin to make it look like the city neighborhoods they fled from. 4. Keep the Basin wild, so that everyone can see what the land was like when the Broussard brothers arrived. It's wild right now. Why change it? Once changed, it's gone forever. Why kill something now that will be a tourist boon in just a few years? In the 1940s, the refuge of the last of the Ivory-billed Woodpeckers was destroyed for lumber up in NE Louisiana. If we still had these birds, they would generate millions of dollars per year in tourism for this now poverty-stricken area. The only sedentary flock of Whooping Cranes in the world was destroyed at White Lake. If still alive, they would bring millions of dollars yearly to Vermilion Parish. And if the government hadn't wiped out our French, think of the tourism mecca this land would be today. We need to think to the future, and understand when we have something unique, something that people will want to experience. The Basin is our Eiffel Tower, our Grand Canyon. We need to capitalize on it in a sustainable way. 5. I'd like to see land set aside for public use, not private development. 6. I worry that a few private citizens will put their personal interests ahead of the interests of the many. I worry that people who see the Basin as plots of land instead of a national treasure will wipe out the uniqueness of the Basin and replace it with something that they could easily find a million times over anywhere else. I worry that the short-sighted will make decisions to the long-term detriment of the area. I am afraid that when my son is my age, there will be nothing left but regrets that we didn't do something to save the Basin while we still had the chance. I worry that the Basin will be gone like Cajun French will be gone.</p>	8/14/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. I'm retired, living in Lafayette, love the outdoors, want to get involved. 2. Kayaking throughout the swamps. 3. None. 4. More kayak trails, maybe some youth camps that teach outdoor skills, surviving, rappelling, kayaking, hiking and biking. 5. Above, explain about the history of the area, Cajun culture. 6. Keeping the area around. 7. I'm interested in part-time, seasonal or maybe full time employment.</p>	7/1/2008	Lafayette	LA

<p>1. Plants, animals, swamp. 2. Visually. 3. No clear management - competing interests. 4. No development needed. Few more access points. Maybe walkways/trails. Need monitoring of condition of animals. 5. Long-term monitoring plan on health of fish needed, as it is likely there will be no limit on drilling. 6. Oil and gas exploration and drilling. Landowners not cooperating with fed and state agency recommendations. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. Close proximity to excellent fishing and hunting. 2. Its unique natural beauty. 3. Presence of garbage and refuse when water levels are low. 4. A return to the wild, natural habitat it once was. No clearing and development for the sake of profit. 5. Better control with respect to water levels and sedimentation. Stiffer regulations regarding dumping and garbage disposal. 6. Unplanned, unnecessary exploitation for personal profit without regard to native species of fauna and flora. 7. Blank.</p>	10/31/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>4. It is essential that the folk adaptation to the Basin is presented to the public. This includes presentations the relationship between technology (traps, boats, homes), and the natural environment (swamps, river deltas, etc). That story should be told in not only in English, but also in French. Language and culture are inseparable; to convey fully the cultural adaptation to the environment in the Basin, that presentation should be in French. That French should be Cajun French and not standard French; for that is the French of Louisiana. That folk adaptation includes not only European, but also Native American and African elements. There should be some presentation of the period of exploitation of resources of the Basin similar to what we are seeing in the Amazon Basin. As those cultures have sought modernity, they have changed their riverine environments as was done in Atchafalaya Basin. The ethnicity of those participating in the exploitation of the Basin should be presented.</p>	6/23/2008	Lafayette	LA

<p>1. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a unique natural feature. Standing cypress in wetland forests such as the Atchafalaya Basin has very high value including provision of habitat for a large variety of wildlife and fish, control of flooding and storm surges, and water quality improvement. Standing cypress also supports diverse components of a thriving local economy in recreational and commercial fishing and tourism. There should be no permitting of cypress cuts in the Basin. 2. Quiet canoe paddling on the natural bayous, observing wildlife in natural forest and wetlands. 3. Oil industry destruction of natural waterways and wetlands and high noise from air boats. 4. Remediation of damage to natural waterways and wetlands that has been caused by oil industry development. We should exert pressure on them to put it back the way they found it, and to quit dredge and fill practices that have the effect of taking publicly accessible areas in the basin and passing them into private ownership. We need much greater use of effective conservation easements to preserve natural conditions in the Basin. 5. Priority on identification of special historical and natural features in the basin and provision of access information. Full time historian, cultural anthropologist to identify sites of historical and cultural interest. Need a source of dependable ongoing operational funding for a heritage area program. 6. Continued oilfield destruction of natural waterways in the basin. 7. 1) If we do not preserve natural conditions in the basin then we lose the core of what this highly valuable natural resource is all about. We need, and the basin needs for us to start now to identify places to see and how to access them. We need to get visitors out into those natural areas of the basin that we have left so that we build up a constituency of persons interested in its preservation. There are many good ideas listed in the management plan executive summary. We probably can't do all of them in the near term. We need to focus on those projects that will be most effective in preserving the natural characteristics of the basin for future enjoyment. 2) Identify heritage area as a state priority, form coalition of groups to seek legislative funding for Heritage program office, program manager, historian, and clerical help. 3) Form a heritage area economic development district that transcends Parish boundaries. EDD would have strict guidelines to enhance cultural values, projects reviewed by an EDD commission.</p>	7/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. The outdoor activities it presents. I fish and hunt in this area at least 30 days of the year. Its undeveloped natural beauty is also distinct and important. 2. Fishing and its undeveloped beauty. 3. Private hunting clubs dictating the use of public land. 4. Better access to certain remote areas. 5. The better flow of water through the "landlocked" areas of the Basin. 6. Lack of sufficient through tin blocking certain waterway access canals. 7. Allow the flow of water and improve access to the public.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA

<p>1. prehistoric to recent archaeological sites and other historic resources, culture of the basin and lifeways of people who live and/or work in the basin especially in fishing and other resource industries, unique natural resources, centrality of boats to life in the basin and the boating heritage of the basin and south Louisiana 2. People, nature, culture, food. 3. Destruction of natural and historic resources, lack of public access to many areas. 4. Would like to see: conservation easements protecting both natural and cultural resources that are intrinsic to the character of the basin (easements that could protect different types of threatened resources with the same land acquisition should receive priority); greater public access to the basin; presentation of the lifeways of basin residents from oral history and other projects; recognition of the multi-lingual and multi-cultural nature of basin cultures in all presentations; recognition and presentations on the technological and cultural adaptations and innovations of basin occupants, especially in boating and fishing; facilities that combine several types of related resources in their presentation and emphasis, e.g. a boat museum that also emphasizes the natural resources of the area and how these resources contributed to the culture of the basin in the past and continue to contribute to the current culture of the basin and region today, and also includes opportunities for guided and non-guided education and recreation such as guided boat tours and boat launching and rental facilities; inclusion of the various stakeholders in the basin and opportunities for locals with localized knowledge of the culture and ecology of the basin to benefit economically from increased tourism and from the NHA in general 5. Management direction: achievable concrete goals and milestones with real deadlines; more effort to include a broader segment of the public in the planning process; support of local initiatives through funding matches and/or provision of technical expertise. Opportunities: The protection of the most-threatened natural and cultural resources that are critical for the character of the basin through strategies including conservation easements, conserving these unique resources for future generations. Gaining wider recognition of the economic, natural, cultural and historical significance of the basin. Promoting awareness and use of the basin in a synergistic manner, incorporating education about nature, culture and history, but also providing opportunities for recreation and active learning as well as local economic diversification and sustainability. 6. Current concerns: that natural and cultural resources critical to the character of the basin will be gone before a plan is implemented to preserve them.</p>	6/24/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. It is a beautiful natural area that I grew up in hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, etc. 2. Hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing, and frogging. 3. Blank 4. A greatly diminished ecosystem needs to be restored. 5. Restoration of the hydrology - designating public lands & waters. 6. The ecology of the basin is in steep decline - that direction must change. 7. History of basin - archaeological - geology - [can't read] natural biology - fishing (commercial & recreational) - wildlife - hunting history - These [can't read] need to be researched & made a part of the heritage plan.</p>	7/1/2008	Lafayette	LA

<p>1. The Atchafalaya Basin is unique for its ecology, landscape (both physical and cultural), history and archeological sites. 2. I most enjoy the protected areas, free from development and further destruction, which can be enjoyed by boat, car, and on foot. 3. Areas which are privately owned within the Basin vastly outnumber the protected areas accessible to the public. 4. The development of tourist centers, trails, cause and boat routes, historic and archeological education, and conservation will be essential. 5. Archeological surveys for all historic and prehistoric sites within the Basin, including evaluations of potential significance. 6. There can be no "heritage" without knowledge of the actual sites, their locations and significance. Most sites are virtually unrecorded and unexamined, from ancient Indian mounds to Civil War forts and cemeteries. 7. Heritage is not simply protecting natural areas to appreciate scenery. Vital information is urgently needed on the historic and prehistoric sites within the Basin, before any more are destroyed.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. History, enjoyment, beautiful trees and waterways. 2. The beauty of the place. 3. Algae. 4. Cleaner water and less growth on the water. 5. People really interested in the area and not what they can gain from it. 6. That there not be too many bars, games and etc. added. 7. Blank.</p>	10/31/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. The lack of people, the wildness and the mystique. 2. Paddling and not seeing anyone except for the occasional fisherman 3. Fast boats, air boats, litter and clear-cut logging. 4. I would like to see small boat eco-tours. Addition of birding, hiking and paddling trails like the trails at Indian Bayou. They are easy to follow and give you a relatively safe, wild-like experience, both the hiking and paddle trails are great for birdwatching. I would also like to see certified eco-tour guides, not just someone saying they provide eco-tours. I would not like to see barges of tourists, this takes away from the wild, mysterious experience. I would not like to see clear-cut logging areas, what is a cypress swamp without cypress? 5. Conservation of flora and fauna. Conservation of not just game species, but of biodiversity. It is biodiversity that brings eco-tourists. Addition of birding, paddling and hiking opportunities. 6. Over development is my biggest concern. We don't need Disneyland type tourism in the Atchafalaya because it will be the ecosystem at the short end of that stick. People are drawn to the Atchafalaya for its wildness so it should be kept that way. It would be wonderful if we could be an example to world on responsible eco-tourism by balancing the wants of people and the needs of biodiversity.</p>	6/17/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. Family owns property in Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary Parishes. 2. The opportunities for pride in our state. 3. Blank. 4. Don't know enough about it yet. 5. Blank. 6. Erosion. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. My husband, Ben Skerrett, was the chairman of the Atchafalaya Basin Committee for years before his death. We are very interested in "preserving the Basin" for future generations - for all uses - sports, business, nature, etc. 2. The people and the natural beauty. 3. Quarreling about "rights." 4. Natural flow of water preserved for fishing, crawfishing, boating, and wildlife preservation. 5. Let the Engineers do their job to preserve Buffalo Cove and the rest of the Basin, in cooperation with Fish and Wildlife Dept. and still allowing shipping and oil production. 6. Too much commercialization. 7. I am too old to continue the meetings - but am vitally interested.</p>	9/1/2008	Lafayette	LA

<p>1. This area is unique in a homogenized American culture. The Acadian way of life, based in a French background, is rapidly disappearing and needs to be celebrated and preserved. 2. The "joie de vivre" attitude, the food, the International Festival, Festivals Acadiens, and the attempt to preserve the French language and culture are most enjoyable. 3. The homogenation of culture, the apathy of the youth about their culture and the ignorance about the trials and tribulations of the Acadians cause despair to one who loves this unique culture. 4. An emphasis on the French language and culture is of utmost importance. Bilingual signage and brochures of attractions are vital to encourage Francophone tourism. Preservation of existing historical sites is vital and should be encouraged and helped. 5. The hospitality industry should be educated about attractions in the area, and Francophones should be given opportunities in management. The hospitality industry should encourage and employ Francophone workers. 6. The gradual erosion of the unique Atchafalaya culture (its language and its way of life) is a true concern. We cannot allow over-development of the land. We cannot allow any more watering down of this wonderful culture by including recent immigrants' language and culture. Keep it French! 7. Without the preservation of the language, the culture is neither complete nor vital. It is not completely authentic, and, thus, does not show a true picture of the heritage of this area.</p>	7/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. As a Pennsylvania transplant, I see the immense beauty of the basin. 2. That it is available. 3. Totally unbalanced in favor of the "Cajun Culture" as opposed to providing a true balance with the "Creole Culture" and other cultures. 4. More Afro-American depictions and more Afro-American manning the stations. 5. Management that thrives on the balance of all cultures. 6. The nation of the U.S. failing to support the park service. 7. Start now, not later.</p>	7/1/2008	Lafayette	LA
<p>1. Human history in built environment - homes, architecture. 2. Natural, unspoiled beauty. 3. Hunters and fishermen who disrespect it with noise, litter and 4-wheeler destruction. 4. Protection of historic structures and natural landscapes. 5. Protection, litter control, development of traditional building styles. 6. Destruction by development and ruin by trailer homes and litter. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Lettsworth	LA
<p>1. I am a Cajun and grew up near Lake Dasetrive and have used the area since a child and still. It is rich in heritage, culture and history. 2. The great opportunities for fishing, hunting and general sightseeing. 3. Blank. 4. Make this a national tourist attraction that will be economically stimulating for the local communities such as the village of Loreauville. 5. Develop tourist attractions showcasing culture and heritage. 6. Changes in the natural flow of water. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Loreauville	LA
<p>1-7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Loreauville	LA
<p>1. A place to get away from the outside world. See nature at its best. 2. Fishing and crawfishing. 3. The area can only be used 4-6 months of the year due to water from the north. 4. We need to have better parking and launching ramps similar to the ones in Texas. 5. Dredge areas that have silk in over many years. 6. Monies will be cut by Congress and spend on other areas instead of the heritage area. 7. Sportsmen and outdoors people always have the money taken away first. Political people always want your vote but never live up to their promises.</p>	9/1/2008	Lutcher	LA

<p>1. It's one of the most beautiful places on earth. 2. Blank. 3. Blank. 4. 1) Improvement in water quality of False River in Pointe Coupee Parish. 2) Decrease in soil erosion into False River. 5. Blank. 6. Blank. 7. Blank.</p>	<p>9/1/2008</p>	<p>Marietta</p>	<p>GA</p>
<p>1. Recreation, hunting and fishing. Commercial fishing and crawfishing. 2. Culture, food, recreation, scenery, Atchafalaya Basin. 3. Landowners are not cooperating with water management projects unless there is money involved. 4. More accessibility to the Atchafalaya Basin and surrounding areas for hunting, fishing, and commercial fishing. 5. Would like to see a multi-parish cooperative endeavor agreement with the ANHA to manage the plan. 6. Waste companies and pipeline companies continue to destroy the water quality of the Atchafalaya Basin. 7. Water quality has become a major issue. Water is low on oxygen making it difficult for fisheries to live in the water.</p>	<p>7/1/2008</p>	<p>Maringouin</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>1. We build a retirement home in the Spring Bayou area; it is the cypress trees, the birds, all the wildlife, and the waterways we enjoy. 2. The waterways. 3. The grass problem in the waterways and the low water rate on the waters. 4. The cleaning of water areas and less trash dumping. The grass problem. I would like to see the Corps put pumps in the Red River and pump water into Spring Bayou. 5. Dredging all waterways in Spring Bayou, control the grass in waterways. 6. Low water level, grass problem in Spring Bayou. 7. Spring Bayou could be what is used to be with a little help. Sports Man's Paradise.</p>	<p>9/1/2008</p>	<p>Marksville</p>	<p>LA</p>
<p>1. This area of bayous, lakes, river and swampland and its residences IS Louisiana. It is what makes us unique from other states and what visitors come to see now that "cajun" is cool. 2. I enjoy the natural water bodies and their surrounding "green space"... This area abounds in natural "Green Space." It just has to be preserved, not reinvented. 3. The litter and trash in the scenic area and man's disregard of the natural beauty to profitize every square mile. 4. 1) Commercial development should blend in with the natural area. 2) Education and financial incentives to private owners to enhance the area promoting the goals of the heritage area. 3) Historic preservation blending with progress and development. Developing access to natural areas that don't look like obvious accesses so visitors can see the natural Louisiana. 5. Educating the residents of the benefits of preserving and maintaining the culture and physical aspects of the region for improved quality of life for the present and the future. 6. Funding and stimulating private owners to contribute to the esthetic benefits of this natural green space. 7. Blank.</p>	<p>9/1/2008</p>	<p>Marksville</p>	<p>LA</p>

<p>I attended the public meeting in Eunice last night and was impressed and encouraged by all the thought and planning that has been done and is being done on the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. I am sure that the final strategy will incorporate not only the need to promote the culture and history of the area, but also to preserve the sensitive ecosystem that is the Atchafalaya Basin. As I stated last night this is a monumental task. The diversity of culture, history, geography, geology and economy throughout the designated area makes finding that "common thread" quite difficult. There are so many stories here, and all deserve our interest and attention. Marksville State Historic Site is a Native American mound site in Avoyelles Parish. These mounds were constructed between 50 BC and 400 AD. We do not know what happened to the indigenous people that built these mounds. They used the mounds during that period, then stopped. Did they migrate? Were they ravaged by disease? Did they lose belief in what the mounds might have embodied? There are so many questions and so few answers. This is the mystery of our site and what makes it so compelling for me. There are numerous "prehistoric" sites in the National Heritage Area. Most are on private property. Most are still considered sacred by the "historic" tribes that have inhabited the area since the "ancients" left. It is my hope that these sites can be included in your plan for interpreting the culture and history of the area. I am enclosing a brochure of Ancient Mound Sites of Louisiana. If you transpose the map of the National Heritage Area over the map of mounds in the state, you will see how many sites are in the Heritage Area. I thank you for listening. If I can be of help, please call.</p>	7/1/2008	Marksville	LA
<p>1. This area is an integral part of the cultural fabric of French Louisiana. It is a "natural beauty," a sensitive and dynamic ecosystem. 2. The area, as outlined, covers a large section of Louisiana, therefore emphasizing how important this diverse yet fragile area is to the well being of our entire state. 3. Blank. 4. More access for residents and visitors. Most people only know the area through a few documentaries, and maybe swamp tours in Henderson. The area is so much more than that. 5. Expand access for recreational activities. Set-up regional interpretive sites that show how the Basin ties in to local history. Explore Native American history and prehistory in the Basin. 6. Balancing access with need to protect this fragile ecosystem. 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Marksville	LA
<p>1. It has been part of Louisiana's heritage for as long as I can remember - its beauty, its availability for fishing and hunting. 2. The beauty of the river - the trees, so large - and exciting; the birds of all kinds that inhabit it. 3. Its accessibility to the average citizen. 4. Large boats to carry tourists wherever possible. 5. Beautification of the river - campsites, commercial development so people can experience this great river. 6. Too much dredging and lack of concern for nature. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Marksville	LA
<p>1. The culture, heritage, food, and abundant fish and wildlife. 2. Food, fish and wildlife. 3. Commercialization of the area without regard for culture and heritage. 4. I would like to see development of resources in a way that provides greater access but in a way that is sensitive to the local culture. 5. As an architect who was raised inside the "area" I would like to see design professionals such as myself included in the decision making. 6. Politicians will get their pet projects introduced into the plan which will not be true to the concept and/or outside the scope of the project. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Marksville	LA

<p>1. As a hunter and fisherman, owning a campsite, it is so conducive to hunting and fishing, but not always accessible. 2. Its beauty, wildlife, commercial traffic. 3. Not all areas are scenic. 4. Beautification projects – campsites. 5. All availability for those interested in the river. 6. Lack of dollars. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Marksville	LA
<p>1. Vast roadless area, rare in the deep south. 2. Canoeing and camping. 3. Cutover. 4. Backcountry camping, canoe trails. 5. Access for backcountry travel. 6. Posted signs everywhere; no access. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	McComb	MS
<p>1. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA) is located in the largest swamp-river basin in North America. Large expanses of this basin remain forested and we would like to see it remain this way. The ANHA, specifically, is an area frequented by bird watchers from our organization. Fort Jackson, in particular, has been a birding and field trip destination for the Orleans Audubon Society (OAS) and other local birding groups for many decades. 2. OAS members appreciate the historical and cultural importance of preserving the two forts and also the importance of this area to viewing local wildlife, especially birds. We also have a special love for the scenic tracts of bottomland hardwood forest in the ANHA. 3. Private development of the area, clear-cutting of forests, and a general lack of public access along levees and public roads are what OAS members enjoy least. We would like to see more pedestrian trails, canoeing trails, and boat launches in areas outside of the Sherburne Complex. 4. We would like to see large blocks of bottomland hardwood forest managed and maintained to become mature, old growth forest. Control of invasive species of aquatic and terrestrial vegetation is also important. For example, the exotic Chinese tallow has taken over in many areas where timber activity has occurred. We would like to see the natural flood regime restored to areas of the ANHA whenever possible. For example, flow could be restored to Big Alabama Bayou and Little Alabama Bayou. 5. Again, we would like to see more pedestrian trails, canoeing trail, and boat launches in areas outside of the Sherburne Complex. We would like to see forests remain intact, with the exception of control for invasive species. We would also like to see more areas reforested where possible. We would like to see more acreage protected in government-owned land-holdings. 6. We are concerned that not enough acreage is being protected or conserved. We would like to see bottomland hardwood forests protected when they can be and conserved when protection is not possible. We are also concerned that the natural flood regime is not being restored (or mimicked via controlled structures) where possible. The OAS appreciates this opportunity to comment on the ANHA Management Plan. Thank you!</p>	8/23/2008	Metairie	LA

<p>To Whom It May Concern: Please allow this comment to replace the Orleans Audubon Society's previous comment. The previous comment contained a few mistakes. Please accept this corrected version. I apologize for any inconvenience my error may have caused. Thank you, Jennifer Coulson, OAS President and Conservation Chair. 1. The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA) is located in the largest swamp in North America. Large expanses of the Atchafalaya basin remain forested and we would like to see it remain this way. The ANHA, specifically, is an area frequented by bird watchers from our organization. The Sherburne Complex and Indian Bayou Wildlife Management Area, in particular, have been birding and field trip destinations for the Orleans Audubon Society (OAS) and other local birding groups for many decades. 2. OAS members appreciate the importance of this area for viewing local wildlife, especially birds. We also have a special love for the scenic tracts of bottomland hardwood forest in the ANHA. 3. Private development of the area and clear-cutting of forests are two things we like least. Another is a general lack of public access along levees and public roads, particularly outside of the Sherburne Complex. We would like to see more pedestrian trails, canoeing trails, and boat launches in areas outside of the Sherburne Complex. 4. We would like to see large blocks of bottomland hardwood forest managed and maintained to become mature, old growth forest. Control of invasive species of aquatic and terrestrial vegetation is also important. For example, the exotic Chinese tallow has taken over in many areas where timber activity has occurred. We would like to see the natural flood regime restored to areas of the ANHA whenever possible. For example, flow could be restored to Big Alabama Bayou and Little Alabama Bayou. 5. Again, we would like to see more pedestrian trails, canoeing trail, and boat launches in areas outside of the Sherburne Complex. We would like to see forests remain intact, with the exception of control for invasive species. We would also like to see more areas reforested where possible. We would like to see more land protected in government-owned land-holdings. 6. We are concerned that not enough acreage is being protected or conserved. We would like to see bottomland hardwood forests protected when they can be and conserved when protection is not a viable option. We are also concerned that the natural flood regime is not being restored (or mimicked via controlled structures) where possible. The OAS appreciates this opportunity to comment on the ANHA Management Plan. Thank you!</p>	8/23/2008	Metairie	LA
<p>1. I was born and raised there. 2. The hunting and fishing. 3. Nothing. 4. Keep it pristine and natural. 5. Keep it pristine and natural. 6. That it will be changed and no longer authentic. 7. None.</p>	9/1/2008	Moreauville	LA
<p>1. Born and raised in M.C. LA - My mother was raised on a houseboat in the Basin. I own Cajun Houseboats & Rentals, Inc. and our mission is to have locals and tourists "Hurry Up and Come Slow Down With Us" so they can have an "Up Close and Personal Experience with Nature." It will help make the world a better place. 2. I do not know - it sounds like it is really in its planning stage. 3. Limited access. 4. Would like to see it stay pristine and people enjoying it from a "low tech" approach while promoting a more sane life that hopefully those who visit, will want to bring that concept back to where they live. 5. Blank. 6. I would not want it to simply be another "Disney World" attraction. 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Morgan City	LA

1. a) Place of birth, b) Land of my French and Acadian forefathers, c) The development, protection, and acknowledgement of a unique area, d) Recognizing the contribution of areas early settlers that participated in the Revolutionary War, the Battle of New Orleans, and War of Succession, e) It is the land about which Longfellow wrote. A land whose culture and language is rapidly disappearing rescued for history. 2. a) Beauty and diversity of the landscape, b) The potential for the Cypress Tree to acquire its rightful place amongst the aged giant trees, c) The descendants of the French and Acadians, their friendliness, openness, and love of life, d) The history of the area: 1) the ability of the French to form a unique alliance with the Indians, 2) complex military history, 3) quaint political background, 4) seafood, 5) abundance of difference of species of wildlife, 300 species of migratory and resident birds; 46 species of mammals; 90 species of fish, crayfish, crab & shrimp; 65 species of reptiles and amphibians, 6) its many lakes, river, bayous, and surprisingly numerous islands. 3. a) Public awareness of their inheritance, b) the public's willingness to protect the area's history and natural resources 4. a) a multi-focused educational process directed toward developing a broad appreciation and understanding. One that reaches the hidden depths of the area populace, presented in many different formats. b) A forestry program developed for the management of Cypress and other native trees. For promotion, planting and protection. c) A Civil War Trail that defines the route and battles of the Confederate and Union Armies through the area. d) An Evangeline or Acadian Trail that identifies the route traveled by the Acadians in settling the area. Possibly using the route outlined by Longfellow in his poem "Evangeline." e) Development of "Overviews." In the mountains "overviews" provide a panorama. Our level land is not conducive; however, elevated towers (not unlike fire towers above the trees.) would provide panoramic views from above the trees. (Example) Located at Bayou Ramous the bayou divides into three outlets from the intra-coastal waterway into Lake Palourde. It is a scenic view. One can view it from the elevated I-49 proposed highway out of Morgan City. Each season the colors change, water levels cause different vegetation to bloom. It is beautiful. Sadly one can only see it driving by at excess speeds. From a higher elevation the view would be spectacular. A photographer's dream. 5. a) The Atchafalaya River the entrance to largest river swamp in N. America. The Atchafalaya River the distributary into the richest wetlands, and march in the United States. What an excellent place for research operatives to move by small vessel either way for day studies. b) There is no question that facilities should exist for (Grant) studies by Universities because of the easy access to the Basin, marsh, and gulf from Morgan City. Particularly since Morgan City is already home to the most aggressive underwater operatives in the world, Oceaneering, Inc. 6. a) I am happy with the designation as a National Heritage Area. Really I don't know enough to be concerned. b) A colossal educational process must take place to create respect for this effort. Recognition of the effort by the general public must take place to make the administration and management effective. (This is an exceptionally vital key.) 7. As I read the intent of this endeavor I truly wish success for those upon whose shoulders fall the responsibility for its accomplishment. This is the brightest hope for an area long neglected. I hope my remarks have not been too burdensome. Thank you for allowing me to express these sentiments.

9/1/2008

Morgan City

LA

<p>1. a) Place of birth, b) Land of my French and Acadian forefathers, c) The development, protection, and acknowledgement of a unique area, d) Recognizing the contribution of areas early settlers that participated in the Revolutionary War, the Battle of New Orleans, and War of Succession, e) It is the land about which Longfellow wrote. A land whose culture and language is rapidly disappearing rescued for history. 2. a) Beauty and diversity of the landscape, b) The potential for the Cypress Tree to acquire its rightful place amongst the aged giant trees, c) The descendants of the French and Acadians, their friendliness, openness, and love of life, d) The history of the area: 1) the ability of the French to form a unique alliance with the Indians, 2) complex military history, 3) quaint political background, 4) seafood, 5) abundance of difference of species of wildlife, 300 species of migratory and resident birds; 46 species of mammals; 90 species of fish, crayfish, crab & shrimp; 65 species of reptiles and amphibians, 6) its many lakes, river, bayous, and surprisingly numerous islands. 3. a) Public awareness of their inheritance, b) the public's willingness to protect the area's history and natural resources 4. a) a multi-focused educational process directed toward developing a broad appreciation and understanding. One that reaches the hidden depths of the area populace, presented in many different formats. b) A forestry program developed for the management of Cypress and other native trees. For promotion, planting and protection. c) A Civil War Trail that defines the route and battles of the Confederate and Union Armies through the area. d) An Evangeline or Acadian Trail that identifies the route traveled by the Acadians in settling the area. Possibly using the route outlined by Longfellow in his poem "Evangeline." e) Development of "Overviews." In the mountains "overviews" provide a panorama. Our level land is not conducive; however, elevated towers (not unlike fire towers above the trees.) would provide panoramic views from above the trees. (Example) Located at Bayou Ramous the bayou divides into three outlets from the intra-coastal waterway into Lake Palourde. It is a scenic view. One can view it from the elevated I-49 proposed highway out of Morgan City. Each season the colors change, water levels cause different vegetation to bloom. It is beautiful. Sadly one can only see it driving by at excess speeds. From a higher elevation the view would be spectacular. A photographer's dream. 5. a) The Atchafalaya River the entrance to largest river swamp in N. America. The Atchafalaya River the tributary into the richest wetlands, and march in the United States. What an excellent place for research operatives to move by small vessel either way for day studies. b) There is no question that facilities should exist for (Grant) studies by Universities because of the easy access to the Basin, marsh, and gulf from Morgan City. Particularly since Morgan City is already home to the most aggressive underwater operatives in the world, Oceaneering, Inc. 6. a) I am happy with the designation as a National Heritage Area. Really I don't know enough to be concerned. b) A colossal educational process must take place to create respect for this effort. Recognition of the effort by the general public must take place to make the administration and management effective. (This is an exceptionally vital key.) 7. As I read the intent of this endeavor I truly wish success for those upon whose shoulders fall the responsibility for its accomplishment. This is the brightest hope for an area long neglected. I hope my remarks have not been too burdensome. Thank you for allowing me to express these sentiments.</p>	9/1/2008	Morgan City	LA
<p>No. 1-The scenic nature views and Wildlife. No. 2-Hunting and Fishing- Natural Beauty No. 3-Non-native vegetation invading the beauty. No. 4-Do not limit the Hunting or Fishing opportunities in the Basin. No. 5-A complete tour opportunity in the Basin, and Land Management for forestry. No. 6-The National Park Service and the State will impose very restrictive management practices that will kill the deal.</p>	8/13/2008	Morganza	LA

<p>1. So many miles of wilderness is wonderful to have so close to towns and cities. 2. Bird watching. 3. None. 4. Minimal motoring boats and hunting. 5. Plenty of outreach and education for children and the area. I'd also like to see activities or events that strive for cultural diversity. 6. So often human entertainment takes precedence over protection of the environment. I hope preservation will be the priority.</p>	7/1/2008	n/a	UN
<p>1. An easily accessible area, attractive to the many forms of wildlife, flora, etc. and consequently being completely worthy of protection by the federal government. 2. The restrictions and rules to be placed on maintenance of the area, including the banning of toxins and pollutants from the area (including great concern for water purity). 3. The overriding fear that the restrictions and rules to be placed on maintenance of the area will be disregarded, disobeyed and ignored (without being duly disciplined and punished for it). 4. A desire to see the area wildlife oriented, with the complete avoidance of all commercial activities. 5. Youth deserves opportunities always, perhaps with the use of guidance and instruction as to the continuance of concern and work in the area. 6. The possibility of conflicting influences, including selfish and harmful invasions by powerful and monetarily influential forces (government or otherwise). 7. Our vision of the heritage area is one of fishing convenience, with perhaps platforms and piers, with light - lighting for extended time on the waters.</p>	9/1/2008	New Iberia	LA

<p>1. My dad was born in the Basin and moved to New Iberia when he was 5 years old when the levees were built. He also died at our camp in the Basin. We own property in the Basin in 4 different parishes. I have been going to our camp in the Basin for 45 of my 50 years. 2. The peacefulness of being isolated from civilization. A strong connection to MY heritage. 3. Trespassers and Corps of Engineers confiscating private land from unwilling landowners by means of "conservation easements" which is just another name for eminent domain. The Corps have come up with a complex formula that allows them to acquire private land for pennies on the dollar. In summary: A: Most of the rights to your land are taken from you unwillingly. B: You are paid pennies on the dollar for the loss of those rights. C: There are at least 14 "rules and regulations" that tell the landowner what can and can't be done with your own land. If you own any land anywhere (even if you are not a landowner) and read these rules and regulations, it would make the hair on the back of you neck stand up! D: You can no longer use the land for collateral, so the property value just went in the tank. E: The landowner retains the rights to oil, gas and minerals, BUT can only extract those natural resources with permission and permits from the Corps of Engineers---GOOD LUCK! The Fifth Amendment is absolutely circumvented and the landowners stripped of their civil rights and protections provided under the law. 4. I am all for tourism to help the economy and promote Louisiana, but it is probably not a good idea to have canoe trips in the Basin during deer hunting season (Nov-Jan). If the canoe doesn't flip from all the boat traffic, it is still not safe with high powered rifles being short in the area. I know that is a risky statement because someone will come up with the bright idea to either take our guns away (there goes the 2nd Amendment, the Corps has already taken my 5th Amendment away) or try to stop deer hunting altogether. 5. There are a lot of towns in the National Heritage Area that have a lot to offer tourists. There are wonderful towns like Eunice, Breaux Bridge, New Iberia, Henderson, Butte la Rose and so on that have a lot to offer tourists and learn about our history. I think the management plan can do great things in this area. 6. The loss of private property rights so some tourist can see a bald eagle. I have spent a lot of time in the middle of the Basin and have NEVER seen a bald eagle or a black bear for that matter. Everyone should be concerned when the government takes away someone's private property rights, because if they can do it to me - they can do it to you. 7. Please try to understand my skepticism. If my family is not losing private property rights we are losing access to our camps when the US Army Corps of Engineers makes "improvements" to the Basin. A few years ago the Corps dammed the end of Bayou Chene and rerouted it to the Atchafalaya River. Now, all the camps between the new route and what used to be the end of the bayou where the dam is can only be accessed when the rivers stage is very high because that section of bayou has silted in. I have seen the river stage stay low for 2 years or more and when it does come up, sometimes it's not for long.</p>	9/1/2008	New Iberia	LA
<p>1. Historical & cultural "icons." Food, geography, man-made historical items. 2. My present lifestyle with respect to nature, family & friends. 3. Present local and state of LA policies are destroying our unique landmarks. Ignorance on the part of the "public" insures that present policies do not change. 4. Self guided "Road Map" tours to accent the area (next year if possible). Protect our unique geography (cypress forests). 5. More "push" @ local parish commissioner level. Personalized meetings @ local parish level. 6. Failure due to local politics. Failure due lack of public involvement. 7. Please help us share our local 1940 vintage bridge which has been awarded National Heritage of Historic place eligibility.</p>	7/1/2008	New Iberia	LA

1. It's where I live, it's part of my life. 2. Fishing, Hunting, Boating & its Beauty. 3. NA 4. A road map showing all of our historic sites. Help save our historic landmarks like the Vida Bridge in Iberia Parish, LA. 5. Blank. 6. Blank. 7. Blank.	7/1/2008	New Iberia	LA
1. I believe that the designation will help conserve the area. 2. I hunt and fish in it. 3. The constant dispute over what lands is private and what is public. 4. I would like to see deer hunting with dogs eliminated. 5. I also would like to see more focus on water quality. 6. Water quality and siltation are what I see as the 2 biggest threats to the area in the future. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	New Iberia	LA
1. I live in this area and appreciate any efforts to preserve our state's cultural and geographical uniqueness. 2. Since I am a French teacher, I enjoy any facet of the national heritage area related to this heritage language. I enjoy the history of the people who spoke the language, the family and place names with French origins, and the cultural impact the language has had on this area. 3. The loss of this language and an appreciation for its place in our state's history has been a grave concern for me. The French language has been suffering a slow and painful death in recent history and this is sure to be precipitated and finalized by the modern-day influx of the Hispanic population. 4. The eventual awareness of local citizens of the value that the French language holds in their ancestry, and the awareness of ancestry in general. 5. Programs that involve the public, programs and publicity that increase tourism, especially from francophone countries, and programs that involve schools and families. 6. Lack of funding in the future, lack of leadership, or lack of adequate publicity.	6/18/2008	New Iberia	LA
1. The wild untouched beauty of it. 2. The spring and fall migratory birds. 3. Blank. 4. More small trails that are walkable but not intrusive. 5. More small trails that are walkable but not intrusive. 6. Excessive, unrestricted access. 7. Well-managed and a [???] to the state.	9/1/2008	New Orleans	LA
1. Native Louisianan - Born in central Louisiana. Interested in correcting coastal erosion. 2. Do not actively participate or visit the area. 3. Blank. 4. Consider ways and means for area to participate in solving the rebuilding of coastal areas. 5. Ways to assist the area in rebuilding of coastal areas. 6. That politicians will continue to play games and control the decision process to serve their personal interests rather than the interests of this state and country. 7. Remove all private camps from area (Atchafalaya Basin).	9/1/2008	New Orleans	LA
1. Blank. 2. Blank. 3. Blank. 4. Blank. 5. Blank. 6. Blank. 7. The Trust for Public Land's Louisiana office is available to assist the NPS with land transactions required for the Atchafalaya program.	9/1/2008	New Orleans	LA
1. Includes area settled by my wife's grandfather, later became area I hunted and fished for 45 years. 2. The diverse wildlife and mixture of hardwood forest and bayous. 3. The US Corp of Engineers ruined a prime habitat for fishing and water fowl when I pumped dredge material from Whiskey Bay Channel into the Basin Lake. 4. Additional navigability of some bayous which have silted in my mismanagement of the waterways. 5. See above - navigation of bayous silted by dredge material. 6. Protection of private ownership and hunting/fishing rights. 7. I would like to see some recognition of the French influence in Louisiana. Julien Poydras the founder of public education in LA is buried in front of the Poydras School on False River.	10/31/2008	New Roads	LA

1. Once you go into the basin and witness the power of nature and its meaning of harmony and its ability to survive you will know it is special. 2. The serenity, the feeling of how it is so vast and you are at its mercy. 3. Nothing. 4. To show people how the ecosystem gives and takes and survives through good and hot so good times. It balances itself. 5. To have people know her as she really is, to have lived here and be a friend. 6. To have the next generation know its existence without altering its evolution.	7/1/2008	Opelousas	LA
1. The history of our area and its people. 2. Beautiful waterways, floral areas, birds, and wildlife. 3. Areas which are not kept clean. 4. Waterways open with needs for visitors. 5. Advertisement of our attractions. Planned tours and excursions. 6. Projects planned may not be completed. 7. Excited about working with planners and getting things done.	9/1/2008	Opelousas	LA
1. Its wetlands are among the largest such areas many untouched by development which destroys these types of areas. In Louisiana we recognize the uniqueness of the valuable resource we have. 2. The beauty, the accessibility to it, the variety of wildlife. Most importantly - the general public has access and is able to enjoy the area. 3. I really enjoy everything about the area. 4. Increased accessibility for the general public - protection for its natural beauty. Protection from commercial development which would destroy its pristine nature. 5. I would hope that management would result in maintaining the natural beauty and wildlife of the area and as a result create opportunities to make this area a destination for travelers (worldwide) looking for an opportunity to see these natural wetlands. 6. That naturally we may fail to recognize what a resource this area is. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	Opelousas	LA
1. Recreational opportunities that exist in this area. The beauty of the area. Also, the remoteness of this area. 2. The natural beauty of the area. Vast acreage of bottomland hardwoods, with cypress/tupelo swamps. 3. The camps that are built in the area. These are an eyesore and take away from the beauty of the area. Most are not in compliance with Corps of Engineers easement regulations. 4. Would like to see less development in this natural area. 5. Opportunities for natural outdoor activities. 6. The destruction by mineral (oil) exploration and subdivision, campsites destroying the natural beauty of the area. 7. Blank.	7/1/2008	Opelousas	LA
1. Acadian heritage, Cajun heritage, wildlife, fishing. 2. Beauty of the land, scenery, joy of the solitude. 3. Needs to be kept clean, use money wisely, not like to see industrial development, oil rigs, commercialism, no Wal-Mart, etc. 4. Cabins; have a contest - every senior high school biology class involved in study, protection, resources, etc. 5. Advertise - include school activities to participate, set up special family activities, extra festivals. 6. Not used enough. Federal and state protection may be dropped or compromised! 7. Can be made self-supporting! Use money wisely, need more areas, make more land available for wildlife - plant and animal protection.	9/1/2008	Oscar	LA
1. Our home - love it - the people, the natural beauty of the land. 2. The beauty of our area in its natural form. The people and culture - amazing! 3. So large and spread out - need more information to tourists. 4. Preserve our business - keep out Wal-marts and other large chains. 5. Cleanliness, preserve culture. 6. Keeping it as is. 7. Blank.	7/1/2008	Palmetto	LA

<p>1. 1) The abundance of wildlife. 2) Beauty of swampland and coastal marshland. 3) The east of attainment of natural edibles (i.e., crawfish, fish, frogs, waterfowl. 4) The history of the area. 2. Living on the coastal area with easy access to the waterways. 3. The trash! 4. Not see - increased pollution, increased traffic, and increased destruction of woodlands. 5. Increased availability of touring and facilities for such. I believe increasing tourist activity is promoting a clean, profitable industry that gives an excellent view of our area to the outside world. 6. Increasing population with increased destruction of habitat. Loss of coastline, loss of historic properties. 7. The formation of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is an excellent opportunity to save and enhance an important area in our state and nation.</p>	9/1/2008	Patterson	LA
<p>1. Have lived here for 81 years. 2. Beauty, people, serenity. 3. All of the sand the Corps of Engineers has dumped in our waterways. 4. Clear out the sand and restore our waterways. 5. Emphasis on maintaining natural beauty. 6. It will become nothing but sand and willow trees. 7. As you can see, my greatest concern is with the Atchafalaya Basin. We need to reduce or eliminate the amount of Mississippi River water being routed to the Atchafalaya and Red Rivers.</p>	9/1/2008	Patterson	LA
<p>1. Unique area flow riverine cypress-tupelo swamp. 2. Its potential for enhancement. 3. Its current state of deterioration. 4. Return the Basin to its original hydraulic regime. 5. Restoring historic hydrology and making the Basin a productive and healthy overflow swamp. 6. It is in a stagnant condition and based on current water regime is locked in its least productive state. 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Patterson	LA
<p>1. As a young man I worked in the Atchafalaya Basin as a land agent for a large land owner 1955-1991. 2. Diverse people, culture, food, music. 3. Blank. 4. Signage denoting area and special interest areas. 5. Eco-tourism expanded. 6. Decreasing waterways in Atchafalaya Basin, sedimentation raising floor of Basin, each flood season cypress, tupelo swamps disappearing! 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Patterson	LA
<p>1. I am an advocate of the Basin. I have been in and out of it all my life. In my opinion, there is no place like the Basin in the world. It is complete nature at its best! 2. Peacefulness, wildlife and waterways. 3. Blank. 4. I would like to see our waterways kept up. Siltation is a serious problem in the Basin. We need to keep dredging out canals and natural bayous. 5. Freshwater projects. It is a must. 6. My concern is that if we don't stop our waterways from silting up, we will have difficulties navigating our bayous. 7. I have been involved with DNR for years now. We have been successful in many areas of the Basin on removing of siltation. I would hope that we can continue to do so.</p>	7/1/2008	Pierre Part	LA
<p>1. I have personally lived in the Atchafalaya Basin and love it dearly. I now live beside it and love it more. 2. The scenery, wildlife, serenity, solitude. 3. The trash left by fishermen. There is no place in the Basin that is free of cans, boxes, bottles, etc. Shameful! 4. 1) Less trash, 2) More canoe/kayak mapped trails and opportunities, 3) Less oil presence, 4) Maybe kiosks at boat landings about wildlife, vegetation, etc. 5. 1) Clean up bayous, 2) Dredging Bayou Pigeon, et al, 3) Perhaps a few wildlife explanatory kiosks at a few visitor stops in the Basin. 6. Lack of interest by federal government, especially current President. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Pierre Part	LA
<p>1. Because I like to fish and crawfish there. 2. Fishing and hunting. 3. Blank. 4. More scenic ways for people to see it that have never been there before. 5. More opportunities to rent house boats to explore Atchafalaya longer. 6. Having to pay to crawfish there. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Pierre Part	LA

<p>1. Family members and friends are allowed to visit these areas whenever possible. 2. The natural look of many different sites and surroundings. 3. Extreme high water. 4. Possible tourist station (properly managed). 5. Allow state or federal government to introduce more funds in the dredging opportunities we now have started. 6. Hopefully we understand that nature can't do this overnight and alone. We need all help and cooperation from all resources. 7. Thanks for the opportunity!</p>	9/1/2008	Pierre Part	LA
<p>1. It's a place where you can go back in time, still see the butts of huge cypress trees, and the axe marks when the big trees were there. 2. Boating, fishing, camping, and of course, crawfishing. 3. To see how pollution has been allowed to go on to see how many of the canals and bayous are silting up. 4. Cleaner, pollution free, a practical management plan and always open to the public. 5. Have people in the decision process who have a1st hand knowledge of the area. 6. That one day it will be gone. Our grandchildren will not have the opportunity to see what it was. 7. I have heard a lot of mission statements, and then fizzled out. Stay with the plan and see it through, make this area proud for the people of LA.</p>	9/1/2008	Pierre Part	LA

<p>1. The Atchafalaya Basin is a great national treasure and unquestionably one of the largest semi-wild wetlands in the south. 2. The knowledge that this area can provide flood protection, a rich diversity of natural resources, and both economic and recreational opportunities for so many people. 3. The narrow-minded self serving attitude of many interests who want to exploit their resource to potential detriment of any other values & government agencies that rubber stamp permit applications, etc. 4. I would like to see the myriad natural resources of the basin, including the historic, cultural and aesthetic preserved, protected and conserved in accordance with our Louisiana constitution. 5. A plan that takes into account landowners and non-landowners, those who live in the basin and those who do not, all of the basin's resources, the tangible and intangible and most of all a plan that sustains the basin as a fabulous natural resource. 6. That we won't institute a sound water management plan to mimic the natural ebb and flow of basin water, global climate change will permanently flood part of the basin, that invasive species empowered by warming temperatures will eradicate native flora and fauna, and that selfish interests won't work together for the good of all. 7. I applaud the Department of the Interior on the Creole Heritage Area along the Cane River country to celebrate the history of a beautiful, talented people who have profoundly enriched our state. Oral comments attached: I'm Rick Bryan, 2405 Evergreen Lane, Pineville, Chair of the Louisiana Audubon Council Subcommittee on Forests, Waters and Endangered Species and founder of the Catahoula Lake Heritage Foundation, in which I depicted the history and culture of the people who settled the north shore of Louisiana's only migratory bird habitat of international significance under the Ramsar treaty with the UN. The Atchafalaya Basin is a national treasure that ranks alongside the other great river bottoms of the south, the Altamaha, the Suwannee, the Apalachicola and the Pascagoula. As one who has been aware of the complexity of basin issues my entire conservation career, dating back to the late 1960's, I am convinced the basin must have a comprehensive management plan that brings together the users and residents of the basin area, that takes into account all the resources of the basin, including its tourism potential, one that sustains its renewable resources, including its waters, its forests and its wildlife, both plentiful and scarce and aquatic, its crawfish and other fisheries, its non-consumptive resources like its history and scenic beauty, and one that calls for wise use of its non-renewable resources, its gas and oil. Indeed, under Article 9, Section 1 of our 1974 Revised Louisiana Constitution, it can do no less! Let me emphasize, the Atchafalaya Basin is for all people and all users, both those who own land in the basin and those who do not, but most of all it is for the people who lives in the parishes encompassing and surrounding the basin. This is their home and to the fullest extent possible should be their plan. In fact, any plan can work best, and perhaps only if it is their plan.</p>	7/1/2008	Pineville	LA
<p>1. I lived here all my life. When I became disabled the Atchafalaya became a place to go and be relaxed mentally. Medicines are not always the answer to good health. 2. Its size and beauty. 3. Too many waterways are being silted in. 4. Open silted in waterways, more/better handicap parking at boat ramps. 5. Try harder to keep the people from littering the waterways. 6 Old Man River (The Mississippi River) will change course into the Atchafalaya 7. Put out meeting notices earlier and not just one time in a newspaper.</p>	9/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA

<p>1. It's my heritage, my family owns hundreds of acres of property in Iberville and St. Martin Parishes. I was reared there by a commercial fishing father. I own a camp on family property where I spend most of my leisure time hunting and fishing and working with my swamp tour business. 2. The Atchafalaya Basin offers many types of enjoyment. Also, the surrounding communities offer many recreational events and also plenty area accessible by automobile to go hunting and fishing. Plenty of festivals to attend. 3. Failure of Atchafalaya Basin program to deliver on the master plan for improving water quality in Iberville and St. Martin Parishes inside of the Atchafalaya Basin as planned. Program moving too slow on these issues. 4. Continue water management in Atchafalaya Basin to improve water quality. Money spent in local communities to improve boat launching facilities. A state park on east side of Atchafalaya Basin levee. Promote tourism to help local economy. 5. Continue master plan for the Atchafalaya Basin; Direct more to the Basin for water quality; A state park on the east side south of I-10 with black top road access; Purchase of Grand River Flats for management area. 6. Less government control for commercial fishermen. This way of life is essential to the surrounding communities and good for state government. No future control on limits for commercial crawfishing. 7. The Indian Mound at Bayou Sorrel on the East Atchafalaya levee is a National Heritage Area. A park with community ties is needed to preserve. Improve area with camping and river access.</p>	9/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA
<p>1. My family was born and raised in the Atchafalaya spillway. 2. As a landowner, being able to do with the land as I see fit. 3. Government intervention. 4. Blank. 5. Blank. 6. Govt. takeover. 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA

1. The idea for an Atchafalaya National Heritage Area was born in The Capital Resource and Conservation (Capital RC&D) Council, formed under the USDA. This is a volunteer group monthly meeting to promote economic development using our natural resources. RC&D Council was comprised of 13 parishes, which included some of the Atchafalaya Basin Parish. In the mid 1990's, a fellow volunteer and resident of Plaquemine, Aaron Tulley, proposed and worked to have the Atchafalaya Basin designated as a Heritage Area. Iberville Parish volunteer Sue G. Hebert, served for 12 years with RC&D. The then Lt. Gov. Kathleen Blanco recognized the project would benefit the Acadiana Parish and gave life to the proposal. As Governor during the following years, the Area gained support of Louisiana Congressional Delegation, who secured the Atchafalaya Heritage Area recognition in Year 2006. The Area is important to me, as I lived all my life in Iberville Parish. I am retired and serve as the President of Promotion and Preservation of Iberville, Inc. (501(c)(3) organization) formed initially to promote plantations, homes and restaurants in preparation of the 1984 Louisiana World Exposition. Today, the mission statement includes the promotion of the heritage and culture of people and places of Iberville Parish. 2. The Heritage Area relates to people and an economy that is intricately connected - in history, rivers, lakes and bayous, and food-ways. Settlement patterns developed as floods occurred and due to natural resources of the Atchafalaya swampland. 3. None. 4. Preservation and restoration to continue - identify all cultural resources, buildings, and historic sites which in many cases have been over-looked in the past. 5. Each parish be invited and encouraged to participate in a management plan, with active committee members. Include parish seat cities to participate. 6. Too much time has elapsed and most of the residents in preserving historic sites - people who have lived and made their living in the Atchafalaya Basin will not live to give the first person true stories - then stories of the Area will be handed down in some false fashion or made-to-create a false image of people and places. 7. Promotion and Preservation of Iberville, Inc. (PPI) has sponsored five successful Heritage Days Festivals in Iberville Parish since 1984.

9/1/2008

Plaquemine

LA

<p>1. I am a life-long resident of the Atchafalaya Heritage Area. My maternal and paternal grandparents migrated to the Atchafalaya swampland to work during the expansive lumber industry. My years of research, support and interest of local history, culture and lifestyles have made me aware of the significance of the Area. 2. Cultural diversity, archeological sites, historic waterways, our built environment, aqua-culture, agriculture, history of Colonial Louisiana period of French and Spanish rule, Louisiana's place in the American Revolution, authentic places and people of those times, who now have hundreds of descendants living in Iberville Parish. Recreation and education opportunities, along with improvements made by the Atchafalaya Basin Program have enhanced our Area. 3. No negatives of the Heritage Area. 4. Interpretive programs, fairs, festivals focusing on authentic sites where history was made - use of authentic costumes - educational program for school-age children involved. Also, include preservation and restoration efforts from the National Heritage Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. 5. Planning should involve civic, history and preservation organization in local parishes and cities. State legislators and Congressional leaders should be informed through their legislative aids in the state. The first group of organizations is the movers and shakers while the State and National officials hold keys to funding. 6. Too many local people expressed opinions they do not want to make changes in the Heritage Area to attract visitors. Before attracting visitors, efforts to coordinate programs and educational projects needs to be designed to attract interest of local citizens in some of the parishes in the Heritage Area. 7. In relying on local parish officials appointing delegates to serve, this limits the opportunities to bring professional people and viable organizations together that are bonded through common interest. The Primary Interpretive Themes that were identified when the area was a state heritage area need to be revisited. Some of this is from January 1997 when Mary Frye, Project Coordinator from the National Park Service in the Denver Service Center - sent workers to each parish to do Resources Planning. Within your publication - Atchafalaya National Heritage Area-Louisiana-June 2008 - page 3 - Authentic Expressions #10 Crawfish - from Swamp to Table. I feel that this should be renamed as: Crawfish: from China to Louisiana stores and restaurants (the Atchafalaya Basin fishermen are vital to further successful economic development within the Basin and they are aware that imported Chinese crawfish has a definite impact on our local economy, culture and lifestyle.</p>	9/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA
<p>1. Blank. 2. We enjoy hunting, fishing, and just being outdoors in the spillway. Also we enjoy having a small state lease with a "camp" to stay in for up to 10 days at a time. 3. Poor boat landings and each launch area is managed by different agencies. Some are nice and most are not. There is too much trash. 4. Water flow and water quality. Security at landings. East/west access without causing siltation. 5. More land for public access. 6. Change takes too long to occur. 7. Let's get moving!</p>	9/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA
<p>1. I own two camps in the Atchafalaya Basin and have several friends that own camps. I have been visiting this area since I was a kid. 2. I enjoy hunting and fishing in this area. It is also a nice place to get out and see the abundance and variety of wildlife. 3. Blank. 4. I would like to see better wildlife management and for it to be kept as natural as possible. 5. Keep this area accessible to the public and preserve it for future generations. 6. The problem with silting in of the navigable waterways. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA

1. I have lived in this area my entire life of 51 years. This is a beautiful area and has good hunting and fishing. Most people who live in the area take it for granted. It is a paradise. 2. The bayous and trees. 3. People treating it like a dumping ground. 4. I would like to see improvements in water quality. 5. Tax dollars spent on this project and not spent on give-away programs. 6. The money will not be there to fund the project. 7. Blank	9/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA
1. Its unique wetlands and culture. The last great floodplain of the Mississippi - America's Amazon. 2. The incredible amount of life in the ecosystem that makes the Atchafalaya Basin. 3. Greed. Clear-cuts. Poor management of public lands. Poor management from the Corps. 4. The Basin should be protected (what is left of it) and the unique culture of the area should be preserved. That unique way of life is almost forever gone. 5. Management of the Basin by the Corps and other government agencies, both state and federal, should reflect a willingness to preserve the Basin. 6. Interest of land owners not compatible with the survival of the Atchafalaya Basin and its culture. 7. The fact that the Corps of Engineers are managing the Basin in a way that will destroy it reflects the sad state the Atchafalaya is in.	7/1/2008	Plaquemine	LA
1. Born and raised around the Basin - fish and crab and crawfish all my life in the Basin - love it; also hunting. 2. Natural, scenic and recreational area. My sons and daughter and grandchildren love the Basin. 3. No least, except for silt up area. 4. More tours from all over the United States first then the world. 5. New recreational area for tours set up for crawfish, crabbing, catfishing, large tours - by boat. 6. Keeping the Basin pure and wild. 7. Have a camp at Belle River and had house boats at Bayou Sorrel for years - love the Basin.	9/1/2008	Port Allen	LA
1. I was born and raised in Iberville Parish. I fished and did a lot of boat riding in the area before 1970. My first husband and I had a pleasure boat that we kept at our camp on the bayou near Plaquemine. On Sundays we would launch and ride to Pierre Port, Bayou Pigeon, Lake Pelourle, Morgan City, etc. 2. The scenery, the natural waterways and the availability of fish and other seafood. 3. Blank. 4. I would like to see more boat tours available, which would increase tourism. I would also like to see more movies made in the area portraying a realistic image of the culture of the people who live in the area. 5. Blank. 6. Blank. 7. On page 3 under "The Many and the One" no. 4 - change to the African-American influence. I don't think slavery should be mentioned.	9/1/2008	Port Allen	LA
1-7. Blank.	7/1/2008	Port Allen	LA
1. The Atakapa-Ishak Tribe of SW Louisiana and SE Texas history and culture to be introduced to the public. 2. The public can see the Atakapa territory before it became what it is called today and they can read about the Aboriginal Atakapa-Ishak of Louisiana. 3. That the indigenous tribes of SW Louisiana are not included. 4. I would like to see the original Louisiana history told. 5. Continue to inform about the heritage and cultures of this area. 6. That it is maintained for future generations. 7. Blank.	10/31/2008	Port Arthur	TX

<p>1. The natural resource, which must be supported in a way that is sustainable over a long time. 2. N/C 3. N/C 4. I would like to see the heritage area support programs in school systems. I would like to see the heritage area create an emphasis on managing volunteer resources. 5. I would like to see an emphasis on educational outreach to interest groups, educational programs in schools & traveling exhibits for libraries & public venues. 6. I am concerned about increased ecosystem fragmentation, or breaking down of the large areas into smaller ones, which will have a harder time recovering from impacts. 7. The heritage area should partner with volunteer organizations, who can assist in the collection and allocation of resources, including volunteers.</p>	7/1/2008	Prairieville	LA
<p>1. The Atchafalaya area is special because it remains - to some extent - natural, in spite of the impact mankind has had on it over the past centuries. There are fewer and fewer areas in the US that have not been significantly altered - or destroyed - by human development. We need to save those which remain. 2. The beauty of the Atchafalaya Basin; in the midst of the swamp, away from the bustle and noise of "civilization" provides a place to find peace and - as corny as it sounds - to commune with nature. 3. All the evidence of self-serving humanity - the traces of logging wheels, the canals dug by oil exploration, the ongoing problem with litter - is disturbing to me. 4. I would like to see a volunteer effort established similar to the "Adopt A Mile" program which keeps highways litter-free. I would like to see efforts made to educate the local populations on how their actions help/harm the Atchafalaya. 5. I believe that education of the general public - local citizens as well as tourists - is the key to saving the Atchafalaya for future generations. Many people do not realize (or believe) that their actions affect the world around them. Educational displays should be set up in areas regularly visited by the general public - libraries, malls, etc - where people will "stumble" onto the information, and hopefully be enlightened in spite of themselves. 6. I am concerned that, in an effort to gather support for the Heritage Area and its people, many small businesses (RV parks, convenience stores, swamp tours, gator tours, hunting/fishing treks, etc) will crop up and further destroy the very resource we are trying to save.</p>	6/23/2008	Prairieville	LA
<p>1. The unique culture, the history of the area, the joys and hardships the people faced, the area's resources at the different times of year, the Basin's purpose. 2. The beauty of the area, the changing of the area, the wildlife and uniqueness of the area. 3. Lack of access to the Basin, lack of security to protect personal property when away from vehicle while visiting the Basin. 4. Additional nice boat launches, security to protect parking areas, signs of significant areas, activities to improve wildlife like feed and viewing areas, nature trails to old schools and churches. 5. Ways to protect the area - water flow, tree management, improve access, wildlife management. 6. Peoples' little regard for the area such as littering, access is being restricted by siltation and growth. 7. Please keep me informed. Thanks.</p>	9/1/2008	Prairieville	LA
<p>1. Close proximity of natural resource. 2. Canoeing. 3. Litter. 4. More canoeing trails with floating campsites. 5. Maintenance of canoeing trails and floating campsites. 6. Completion of promised goals. 7. Need trash dumpsters at public boat launches.</p>	9/1/2008	Schriever	LA
<p>1. Natural remoteness for canoeing. 2. Preservation of nature to allow paddling. 3. Nothing 4. Guided canoe and kayak trips. 5. Floating campsites and maintenance thereof. 6. Maintain natural remoteness with restricted access. 7. Use volunteer groups and prison labor to collect litter. Possible signage: "When you litter, you are cursing the community."</p>	7/1/2008	Schriever	LA

<p>1. It is where my family and I spent many hours fishing and boat riding. 2. I love to see the wildlife. 3. Since I-10 was built, it lost good fishing areas and I hate to see the constant fight with the algae. Years ago I don't remember seeing algae, especially in the Henderson area. 4. More interest from investors. That whole area could become a large or I should say, a much larger tourist attraction. 5. Try to interest investors that do recreational parks. Also a nice motel in these areas. 6. People not caring, littering all over. 7. Blank.</p>	7/1/2008	Scott	LA
<p>1. Fishing, boating, camping sites. 2. Relaxing next to the water (river), picnics with family and friends, celebrating special holidays. 3. Mosquitoes, flies, heat (no shade trees) in some areas. 4. Campgrounds - cleared somewhat, but have enough trees for shade and comfort. No commercial building (stores, etc.) 5. Port (as in Simmerport) commercials to that extent would benefit the towns and people. Fishing - sport and commercial. 6. That its development will not continue to its fullest intent. Upkeep will not continue. 7. All of the above will help our developing towns and people. Every effort should be exercised to its fullest extent.</p>	9/1/2008	Simmesport	LA
<p>1. i was born and raised next to the Atchafalaya Basin in the Community of Catahoula. The beauty and peacefulness of the area is like nowhere else on earth. 2. I am a water patrol deputy for St. Martin Sheriff's Dept. I enjoy patrolling the swamps, bayous, and rivers of the Atchafalaya Basin. The scenery is unbelievable. 3. The area where siltation and stagnant water is ruining a great portion of our beautiful swamps, rivers and bayous. Our lakes, rivers and bayous are disappearing. 4. Would like to see natural flow of water in our remaining area like we had 40 to 50 years ago. 5. Get rid of the high siltation banks that keep fresh water to enter swamp, and get rid of spoil banks along gas pipeline in the Basin. 6. If we don't do something to protect our remaining swamp we will lose all the beauty of the Basin with siltation. 7. I have enjoyed the Atchafalaya Basin all my life. I hope we can do something to keep it beautiful for our next generation.</p>	10/31/2008	St. Martinville	LA
<p>1. The Atchafalaya Basin in my backyard. Over the years, many changes have occurred. Some natural, some unnatural. We can't control nature but we can control human changes. The natural beauty of the Basin makes this area very special to me. 2. The diverse cultures of the different areas. This heritage area is vast and contains many different types of cultures, foods, music and unique historical values in each area. 3. My least favorite thing about the heritage area is the commercialism of some of the areas of the Basin. Oil companies have come in and drilled and cut passes throughout the Basin causing some natural siltation and blockages of natural passageways. 4. I would like to see this area stay in the natural way that it is today with as little commercialism as possible. Each parish in the heritage area should be able to employ locals to serve as curators, tour guides, boat drivers, etc. 5. I would like to see job opportunities for participation parishes. For example, St. Martin Parish will be the starting point of the tour, let's turn the city into a showplace for tourists. Artisan building, city tours on mule drawn wagons, boat tours up and down the Bayou Teche, taste of Cajun cuisine in the heart of Cajun land. 6. Commercialism of the Basin area properties: I am concerned about some possible urbanization of some of the higher properties of the Atchafalaya Basin. 7. Let's get the ball rolling!</p>	9/1/2008	St. Martinville	LA

<p>1. The availability of undeveloped hardwoods and swamps for recreation. 2. The availability of undeveloped hardwoods and swamps for recreation. 3. The intrusion of canals and spoil banks associated with oil and gas production. 4. More careful management of oil and gas production, enforcement of regulations and permit restrictions pertaining thereto. 5. More catering to canoes and kayaks, less to powerboats. 6. Unregulated or ill-planned development.</p>	8/15/2008	St. Martinville	LA
<p>1. Wild and wonderful. 2. Being able to see the wildlife. 3. Logging in the Basin; Let the natural channels be, don't let the Corps of Engineers enlarge them; keep Corps of Engineers out. 4. Keep it wild and keep out commercialization. Develop more walking trails if possible. 5. Develop interpretive themes on the periphery. 6. No drilling! Keep it wild. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Thibadeaux	LA
<p>1. The beauty and the nature of it, especially the wildlife. I have lived and played in the Atchafalaya area all my life, fishing, hunting, swimming, boating, camping, and socializing. 2. The wildness of it, the natural beauty that is not as evident in our towns and cities. 3. The drastic change within the past 20 years in water quality, disappearance of aquatic vegetation and top feeder fish, and erosion of the shoreline. 4. See below. 5. See below. 6. I am very worried that NO ACTION will be taken to correct the serious situation this area faces or at least not in time to reverse the dramatic deterioration of the past 25 years. 7. Blank. Since my knowledge of the entire Atchafalaya area is limited, I will concentrate my comments to a specific area, Lake Verret. My knowledge of this area is an accumulation of twenty something years of observation and asking questions, working for water quality and environmental quality. My camp is located on Lake Verret near Four-Mile Bayou and I have been there for twenty plus years, during which I have personally witnessed the constant deterioration of aquatic plants and varieties of fish, causing the once abundant top water feeders, such as bass, brim and sacaulait, to virtually disappear from the area. What replaces them is scavengers such as crabs, catfish, garfish, goux, and carp. This area is unique. When I say Lake Verret, I mean the entire watershed area from White Castle to the Intracoastal Canal near Amelia. There are two main reasons this entire area is in peril: surface water drainage and river water needed. We must change how our surface water reaches the main channel of the water system. Instead of a straight drainage canal, we need to use our natural lowlands (swamps, marshes, etc.) as a filter by pumping the surface water into the surrounding swamps. The fertilizer and sediment will nourish the swamps and make natural ridges. In turn, the swamps will remove pollutants and clarify the water, giving sunlight penetrations to the roots of the aquatic plants and stimulating the plants to grow. Many of the shoreline cypress trees are washing out and falling due to the lack of aquatic vegetation acting as a wave break. This is seriously eroding what has been a pristine and natural cypress swamp. The aquatic grass also used to protect top feeder fish by providing bedding and reproduction shelter. River water introduced back into the main channel of the watershed will swiften the current in the channel and carry sediment out to the barrier islands. The deeper channels and less fertilizer in the water should also reduce the negative effects that result in a dead zone in the Gulf. Additionally, stronger enforcement of litter laws on the water could greatly improve water quality. Boaters and campers should be provided a brochure on do's and don'ts of the waterways. This would make people more aware of what is demanded by law. Citing the laws and fines for littering could go a long way in educating such people. The sooner all this happens the better, because the loss is daily and cumulative.</p>	9/1/2008	Thibodaux	LA

<p>1. It is the "heart" of Louisiana. It is what, literally, everyone things and sees when Louisiana is mentioned or brought forth. It is our heritage - what we are. Is speaks of who we are in the natural and beautiful sense - a "come enjoy it all." 2. Natural beauty - lots of greenery - history, culture, the people and their language, the food. 3. The mosquitoes! 4. It needs to remain in its natural state - it does not need "encroachment and progress" to mar its beauty. Enhancing what is there - not adding to it or changing it. 5. True assessment of properties/landscapes; True inventory of the resources; No political powers at play in the scheme of inventory and assessment; Realistic provisions. 6. Will landowners feel the "power of the dollar" if pressed and sell vital areas within the national heritage area? What will be (or is) planned to see this not happen? 7. This will become a major draw for tourism in all realms - thus bringing in awareness of what we have to offer. Let's do it right!</p>	9/1/2008	UNK	UN
<p>1. 1) Nature - diversity & bounty - keeping it. 2) Culture - staying authentic 3) Focusing resulting economic increase via tourism into true improvement in quality of life of residents. 2. 1) Birding 2) Fishing 3) Eating & visiting the people & enjoying their outlook. 3. 1) Sprawl development, encroaching big box chains 2) Mega-mansion developments swallowing towns 3) Junked oil installations, lack of cohesive natural [can't read] sustainability plan. 4. 1) More natural area 2) Less suburban sprawl 3) Making sure economic increase stays in communities. 5. 1) Sustainability, environment & culture priority one. 6. That it becomes a Disneyland (or worse) caricature of itself. 7. Thanks for doing this!!! See attached comments.</p>	7/1/2008	Unk	UN
<p>Need more events. The Catholic Church-sponsored events along the neighborhood bayous are gone. The culture is on the bayous. Concerned that they are losing the bayou culture. [Stated in French and then translated] "We don't want it to look professional, we want it to look real."</p>	6/27/2008	Unk	LA
<p>1. I was raised up hunting and fishing in the Atchafalaya swamp. 2. All the natural waterways, wildlife, and forest of cypress and willow and hardwood ridges. 3. Blank. 4. I would like to see more natural water going through the spillway, the Corps of Engineers have totally screwed the natural system up. We need more springtime flooding. 5. We need more natural spring flooding like before. It increased fish populations and rejuvenated the water system. 6. Too much politics, I'm afraid it will end up like the Louisiana marshes, disappearing - lots of talk and NO ACTION! 7. Blank.</p>	8/20/2008	UNK	UN
<p>1. Geography and natural resources. 2. Vistas, scenery. 3. Trash. 4. Dedicated trails for hiking, biking, and kayaking. 5. Protection of natural resources. 6. Development both residential and industrial. 7. As much as possible should be protected green field.</p>	8/20/2008	UNK	UN
<p>1. The unique culture and the recreational resources. 2. Swamp tours and interpretive theme. 3. Accessibility. 4. Would like to see development as a tourism resource without becoming too commercialized. 5. Tourism and educational development provided to visitors to Louisiana. 6. Funding resources and over-development which would destroy the uniqueness of the area which is symbolic of Louisiana. 7. Blank.</p>	8/13/2008	UNK	UN

1. Spring - return of the migratory birds as they build nests and the photo ops they provide - natural beauty of the place sprouts from everywhere. 2. Setting up in secluded areas and letting nature come out for a visit. It is truly remarkable amount of game, birds, etc. that this area provides a home for. 3. Shooting range - limited access to some areas - lack of trails. There could be miles to hiking/walking trails with numerous stops that would open untold acres of discovery to everyone that wanted the opportunity. 4. Expanded access without damaging current socio/eco balance. Trails to conform to topography in place without changing drainages, etc. 5. More. 6. Keeping intact. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	UNK	UN
1. It is a natural area not spoiled by man. 2. Being back to nature. 3. Nothing. 4. Not see any changes in nature. 5. None. 6. Keeping it safe. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	UNK	UN
1. First it covers the parish where I live and also all three parishes that the company I work for serves electricity. 2. The Atchafalaya Basin itself. 3. Nothing. 4. Blank. 5. Blank. 6. Blank. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	UNK	UN
1. The opportunity to hunt and fish at a location which is in close proximity and relatively easy to access. 2. The quiet, serene beauty of the area and the abundance of wildlife. 3. The acquisition of private lands by the federal government and the imposition of strict land use policies on the sportsmen. 4. I would like to see the Atchafalaya Basin remain free from excessive federal restrictions and regulations allowing the basin to remain wild and free as it is currently. 5. I would like the management of any type of plan adopted be under the management and control of the state, parish and local government officials. 6. Federal takeover and intervention. 7. Blank.	9/1/2008	UNK	UN
Anything you'll do besides talk about it would be good. Just don't study it to death forever. Just do something. It seems there is too much studying and not enough action in every department of this country. We are about to lose the Spring Bayou area because of no action just studying. If it wasn't for Benny Paul Bordelon we wouldn't be getting anything done, and that's a fact. I love where I live, it could be beautiful again with action, not words. Benny Paul Bordelon is the President of the Spring Bayou Restoration Team and can be contacted at 318-253-4821.	9/1/2008	UNK	LA
1. The fact that generations have been hunting and fishing and making their living there. The only other major tributary putting fresh water into our ecosystem to sustain a viable mixture of brackish water along our coast for shrimp, oyster and crab habitat. 2. The seafood mostly, but hunting and fishing that is open to the public. 3. Pollutants in the water from the northern states. 4. I would like to see a diversion along the Wax Lake outlet to divert the fresh water farther out to sea, giving our estuaries a more sustainable salinity level so in high water years we don't lose our oysters which takes years to recover. 5. I would like water quality to be at the forefront, and public launches, roads, and parks well-managed. 6. I have been to a few meetings about the Basin and crawfisherman were heard above all else. The fishermen in the Basin. 7. Blank.	7/1/2008	Unk	UN
Please add my mailing address to the Atchafalaya NHA management plan mailing list. Also please send me your June 2008 newsletter. Thank you.	6/16/2008	Ventura	CA

1. It is the inheritance of all that live in Louisiana and the greater United States of America. The great Atchafalaya, named by the local native American Indians, means "long river." This magnificent body of water, alive and bursting with life has been a relaxing and peaceful recreation for my family most of my adult life. Great memories of camping, boating, fishing, watching beautiful scenes of the sunrise and sunsets and just being still in the most scenic water lands in Louisiana and the United States. The huge and vast span of nature takes my breath away when watching the sanctuary that host many species of beautiful birds and wildlife as they begin their roosting at dusk, then on clear evenings catching the sunset as the sun slowly seeps into the basin and at the same time turning around to face a full moon rise in the sky amidst the shadows of the moss draped Cypress trees. My senses are filled during each visit, making this a very special and sacred place to meditate our precious earth. Ah, like no other place in the world, the state of Louisiana can boast of this incredible gift from nature. That is the most precious and special place that surround my community. 2. a. What I enjoy most is the surrounding river side parish communities and cities that serve the "Atchafalaya" as the historic and cultural paradise for the inhabitants that live near and around the 800,000 acres of hardwood forest, marsh, cypress, and willow trees, and the lovely winding bayous. It is a draw for tourists, local sportsman and families alike. Many build homes, cottages and camp out in this area to enjoy fishing, hunting, and outdoor boating sports. The first settled Acadians and still today locals fish the seafood bounty of the Basin for their livelihood. b. The bedroom cities offer city services, shopping, antique and specialty boutiques, restaurants, museums, memorials, historic state park sites, historic monuments/buildings, and Cajun, Creole, Zydeco music and dancing created by the local musicians. There are B&Bs, hotels, camp and house boat rentals for tourists or locals who want to get near the sights and scents of the mighty natural water. These riverside hamlets make for a wondrous backdrop to the Atchafalaya River. 3.a. In my opinion, there are not enough river tours and house boat rentals. With the vast amount of non-toured areas, it would be an asset if the state could offer more opportunities for canoe and boat tours. This would open more interest for travel writers, artists, media, tourists and locals who do not own boats to tour untapped regions that are only seen by those who have known how to navigate the paths around the basin. b. I do not like to see our vast natural resource be so neglected for many years. I fear that this one of a kind gift to mankind may be lost. The fishing industry is in jeopardy and the tourism impact on our area is neglected. Also, there is much disappointment when I think of the funds that are not being used to enhance the beauty of the river and gateway cities into a magnificent natural preserve. This place is a natural wonder we must protect as soon as possible. 4. a. More efforts to preserve and protect the Atchafalaya with improvement and enhancement of the interpretation of the history, culture, traditions and stories of the people who lived around the river and who are settled on the lands nearby. Assistance with the preservation of the French language is a great need since it was French speaking Acadians who settled this area in the 1760s. All interpretations should be bi-lingual. b. I hope to see in place visions and goals that will help save one of the largest swamps in the United States. To have a management team from the National Park Service assist with future plans, would give fresh and new ideas to enhance and improve the natural site. 5. It would be a strong addition if more effective programs could be developed such as: Enhanced river tours, historic and cultural programs geared toward heritage and ecotourism, nationally recognized birding paths and tours, a strong protection of the fishing industry so important to the people who live off the Basin, and

7/1/2008

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LA

<p>the creation of much more camp sites with nice state operated cottages, etc. 6.As Director of St. Martinville Tourism I am concerned about the missed opportunities to capitalize on what this and other gateway cities can add to the interpretation of the Atchafalaya, steeped in history of one of the oldest settlements in Louisiana. I believe that the historic heritage area must look to a museum or center to be the major part of telling the local history. The "Atchafalaya Basin" can be the mecca for tourist learning the story of the Acadian settlement.</p>			
<p>1. It holds the history of our ancestors within its banks. The beauty. 2. Wildlife, moss, flowers, natural beauty. 3. Blank. 4. Easier access - more advertisement and nationwide; Save and protect the area; Guided tours. 5. More schools involved. If the kids are not educated about it; it will be their responsibility to preserve the area for the future. What they can't touch will not get their attention. 6. Lack of funding - no interest from the state or nation, they don't seem to be aware or care what a treasure the area is. 7. Anyway I can help from NW LA, I will.</p>	9/1/2008	Vivian	LA
<p>1. It is the most beautiful and rich with history in central Louisiana. Piece of land we should develop this strip not only for the tourist but the locals as well. Include the Atchafalaya program into this development. 2. The scenery - traveling through the towns of LA. They are unique - something out of the past. 3. People not respecting our heritage - not keeping it clean. 4. I would like to see a place where the locals can travel with their families and enjoy what their state has to offer - discover that grass is greener in their own backyard. 5. Maybe to be able to increase jobs for our young - to want to stay in LA. 6. The economy - saving enough money to develop our national heritage trace. 7. Blank.</p>	9/1/2008	Washington	LA
<p>1. Historic site - increased touring to the 3rd oldest settlement in Louisiana (Washington). 2. Blank. 3. Blank. 4. Continue the progress made by Ms. Sandra Thompson and her committees. 5. Blank. 6. Blank. 7. I am sending information in and around the town of Washington in St. Landry Parish, Louisiana.</p>	9/1/2008	Washington	LA
<p>1. The Atchafalaya Basin is officially recognized as the largest wetlands in the U.S. and is presently accessible to over a million citizens. Let's expand accessibility facilities that will allow more people to enjoy. 2. Its natural beauty of water, trees, plants, land, animals, fish, etc., and its ability to replenish and survive, despite man's intrusion and pollution. 3. The unreasonable and uncontrolled pollution by users of this beautiful waterway. This pollution must be stopped with stronger rules and laws and enforcement. 4. I believe that it's a special opportunity to develop the history and the various cultures of the people of this Basin. Native Americans, Acadians, Anglos, etc. who lived and worked in the Atchafalaya. Note: I would not like the above to be overlooked. 5. For the "management" plan to be administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the State of Louisiana and local governments. 6. That the development of the management plan and the implementation of the plan would be delayed another fifty years. 7. Our America has the necessary trained professionals and expertise to make this happen. Let's do it now - not later.</p>	9/1/2008	Youngsville	LA