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May 25, 2010

**Atchafalaya National Heritage Area
Draft Alternative Public Comment Analysis Report**

SUMMARY

In April 2010, a newsletter was sent out to individuals and organizations in the areas surrounding and adjacent to the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area. Newsletters or comment forms were also distributed at public meetings and other events within the heritage area in May 2010. The newsletter provided information about the heritage area management plan and asked for public feedback on preliminary management alternatives.

Additionally, a total of seven public meetings were held from May 3rd-May 6th, 2010. These meetings took place in Iberville Parish, Baton Rouge, St. Landry Parish, Avoyelles Parish, St. Mary Parish, and St. Martin Parish. These meetings provided the public an opportunity to express their thoughts and opinions about the preliminary management alternatives.

The official public scoping comment period for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area Management Plan opened on April 19th and closed on May 19th. Comments received through May 24th are included in this summary. Comments were received via either 1) hardcopy comment form or letter, 2) directly input into the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website by the commenter (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/iatr>), or 3) recorded on flipchart pages at the public meetings. Respondents represented 3 states (Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas) and included private individuals, non-governmental organizations, and one federal agency.

During the official comment period 46 individual correspondences were received via letter, electronic entries into PEPC, and hardcopy comment forms. The flipchart notes taken at the public meetings represent another 7 pieces of correspondence. Together, the public input yielded 223 total comments.

Most comments expressed an interest in the final alternative being a combination of alternatives B and C, with B being the more preferred, followed by C, and only a few in support of the No Action Alternative. None of the commenters stated that they do not support any of the

alternatives. The following provides a list of the items in each alternative that the public expressed should either be retained or eliminated, as well as other items identified such as changes to the alternative maps, and items they consider as common to all. Please see the “Full Comment Listing Sorted by Assigned Code(s)” section below for a complete listing of all comments by code.

Alternative A (No Action)

Specific Items Supported:

There were only eight comments in regard to specific items supported in Alternative A. However, the comments provided appear to be either action items the commenter would like to see under this alternative, or they may have meant to put the comment under one of the action alternatives. There is one comment in support of continuation of current programs, and the levels of funding being administered by the Atchafalaya Commission and Louisiana Office of Tourism. There are also comments that state they do not support any part of the no action alternative and that improvements and an increase in programs are needed in order to promote the heritage area.

Items to Eliminate:

A few commenters shared their support for Alternative A and felt that nothing in this alternative should be eliminated.

For the most part, commenters felt that Alternative A was not a viable option and should be eliminated in its entirety.

Alternative B

Specific Items Supported:

The specific items commenters supported in Alternative B include conservation and protection of natural resources, ecotourism, birding, satellite business and industry, preservation and stewardship opportunities, volunteerism, canoe launch sites, resource-based/low-impact recreation opportunities, increasing the public’s awareness of and respect for the natural resources, the connectedness, the visitor and interpretive centers as gateways, driving tours, and the restoration of areas affected by oil and gas activities. One comment states that the concept statement for this alternative is great.

Items to Eliminate:

Some specific items comments suggested should be eliminated from Alternative B include:

- Allowing helicopters to be part of the alternative transportation options – they fear there would be issues between the tourists and the Cajun fishermen if helicopters were allowed to give tours.
- Drawing more people to the swamp will exacerbate the long lines at boat ramps that currently exist. They fear that bringing in large amounts of tourists will result in damage to resources.
- A few comments expressed that they don’t want to see expensive tourist centers created that require permanent employees to maintain at long-term costs to taxpayers.

- One commenter stated that they are against proposed water trails as the Atchafalaya River is dangerous, especially when visitors are on canoes during hunting season.
- Another commenter expressed that the reduction of intrusive traversing into inner swamplands and wildlife areas should be eliminated.
- Other comments state that nothing should be eliminated from Alternative B.

Alternative C

Specific Items Supported:

The specific items commenters supported in Alternative C are volunteerism, the opportunities for the young and old to learn about the cultures and traditions, the emphasis on history and culture, the emphasis on coordinated programs, having interpretive and welcome centers as gateways, relating food and music to the land, festivals and events, floating campsites for paddlers, promotion of current heritage/cultural centers, focusing on tourism, and education programs.

Items to Eliminate:

Some commenters expressed fear that Alternative C appears to have more emphasis on commercialism and turning the area into a museum or theme park. Others want to see the addition of some ecosystem features in this alternative. One commenter would like to see less emphasis on religion and language. Another commenter would like to eliminate interpretation of the Civil War in the heritage area. Several other commenters felt that nothing should be eliminated from Alternative C.

Other items of note:

Elements Suggested as Common to All Action Alternatives:

- One comment suggested the term “magical” be eliminated from any discussion of the plan. The commenter felt this term brings to mind an image akin to “Disney World.”
- Another comment stated that the branding of the heritage area as, “America’ Foreign Country” be rethought. They feel that this branding generates a negative interpretation of, and an aversion to, the heritage area. A second comment in this regard suggested the branding be, “America’s Natural Heritage”
- Several comments stated that access should be emphasized.
- Several comments also requested that development and infrastructure be limited, that existing centers should be used as necessary.

Suggested Changes to the Alternative Maps:

- Update maps to include USACE Indian Bayou
- Show the Atchafalaya Bay Delta on the maps

New Alternatives/New Elements to Existing Alternatives (including strategies, approaches, and themes):

- Better water transportation
- Improved access, signage, and interpretation beyond boat tours
- Greater emphasis on education
- Scenic byways – interpretation, promotion, and coordination with the heritage themes

- Need to promote eco-businesses
- Need to remember that there are still people who use the basin for the livelihoods, these people should not be on display for tourists, and they need to be able to continue their way of life without disruption from tourists.
- Greater emphasis on making the interpretive and welcome centers gateways for activities and trailheads for land or water trails.
- Keep in mind that mobile recreation distributes visitors and enhances economic development, but also maintains authenticity.
- Strive to get younger generations involved
- Certify tourism businesses
- Emphasize the hospitality of the people
- Need to highlight the history of natural resources – logging, oil industry, and development of the spillway, etc.
- A couple comments suggested the need for facilities to support paddling such as campsites and restrooms, one asked if visitor centers could include access for restrooms and showers for paddlers, bikers, and hikers.
- One comment suggested that Morgan City and the surrounding area should be the gateway to the heritage area
- Another comment shared support for keeping commercial ventures outside of the levees
- Emphasis and support is needed in the center of “the basin” comparable to what is being afforded or suggested for the periphery of the heritage area.
- Support for a visitor welcome or interpretive center in Simmesport
- Increase the number of museums and visitor-tourist them station points throughout the heritage area
- Include inventory, land marking and stewardship of old growth cypress
- Emphasize the negative aspects of oil and gas leasing
- Many comments about connections, gateways, and east-west, north-south tourist movement throughout the heritage area
- Offer packages for tourists such as bed and breakfast, dining, entertainment, museums, etc.
- The function of the delta growth in combating land loss should be emphasized
- One comment expressed their desire to not incorporate conservation easements; cited issues experienced by landowners
- Collect [more] oral histories
- Need improved coordination on websites – linking the Atchafalaya.org website to Parish Tourism websites to the Louisiana Travel website to Scenic Byways, etc.

Full Comment Listing Sorted by Assigned Code(s)

AL1100 Alt A - Supports alternative A (No Action)

Correspondence Id: 10 **Comment Id:** 140799

Comment Text: Alt A: Yes-Leave as is.

Correspondence Id: 17 **Comment Id:** 140833

Comment Text: Alt A: Leave it Alone. You don't protect habitat by building roads & buildings.

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 140801

Comment Text: Alt A: Considering debt problems this seems the logical alternative. People will come with/without action. Of course, those who make a living running the Trace program would surely disagree.

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 140743

Comment Text: Topic 1 - I prefer: No Action

AL1300 Alt A - Specific items supported in alternative A (No Action)

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 140944

Comment Text: Alt A: Cajun Destination Habitat Resort Community Highlighting Cajun & Creole Culture. (Dedicated Finance)

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 141360

Comment Text: Alt A: Improvements and increase in current programs and levels funding overall intentions to promote identities of themes within park area(s)

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 140848

Comment Text: Alt A: The Land

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 140865

Comment Text: Alt A: Canoe/Kayak/Paddling Trails

Commenter: Canoe 2

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140779

Comment Text: Alt. A: People traveling want to see sites. Need to get them there, everything else falls in place.

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140877

Comment Text: Alt A: All

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 141166

Comment Text: Alt A: Continuation of current programs, levels of funding administered by the Atchafalaya commission & LA Office of Tourism.

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140925

Comment Text: Alt A: None of it!

AL1400 Alt A - Specific items that should be eliminated from alternative A (No Action)

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 140950

Comment Text: Alt A: We cannot stand still-this alternative fails to take advantage of the opportunity for a comprehensive management plan.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141192

Comment Text: Please eliminate the use of the word "magical" from any discussion of the plan, which could bring to mind some kind of Disney world experience. The Basin is a living, breathing culture, not something in which you can charge admission and use special effects.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140917

Comment Text: Alt A: Don't like it. Need to move to get federal funding.

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140814

Comment Text: Alt A: Delete.

Organization: USGS

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 140796

Comment Text: All Alts: None

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140879

Comment Text: None. Keep All.

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 141169

Comment Text: Alt A: No increase in federal funding.

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 140853

Comment Text: Alt A: Survival-Heritage, Traditions

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141238

Comment Text: I don't like the branding "America's Foreign Country." First, I'm not sure what this means. I think that it is meant to impart a message of an 'exotic' place right here in America. However, I can also see it as being interpreted as 'A backward place in a backward state.' I think that with Louisiana's reputation as being backwards, this is a real concern, and we must be careful. I would rather us brand the Atchafalaya in a more universally positive manner, focusing on its sheer massive size and natural beauty. For instance, you don't see California branding itself as something different than America, but rather something better in America. Second, if this is meant to coax Americans into visiting an 'exotic' location, I'd beware of backfire. Americans largely seem to have an aversion to traveling to foreign countries unless they are in a Westernized resort atmosphere, on an all-you can eat cruise, or in air conditioned tour buses. When Americans do venture abroad, they like exotic locations 'under glass.' Additionally, I would argue that our nationalism has increased in recent years, due to geopolitics, and this is

largely at the expense of our country's already low internationalism. So, I'm not sure that branding this place as an exotic foreign country experience will be effective. I think that there are a number of branding hooks that would be much more effective.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 140940

Comment Text: Alt A: Most.

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140928

Comment Text: Alt A: All of the elements of this concept.

AL1500 Alt A - Does not support alternative A (No Action)

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141273

Comment Text: Selection of Alternative "B" or "C" to the exclusion of the other would be an incomplete plan and "no action" is not a useful Alternative. Although the Atchafalaya Basin Program bears primary State responsibility for environmental protection and restoration of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, additional conservation efforts are needed outside the Atchafalaya Protection Levees, and the ANHA could provide a mechanism for collecting public input and coordinating environmental, recreational and cultural conservation efforts across a wider area than that inside the Floodway.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140971

Comment Text: -Don't like A.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140970

Comment Text: -Bayou Plaquemine is entry/gateway to Atchafalaya.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 141362

Comment Text: Alt A: Eliminate alternative A: for reason that it does not place emphasis of the five interpretive themes established for the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141365

Comment Text: Alt A: Not an option!

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140993

Comment Text: -Both B&C are important. A is not acceptable.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 140901

Comment Text: Alt A: Area needs funding and change!

Organization: Arnold LeDoux Library-LSU Eunice

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141237

Comment Text: We'd eliminate the Alternative A altogether. Like I stated above, eliminate any cultural components that do not specifically focus on the natural resources. For example, get rid of all of the Civil War interpretation.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140811

Comment Text: Alt A: Delete.

Organization: USGS

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 140938

Comment Text: Alt A: Should be omitted. Accepted, we never get off of square one.

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140917

Comment Text: Alt A: Don't like it. Need to move to get federal funding.

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140906

Comment Text: Alt A: Don't like it-However right now we know who is running it. Atch. Commission & LA Office of Tourism, Federal Funding

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 141266

Comment Text: I think we have basically eliminated Alternative A from consideration, except as a standard by which to evaluate the others.

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 141159

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: X; Alt B: Check; Alt C: Check

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 140891

Comment Text: Alt A: Eliminate

Organization: LA Department of Education

AL2100 Alt B - Supports alternative B

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 141177

Comment Text: Maybe I'm biased by being an outdoorsman, but to me the obvious choice is B. The Atchafalaya is all about nature. It's a swamp, for heaven's sake ? a network of rivers, bayous, lakes and backwaters that makes for excellent fishing, hunting, canoeing, camping and exploring. Lake Fausse Pointe State Park, located on the west side of the basin, is a great example of how to "develop" the area. This park ? one of my favorite anywhere ? has cabins on a bayou, an RV and tent campground, nature trails, canoe trails and primitive campsites accessible only by water. It's also a jumping off spot for exploring hundreds of square miles of wetlands ? the Deep South's answer to Minnesota's Boundary Waters. Even so, some facets of Alternative B bother me. In particular, one sentence touts expanding alternative transportation such as "rail, bus and helicopter." Buses, I can see. Trains, maybe. But helicopters? How long do you reckon it would

take some Cajun fishermen to whip out a shotgun when a tourist chopper buzzes him while he's running crawfish traps? Seriously, I've camped in an area served by tourist helicopters, and it's awful. The whole idea of drawing more people into the swamp isn't exactly appealing. You already have to get in line to launch a boat at some of the public ramps. That's the catch about "ecotourism." It's meant to protect and preserve areas which otherwise might be mined, drilled, dammed and logged to death. But bringing in hordes of tourists can result in another sort of death.

Organization: Enterprise-Journal

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 141159

Comment Text: 2. Alt A: X; Alt B: Check; Alt C: Check

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 141157

Comment Text: Alt B: I agree with this alternative to protect the present & future of Atchafalaya for now & future generations.

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 140804

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Considering debt problems this seems the logical alternative. People will come with/without action. Of course, those who make a living running the Trace program would surely disagree. 4. See 1, above. But if you must spend money, I prefer Alternative B to Alternative C.

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 140773

Comment Text: Alt B: All parts-if this part (Alt. B) is put into action, Part C will automatically fall into place.

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 140828

Comment Text: Please don't create expensive tourist centers that require permanent employees to maintain at long-term costs for the taxpayers. Alt B: Do prefer B: would like to see the federal money used to restore the water quality to basin. I remember in 60s fishing & crawfishing was great because the River flooded into basin in spring & kept bayous and waterways open. Have blocked off well levees & spoil banks from. Digging canals and laying pipelines. Need to open flow again even if require some flood gates.

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 141248

Comment Text: Alt B: Check; Alt C: Check

Correspondence Id: 14 **Comment Id:** 140826

Comment Text: Alt B is circled.

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 140939

Comment Text: Alt B: Strongly recommend all aspects of Alt B.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140958

Comment Text: -Alt B is the key to Atchafalaya
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

AL2200 Alt B - Supports alternative B with suggested changes (including new elements or approaches)

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141201

Comment Text: Alternative B is a good place to start, but until Cajun fishermen are a consulting party this project will miss an important part of the heritage.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

AL2300 Alt B - Specific items supported in alternative B

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141040

Comment Text: -Conservation of resources

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 141177

Comment Text: Maybe I'm biased by being an outdoorsman, but to me the obvious choice is B. The Atchafalaya is all about nature. It's a swamp, for heaven's sake ? a network of rivers, bayous, lakes and backwaters that makes for excellent fishing, hunting, canoeing, camping and exploring. Lake Fausse Pointe State Park, located on the west side of the basin, is a great example of how to "develop" the area. This park ? one of my favorite anywhere ? has cabins on a bayou, an RV and tent campground, nature trails, canoe trails and primitive campsites accessible only by water. It's also a jumping off spot for exploring hundreds of square miles of wetlands ? the Deep South's answer to Minnesota's Boundary Waters. Even so, some facets of Alternative B bother me. In particular, one sentence touts expanding alternative transportation such as "rail, bus and helicopter." Buses, I can see. Trains, maybe. But helicopters? How long do you reckon it would take some Cajun fishermen to whip out a shotgun when a tourist chopper buzzes him while he's running crawfish traps? Seriously, I've camped in an area served by tourist helicopters, and it's awful. The whole idea of drawing more people into the swamp isn't exactly appealing. You already have to get in line to launch a boat at some of the public ramps. That's the catch about "ecotourism." It's meant to protect and preserve areas which otherwise might be mined, drilled, dammed and logged to death. But bringing in hordes of tourists can result in another sort of death.

Organization: Enterprise-Journal

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 140945

Comment Text: Alt B: Satellite Business & Industry

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141089

Comment Text: -Need birding; need to push it, especially given current oil spill.-need to protect wildlife

Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141093

Comment Text: -Volunteerism is important.
Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 141085

Comment Text: -Emphasis on B-Preservation of Natural Resources-(Cypress Trees, Nesting sites)

Commenter: Baton Rouge (PM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140780

Comment Text: Alt. B: Combine B&C with Extra Emphasis on Visitor welcome and information centers, Advertisement, Hwy 15 from Deer Park thru New Rhodes to Hwy 190 then South, sites to include locks and water controls (5) systems, Morganza Spillway and Bonnie-Carrie Spillway, Port Hudson Confederate Park.

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 141257

Comment Text: Alt B: Natural Resources and Recreation is needed for our area of tourism.

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 141249

Comment Text: Alt B: Preservation, stewardship, and opportunities to visit old growth cypress in the Heritage Area.

Organization: LA Purchase Cypress Legacy

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140878

Comment Text: Alt B and C: All. Incorporate both equally important.

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 140866

Comment Text: Alt B: Canoe launch sites

Commenter: Canoe 2

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 141167

Comment Text: Alt B: Protecting the natural resources in the Atchafalaya.

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 140849

Comment Text: Alt B: The Land

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 140828

Comment Text: Please don't create expensive tourist centers that require permanent employees to maintain at long-term costs for the taxpayers. Alt B: Do prefer B: would like to see the federal money used to restore the water quality to basin. I remember in 60s fishing & crawfishing was great because the River flooded into basin in spring & kept bayous and waterways open. Have blocked off well levees & spoil banks from. Digging canals and laying pipelines. Need to open flow again even if require some flood gates.

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 140890

Comment Text: Alt B: Human interaction with and impact on these valuable natural resources; plus protecting natural resources. We need to increase the public's respect for our valuable resources.

Organization: LA Department of Education

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 140794

Comment Text: Alt B and Alt C: This is great for our young to learn our old cultures & traditions, to see the old bldgs etc. Also it blends in with Alternative B for activities.

Correspondence Id: 8 **Comment Id:** 140791

Comment Text: Alt B: I do feel strongly that focus on natural resources and related recreation is best - water trails good idea

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140836

Comment Text: Alt B: Keep the basin wet and wild.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141190

Comment Text: It's hard to know where much hiking could take place inside the basin, but the emphasis on canoes and fishing should be kept.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141189

Comment Text: Also, the emphasis on coordinated programs is excellent. Church groups could do clean-up programs. School kids could do water monitoring. There is a great opportunity to bring college kids from around the country to study the ecosystem and have a great time. Outreach to colleges with interim semesters and study-abroad programs could also factor into this. Several regional liberal arts colleges and universities have interim semesters in January, which would be a great time for college kids to come stay and live in the basin and do research or service-learning projects (clean-up, creating trails, etc.).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141188

Comment Text: People are hungering for information on how to experience the basin, which can be daunting and inaccessible. Please keep the emphasis on making interpretative and welcome centers gateways for activities and trailheads for land or water trails. Also, focusing on the connectedness of everything with the river and the existing byways is good. The emphasis on topically organized activities is a good one. People could have themes to follow: crawfishing in the spring; music in the winter; birdwatching during migration periods; etc.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141187

Comment Text: Please keep the emphasis on the natural areas. Please keep the emphasis on protecting natural resources and engaging in natural resource-based recreation. Please emphasize the living, current connection between Cajun culture and the Basin for food, sustenance, and culture. Birdwatching trails are great and a good opportunity for folks to see and experience the basin. Please keep the emphasis on bird watching.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141185

Comment Text: Alternative B has a great concept statement!

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141184

Comment Text: Canoe trails, driving tours, and low impact tourism can and should be funded. There is a moneyed group of travelers from around the world who want to canoe through the swamp and see commercial crawfishermen going about their work. Think of agri-tourism in Europe where tourists spend thousands of dollars to stay on a working farm and help out with farm chores. It is a niche market, but it is a niche that appeals to people with lots of money. Nobody goes to France to sit in a sterile building to watch natives pick grapes or make cheese. Instead, visitors drive or walk through towns and orchards to see day-to-day life. If young folks from around the world who come over for Jazz -Fest, Festival International, and Mardi Gras knew about a canoe trail they could take through the basin with primitive campsites along the way, then there would be a boom in tourism.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140986

Comment Text: -Atchafalaya day is important-Hits on C-Need more experiential opportunities (hits on B)

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141236

Comment Text: We feel that all parts of Alternative B should be included in the plan. Focusing on the natural resources is extremely important in this area, not only because of the biodiversity importance of the ARB (locally, nationally, and globally) but also because of the linkage with the people. The Cajun culture is focused on extensively in south Louisiana, so any focus on people in this area should focus specifically on linkage with the natural resources. This will help drive the proper restoration and conservation of this magnificent river system. We do like the idea of the culture trails, but feel that the trails should not focus on things like the civil war and slavery, but rather on trails of how trappers used the land or focus on the old houseboat communities. There is enough Antebellum and Civil War interpretation in this part of the country. Let's do something different here. Perhaps the African American trail can focus on the linkage of this culture with the early Cajun culture and how each taught the other to live with the land. Likewise, as the Native American trail will undoubtedly focus on the land, also explore the relationships between these three groups and their relationship to the land. These sorts of innovative culture ideas would be innovative and extremely educational, as nobody talks about that. To properly restore and manage these large river systems, we need to focus on the importance to the people. This effort is a unique way to do that, so it's important that it focus on the link between people and the natural resources.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140926

Comment Text: Alt B: Access elements should be given priority as most of this area is not easy to get to.

Correspondence Id: 41 **Comment Id:** 141165

Comment Text: Alt B: Focus on Natural Resources

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140908

Comment Text: Alt B: Natural resources-logging history/oil industry history making it into a spillway/intercoastal canal/plans for future

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 141267

Comment Text: Alternative B and C, however, are so critical to telling the basin story and to protecting its values, I question whether we can choose between either and do the basin justice. The resources, including the river bottom forests, the fluctuating hydrology which enables it to serve as a floodway under highwater conditions and provide forest products, agriculture, commercial and recreational fishing, oil and gas extraction and eco-tourism under more normal water conditions make the basin what it is. This goes hand in glove with the history of those who settled and used this area through time. Interpreting the basin and explaining its importance, requires both a thorough background of its resources and an accounting of those who have used the basin, and their myriad histories. A major goal of the heritage area must be to increase public awareness and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources of the area. We must make the basin important enough in the public eye to prevent its destruction by those intent on short term gain. The history of resource exploitation in the past serves to tell us what to do and not do in the future. With major flooding in Tennessee and a budding drought in central Louisiana (less than one-inch in April), it seems apparent the bizarre extremes of global climate change are upon us and it is critical to operate the Old River Control Structure to maintain an adequate water flow through the basin. There is also the question of subsidence and whether interior flooding will increase and become more permanent.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140964

Comment Text: -Restoration of areas damaged by big oil

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140962

Comment Text: -Keep it wet & wild.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 140949

Comment Text: Alt B: I favor this alternative in so much as it offers utilization of the natural resources while protecting the environment, but does not preclude events.

AL2400 Alt B - Specific items that should be eliminated from alternative B

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 141177

Comment Text: Maybe I'm biased by being an outdoorsman, but to me the obvious choice is B. The Atchafalaya is all about nature. It's a swamp, for heaven's sake ? a network of rivers, bayous, lakes and backwaters that makes for excellent fishing, hunting, canoeing, camping and exploring. Lake Fausse Pointe State Park, located on the west side of the basin, is a great example of how to "develop" the area. This park ? one of my favorite anywhere ? has cabins on a bayou, an RV and tent campground, nature trails, canoe trails and primitive campsites accessible only by water. It's also a jumping off spot for exploring hundreds of square miles of wetlands ? the Deep South's answer to Minnesota's Boundary Waters. Even so, some facets of Alternative B bother me. In particular, one sentence touts expanding alternative transportation such as "rail, bus and helicopter." Buses, I can see. Trains, maybe. But helicopters? How long do you reckon it would take some Cajun fishermen to whip out a shotgun when a tourist chopper buzzes him while he's running crawfish traps? Seriously, I've camped in an area served by tourist helicopters, and it's awful. The whole idea of drawing more people into the swamp isn't exactly appealing. You already have to get in line to launch a boat at some of the public ramps. That's the catch about "ecotourism." It's meant to protect and preserve areas which otherwise might be mined, drilled, dammed and logged to death. But bringing in hordes of tourists can result in another sort of death.

Organization: Enterprise-Journal

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 140796

Comment Text: All Alts: None

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140879

Comment Text: None. Keep All.

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 140744

Comment Text: Topic 2 - DO NOT ADD INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 140829

Comment Text: As an example, I see millions spent for a tourist center at the old Plaquemine locks at a continuing expense which will never be offset. This had no improvement in the "Basin's" problem.

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 140828

Comment Text: Please don't create expensive tourist centers that require permanent employees to maintain at long-term costs for the taxpayers. Alt B: Do prefer B: would like to see the federal money used to restore the water quality to basin. I remember in 60s fishing & crawfishing was great because the River flooded into basin in spring & kept bayous and waterways open. Have blocked off well levees & spoil banks from. Digging canals and laying pipelines. Need to open flow again even if require some flood gates.

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141238

Comment Text: I don't like the branding "America's Foreign Country." First, I'm not sure what this means. I think that it is meant to impart a message of an 'exotic' place right here in America. However, I can also see it as being interpreted as 'A backward place in a backward state.' I think that with Louisiana's reputation as being backwards, this is a real concern, and we must be

careful. I would rather us brand the Atchafalaya in a more universally positive manner, focusing on its sheer massive size and natural beauty. For instance, you don't see California branding itself as something different than America, but rather something better in America. Second, if this is meant to coax Americans into visiting an 'exotic' location, I'd beware of backfire. Americans largely seem to have an aversion to traveling to foreign countries unless they are in a Westernized resort atmosphere, on an all-you can eat cruise, or in air conditioned tour buses. When Americans do venture abroad, they like exotic locations 'under glass.' Additionally, I would argue that our nationalism has increased in recent years, due to geopolitics, and this is largely at the expense of our country's already low internationalism. So, I'm not sure that branding this place as an exotic foreign country experience will be effective. I think that there are a number of branding hooks that would be much more effective.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 140749

Comment Text: Dislike Alt. B proposed water trails. The Atchafalaya River is very dangerous. I have seen the Sierra Club on a canoe trip on the river during deer hunting season. Hunters were shooting high powered rifles all around them!

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 140941

Comment Text: Alt B: None.

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140930

Comment Text: Alt B: None! Elements of this alternative should be the dominant focus with culture and history blended when possible.

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140919

Comment Text: Alt B: Pollution is not a big priority

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 140860

Comment Text: Alt B: Reduction of intrusive traversing into inner swamplands and wildlife areas.

AL2500 Alt B - Does not support alternative B

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 140802

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Considering debt problems this seems the logical alternative. People will come with/without action. Of course, those who make a living running the Trace program would surely disagree. 2. Alt A: See 1, above.

AL3100 Alt C - Supports alternative C

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140968

Comment Text: -I like C better; highlight C and get people involved w/natural piece along the way.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 141158
Comment Text: Alt C: I agree

Correspondence Id: 40 **Comment Id:** 141159
Comment Text: 2. Alt A: X; Alt B: Check; Alt C: Check

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 140774
Comment Text: Alt C: All parts.

Correspondence Id: 46 **Comment Id:** 141248
Comment Text: Alt B: Check; Alt C: Check

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 140748
Comment Text: Really like Alt. C focusing on tourism, culture, heritage.

AL3300 Alt C - Specific items supported in alternative C

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 141179
Comment Text: As for the cultural focus of Alternative C, south Louisiana is already dripping with culture and history. You don't have to go to the Atchafalaya Basin to find that. Just get off the interstate and drive through towns like St. Martinville, Opelousas, Abbeville, New Iberia, Lafayette ? the list goes on and on. Cajun culture ? food, dance, history, music ? is alive and well. But the natural resources of the Atchafalaya are rare indeed.
Organization: Enterprise-Journal

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141093
Comment Text: -Volunteerism is important.
Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 140794
Comment Text: Alt B and Alt C: This is great for our young to learn our old cultures & traditions, to see the old bldgs etc. Also it blends in with Alternative B for activities.

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140780
Comment Text: Alt. B: Combine B&C with Extra Emphasis on Visitor welcome and information centers, Advertisement, Hwy 15 from Deer Park thru New Rhodes to Hwy 190 then South, sites to include locks and water controls (5) systems, Morganza Spillway and Bonnie-Carrie Spillway, Port Hudson Confederate Park.

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 141258
Comment Text: Alt C: History and culture is also needed.

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 141250
Comment Text: Alt C: Dept of Culture, Recreation and Tourism can promote all proposed elements of this alternative.

Organization: LA Purchase Cypress Legacy

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140916

Comment Text: Alt C: Like this one-core of the basin/Plaquemine Lock SHS/Bayou Plaquemine/Putt Putt Boats/Trading route between N.O. and Wash., LA/Gateway into the Atch. Basin/Bayou Chene/Native American Indian Mounds/Bayou Sorrel Indian Mound

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 141267

Comment Text: Alternative B and C, however, are so critical to telling the basin story and to protecting its values, I question whether we can choose between either and do the basin justice. The resources, including the river bottom forests, the fluctuating hydrology which enables it to serve as a floodway under highwater conditions and provide forest products, agriculture, commercial and recreational fishing, oil and gas extraction and eco-tourism under more normal water conditions make the basin what it is. This goes hand in glove with the history of those who settled and used this area through time. Interpreting the basin and explaining its importance, requires both a thorough background of its resources and an accounting of those who have used the basin, and their myriad histories. A major goal of the heritage area must be to increase public awareness and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources of the area. We must make the basin important enough in the public eye to prevent its destruction by those intent on short term gain. The history of resource exploitation in the past serves to tell us what to do and not do in the future. With major flooding in Tennessee and a budding drought in central Louisiana (less than one-inch in April), it seems apparent the bizarre extremes of global climate change are upon us and it is critical to operate the Old River Control Structure to maintain an adequate water flow through the basin. There is also the question of subsidence and whether interior flooding will increase and become more permanent.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141189

Comment Text: Also, the emphasis on coordinated programs is excellent. Church groups could do clean-up programs. School kids could do water monitoring. There is a great opportunity to bring college kids from around the country to study the ecosystem and have a great time.

Outreach to colleges with interim semesters and study-abroad programs could also factor into this. Several regional liberal arts colleges and universities have interim semesters in January, which would be a great time for college kids to come stay and live in the basin and do research or service-learning projects (clean-up, creating trails, etc.).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141188

Comment Text: People are hungering for information on how to experience the basin, which can be daunting and inaccessible. Please keep the emphasis on making interpretative and welcome centers gateways for activities and trailheads for land or water trails. Also, focusing on the connectedness of everything with the river and the existing byways is good. The emphasis on topically organized activities is a good one. People could have themes to follow: crawfishing in the spring; music in the winter; birdwatching during migration periods; etc.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141187

Comment Text: Please keep the emphasis on the natural areas. Please keep the emphasis on protecting natural resources and engaging in natural resource-based recreation. Please emphasize the living, current connection between Cajun culture and the Basin for food, sustenance, and culture. Birdwatching trails are great and a good opportunity for folks to see and experience the basin. Please keep the emphasis on bird watching.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141184

Comment Text: Canoe trails, driving tours, and low impact tourism can and should be funded. There is a moneyed group of travelers from around the world who want to canoe through the swamp and see commercial crawfishermen going about their work. Think of agri-tourism in Europe where tourists spend thousands of dollars to stay on a working farm and help out with farm chores. It is a niche market, but it is a niche that appeals to people with lots of money. Nobody goes to France to sit in a sterile building to watch natives pick grapes or make cheese. Instead, visitors drive or walk through towns and orchards to see day-to-day life. If young folks from around the world who come over for Jazz -Fest, Festival International, and Mardi Gras knew about a canoe trail they could take through the basin with primitive campsites along the way, then there would be a boom in tourism.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140959

Comment Text: -Alt C-take food, music, etc., and explain in relation to land.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140986

Comment Text: -Atchafalaya day is important-Hits on C-Need more experiential opportunities (hits on B)

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140963

Comment Text: -Culture wouldn't exist w/o the land.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140878

Comment Text: Alt B and C: All. Incorporate both equally important.

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 140867

Comment Text: Alt C: Floating campsites for paddlers.

Commenter: Canoe 2

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 141168

Comment Text: Alt C: Promotion and support of current heritage/cultural centers.

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 140850

Comment Text: Alt C: History-The Land

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 140748

Comment Text: Really like Alt. C focusing on tourism, culture, heritage.

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140815

Comment Text: Alt C: Simply advertise events, shops, diners, etc. NO NEW URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Organization: USGS

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140931

Comment Text: Alt C: All are worthy and should be included within Alt B.

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140927

Comment Text: Alt C: Culture elements in interpretive & welcome centers and education programs which focus on history and culture.

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 141084

Comment Text: -Some emphasis on C-Existing sites

Commenter: Baton Rouge (PM) Public Meeting

AL3400 Alt C - Specific items that should be eliminated from alternative C

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141186

Comment Text: Our concern with Alternative C (which has great elements) is that appears to have more emphasis on commercialism and turning the area into a museum.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 140861

Comment Text: Alt C: Addition of some ecosystem features.

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141238

Comment Text: I don't like the branding "America's Foreign Country." First, I'm not sure what this means. I think that it is meant to impart a message of an 'exotic' place right here in America. However, I can also see it as being interpreted as 'A backward place in a backward state.' I think that with Louisiana's reputation as being backwards, this is a real concern, and we must be careful. I would rather us brand the Atchafalaya in a more universally positive manner, focusing on its sheer massive size and natural beauty. For instance, you don't see California branding itself as something different than America, but rather something better in America. Second, if this is meant to coax Americans into visiting an 'exotic' location, I'd beware of backfire. Americans largely seem to have an aversion to traveling to foreign countries unless they are in a Westernized resort atmosphere, on an all-you can eat cruise, or in air conditioned tour buses. When Americans do venture abroad, they like exotic locations 'under glass.' Additionally, I would argue that our nationalism has increased in recent years, due to geopolitics, and this is largely at the expense of our country's already low internationalism. So, I'm not sure that

branding this place as an exotic foreign country experience will be effective. I think that there are a number of branding hooks that would be much more effective.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 140796

Comment Text: All Alts: None

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140781

Comment Text: Alt C: Less Emphasis on Religion and Language (secondary or lower)

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140879

Comment Text: None. Keep All.

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 140744

Comment Text: Topic 2 - DO NOT ADD INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141237

Comment Text: We'd eliminate the Alternative A altogether. Like I stated above, eliminate any cultural components that do not specifically focus on the natural resources. For example, get rid of all of the Civil War interpretation.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140815

Comment Text: Alt C: Simply advertise events, shops, diners, etc. NO NEW URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

Organization: USGS

Correspondence Id: 28 **Comment Id:** 140942

Comment Text: Alt C: None, but most parts of Alt C are being provided by local agencies.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141192

Comment Text: Please eliminate the use of the word "magical" from any discussion of the plan, which could bring to mind some kind of Disney world experience. The Basin is a living, breathing culture, not something in which you can charge admission and use special effects.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

AL3500 Alt C - Does not support alternative C

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 140802

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Considering debt problems this seems the logical alternative. People will come with/without action. Of course, those who make a living running the Trace program would surely disagree. 2. Alt A: See 1, above.

AL4001 Alts - Supports a combination of the action alternatives (B & C)

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141029

Comment Text: -Prefer combination of B+C

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141031

Comment Text: -Cultural rec/tourism already-promoted-60/40 focus on natural resources-B/C

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141041

Comment Text: A blend of B&C is the best

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 33 **Comment Id:** 141083

Comment Text: -Can't separate environment from people-keep both Alts (B&C)

Commenter: Baton Rouge (PM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140920

Comment Text: Alt C: Need to combine B+C Natural Resource along with culture and history, recreation needs to be last-Protect area

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 141267

Comment Text: Alternative B and C, however, are so critical to telling the basin story and to protecting its values, I question whether we can choose between either and do the basin justice. The resources, including the river bottom forests, the fluctuating hydrology which enables it to serve as a floodway under highwater conditions and provide forest products, agriculture, commercial and recreational fishing, oil and gas extraction and eco-tourism under more normal water conditions make the basin what it is. This goes hand in glove with the history of those who settled and used this area through time. Interpreting the basin and explaining its importance, requires both a thorough background of its resources and an accounting of those who have used the basin, and their myriad histories. A major goal of the heritage area must be to increase public awareness and appreciation for the natural, scenic, cultural and historic resources of the area. We must make the basin important enough in the public eye to prevent its destruction by those intent on short term gain. The history of resource exploitation in the past serves to tell us what to do and not do in the future. With major flooding in Tennessee and a budding drought in central Louisiana (less than one-inch in April), it seems apparent the bizarre extremes of global climate change are upon us and it is critical to operate the Old River Control Structure to maintain an adequate water flow through the basin. There is also the question of subsidence and whether interior flooding will increase and become more permanent.

Correspondence Id: 20 **Comment Id:** 140862

Comment Text: We believe a combination of Alternative B and C would best suit and reflect the heritage area.

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141368

Comment Text: Hopefully Alternatives B and C of the Plan will be utilized; using B, C, or creating a mix and match of both will give more opportunity and flexibility for success. After studying those two alternatives, I would like to suggest that additional emphasis and support is needed in the center of "the basin" comparable to what is being afforded or suggested for the periphery of the ANHA. Let us not lose site that the Atchafalaya River is the beginning of the story and ALL in the designated area are co-owners and ALL would like the opportunity to be part of (le grand transformation.) Options B, C, and the consolidated version will offer a more precise cross sectional interpretation of such a large diverse area which spans a contiguous area three quarters in length of Louisiana. Its sheer size guarantees that the cookie cutter approach for its interpretation or local desires will not work. Also note, the farther one ventures into "the basin," the more he/she will encounter higher levels of poverty pockets. For those who made it to the outside, may now have an opportunity to help those who are within. Small, cash strapped local governments can't do it alone. In closing, finally, someone has recognized the value of the cultural economic engine, home grown and right in our own back yard.

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141366

Comment Text: Alt B & Alt C: (+) a mix and match of both to create a 3rd option.

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 141361

Comment Text: Alt B & Alt C: Combination of these two alternatives.

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 140951

Comment Text: Opportunities to blend elements of "B" and "C"

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141108

Comment Text: -B supports more w/in the Basin but need both

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141107

Comment Text: -Can't choose between B&C-need to tell the whole story

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141273

Comment Text: Selection of Alternative "B" or "C" to the exclusion of the other would be an incomplete plan and "no action" is not a useful Alternative. Although the Atchafalaya Basin Program bears primary State responsibility for environmental protection and restoration of the Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, additional conservation efforts are needed outside the Atchafalaya Protection Levees, and the ANHA could provide a mechanism for collecting public input and coordinating environmental, recreational and cultural conservation efforts across a wider area than that inside the Floodway.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141087

Comment Text: -Hard to separate B&C-in support of combining B&C

Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141042
Comment Text: -Everything has to coexist-both are important. (B&C)
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140780
Comment Text: Alt. B: Combine B&C with Extra Emphasis on Visitor welcome and information centers, Advertisement, Hwy 15 from Deer Park thru New Rhodes to Hwy 190 then South, sites to include locks and water controls (5) systems, Morganza Spillway and Bonnie-Carrie Spillway, Port Hudson Confederate Park.

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 141262
Comment Text: I work at an Information Center. I have some tourist that want Recreation and Natural Resources while some want History & Cultures. Would be nice to please both groups (B&C).

Correspondence Id: 48 **Comment Id:** 141259
Comment Text: Please combine the best of B&C.

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 140902
Comment Text: Combining parts of Alternatives B&C in collaboration would be a good start.
Organization: Arnold LeDoux Library-LSU Eunice

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 140900
Comment Text: Alt B: 50%; Alt C: 50%
Organization: Arnold LeDoux Library-LSU Eunice

Correspondence Id: 12 **Comment Id:** 140806
Comment Text: I like both plans. Maybe incorporate some of each alternative. As a business owner, I like plan C. As a fisherperson, I like plan B.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141000
Comment Text: -Every project will have components of both B&C.
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140999
Comment Text: -Best of Both B&C-the cultural part is important
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140993
Comment Text: -Both B&C are important. A is not acceptable.
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140967
Comment Text: -Give equal weight to B&C
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141137
Comment Text: -The preferred has to be the combination of B&C.
Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141133
Comment Text: -The combination of the alternatives is critical
Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 141120
Comment Text: -My preference is to combine B&C-it is the obvious thing to do.
Commenter: St. Mary Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 141263
Comment Text: Alt B: 80%; Alt C: 20%

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140878
Comment Text: Alt B and C: All. Incorporate both equally important.

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 140873
Comment Text: Alt B: The management plan should combine Alternatives B&C.

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140813
Comment Text: Alt C: Emphasize B.
Organization: USGS

AL4003 Alts - Suggests a new alternative

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141109
Comment Text: -USFS-Alt D created from varied comments
Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

AL4004 Alts - Suggests [new or a greater emphasis of] elements, strategies, or approaches not necessarily related to a specific alternative

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141033
Comment Text: -Better water transportation
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141034
Comment Text: -Improved access to Basin-signage/interpretation-beyond boat tours
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141035
Comment Text: -Education component needs emphasis (B&C)
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141038

Comment Text: -Scenic Byways-Interpretation-Coordinate W/Heritage Themes-Promotion

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141045

Comment Text: -Signage & transportation development

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141048

Comment Text: -Need vehicles/tours providing aerial tours/opportunities

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141051

Comment Text: -Need to promote eco-businesses-driftwood art, etc.

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141191

Comment Text: Please, please remember people still work and breathe the basin, from commercial fishing, subsistence gathering, and hunting for food to the maintenance of floating camps this is a living place, not a museum. Sinker logging is a good example of ongoing work out in the basin: working hard to find and remove cypress trees trapped in the muck of the swamp. Folks go frogging for food; they eat turtles and squirrels. There is a rhythm and calendar that folks abide by, most folks from the outside have lost the ability to live by the seasons. We think this is a powerful pull and powerful message folks want to see and experience. There is a great opportunity to turn this into a eco-tourist hotspot, but there has to be respect for the people living off the land. Cajuns need to live as Cajuns, not live as acting Cajun for a bunch of tourists from New Jersey (or anywhere else).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141189

Comment Text: Also, the emphasis on coordinated programs is excellent. Church groups could do clean-up programs. School kids could do water monitoring. There is a great opportunity to bring college kids from around the country to study the ecosystem and have a great time.

Outreach to colleges with interim semesters and study-abroad programs could also factor into this. Several regional liberal arts colleges and universities have interim semesters in January, which would be a great time for college kids to come stay and live in the basin and do research or service-learning projects (clean-up, creating trails, etc.).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141188

Comment Text: People are hungering for information on how to experience the basin, which can be daunting and inaccessible. Please keep the emphasis on making interpretative and welcome centers gateways for activities and trailheads for land or water trails. Also, focusing on the connectedness of everything with the river and the existing byways is good. The emphasis on

topically organized activities is a good one. People could have themes to follow: crawfishing in the spring; music in the winter; birdwatching during migration periods; etc.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141184

Comment Text: Canoe trails, driving tours, and low impact tourism can and should be funded. There is a moneyed group of travelers from around the world who want to canoe through the swamp and see commercial crawfishermen going about their work. Think of agri-tourism in Europe where tourists spend thousands of dollars to stay on a working farm and help out with farm chores. It is a niche market, but it is a niche that appeals to people with lots of money. Nobody goes to France to sit in a sterile building to watch natives pick grapes or make cheese. Instead, visitors drive or walk through towns and orchards to see day-to-day life. If young folks from around the world who come over for Jazz -Fest, Festival International, and Mardi Gras knew about a canoe trail they could take through the basin with primitive campsites along the way, then there would be a boom in tourism.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141272

Comment Text: The Friends of the Atchafalaya consider the health of the entire historic Atchafalaya Basin area important and dependent on efforts by many organizations to restore a balance among human resource extraction, plant and wildlife regeneration, and sustainable patterns of habitation and recreational use. One path toward improvements in that balance should be the adoption by the Atchafalaya Heritage Area of a goal to improve that balance. Such a goal would address both the environmental and cultural aspects of the Basin and its inhabitants and would involve a sizable commitment to information distribution, public outreach and government partnerships to further the concepts described in the two active proposed alternative approaches for the Management Plan currently under development.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141094

Comment Text: -Mobile recreation distributes visitors & enhances econ dev, but keeps authenticity.

Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141090

Comment Text: -Need to get younger generation involved?with birding, etc.-web programs

Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 38 **Comment Id:** 141152

Comment Text: Alt B: Bayou Gross Tete is a prime prospect as a scenic waterway. It was seriously impacted by the channelization of bayous Chouctau and Choulpe to provide drainage to Point Coupee Parish-causing a major redirection of its headwaters-a regular source of water needs to be reintroduced to this bayou.

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141054

Comment Text: -Higher ed is important-certify tourism businesses

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141053

Comment Text: -You can't see it in a few days-need to capture people for a week to 10 days.

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141050

Comment Text: -Emphasize the hospitality of the people.

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141047

Comment Text: -Product development & access to the resource is important

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140973

Comment Text: -Need to highlight history of NR (in B)-Logging, Oil industry-Development of spillway, Part Allen route-Highlight plans

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 141126

Comment Text: -Could visitor centers include access for RR/Showers for Paddlers/Bikers/Hikers?

Commenter: St. Mary Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 141125

Comment Text: -Need facilities to support paddling-campsites, restrooms

Commenter: St. Mary Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 141121

Comment Text: -Morgan City & the area should be the gateway to the area.

Commenter: St. Mary Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 49 **Comment Id:** 141264

Comment Text: Anything that will keep commercial ventures OUTSIDE of the levees

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141368

Comment Text: Hopefully Alternatives B and C of the Plan will be utilized; using B, C, or creating a mix and match of both will give more opportunity and flexibility for success. After studying those two alternatives, I would like to suggest that additional emphasis and support is needed in the center of "the basin" comparable to what is being afforded or suggested for the periphery of the ANHA. Let us not lose site that the Atchafalaya River is the beginning of the story and ALL in the designated area are co-owners and ALL would like the opportunity to be part of (le grand transformation.) Options B, C, and the consolidated version will offer a more precise cross sectional interpretation of such a large diverse area which spans a contiguous area three quarters in length of Louisiana. Its sheer size guarantees that the cookie cutter approach for its interpretation or local desires will not work. Also note, the farther one ventures into "the

basin," the more he/she will encounter higher levels of poverty pockets. For those who made it to the outside, may now have an opportunity to help those who are within. Small, cash strapped local governments can't do it alone. In closing, finally, someone has recognized the value of the cultural economic engine, home grown and right in our own back yard.

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141367

Comment Text: I, and the people I've discussed the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to be strong believers that "The Land" part of the Interpretive Themes of which the Plan advocates, highly suggest and supports that it would be advantageous for the upper section of the Atchafalaya Basin/ANHA to incorporate into "our" Welcome/Interpretive Center here at Simmesport what no other community in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area can claim; it's the story of why and how (it) the Atchafalaya River became such a pronounced part of the Louisiana/American landscape. In Simmesport's proximity there are five major physical assets that can be fully utilized to satisfy a portion of the people's thirst for knowledge . . . something they can SEE and FEEL: the Old River Lock, Old River Control Structures, the Morganza Spillway, the West Atchafalaya Floodway and the Simmesport "ring levee." These structures are "the real thing" . . . real visual displays that would enhance the entire Interpretive Themes' list, of which, Simmesport's "metro area" can surely contribute to, and given the opportunity, it will.

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 141364

Comment Text: In addition to comment No. 3: Increase number of museums and visitor-tourist theme station points throughout the entire Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Correspondence Id: 53 **Comment Id:** 141363

Comment Text: More improved emphasis on north-south and east-west, basin-wide spectrum of "eco-economic-nature-sys" themes regards visitor-tourists directives and info.

Correspondence Id: 9 **Comment Id:** 140797

Comment Text: Keep the Louisiana Culture & history alive, while still produce enjoyment.

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140783

Comment Text: Any site below I-10 no matter how insignificant it may seem to LA. Natives.

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140782

Comment Text: Major emphasis this day in time should be on sites and events, promote Hwy 1 from Raceland to Grand Isle, and Bridges over Miss. R. and Lake P. Causeway.

Correspondence Id: 6 **Comment Id:** 140780

Comment Text: Alt. B: Combine B&C with Extra Emphasis on Visitor welcome and information centers, Advertisement, Hwy 15 from Deer Park thru New Rhodes to Hwy 190 then South, sites to include locks and water controls (5) systems, Morganza Spillway and Bonnie-Carrie Spillway, Port Hudson Confederate Park.

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 141253

Comment Text: Include old growth cypress in canoe trail planning and eco-touring opportunities (e.g. boardwalks).

Organization: LA Purchase Cypress Legacy

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 141252

Comment Text: Please include inventory, land marking & stewardship of old growth cypress in National Heritage Area Plan. LAPurchaseCypressLegacy.net would be happy to be involved in this.

Organization: LA Purchase Cypress Legacy

Correspondence Id: 47 **Comment Id:** 141251

Comment Text: Alt B: Unclear whether oil and gas leasing will be presented in positive or neutral perspective. Negative aspects need to be emphasized.

Organization: LA Purchase Cypress Legacy

Correspondence Id: 25 **Comment Id:** 140903

Comment Text: Connecting Eunice, LA NPS unit as a "western" gateway to the ANHA-

Organization: Arnold LeDoux Library-LSU Eunice

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 141171

Comment Text: Be sure to stress that the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site IS THE gateway to the Atchafalaya Basin.

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141236

Comment Text: We feel that all parts of Alternative B should be included in the plan. Focusing on the natural resources is extremely important in this area, not only because of the biodiversity importance of the ARB (locally, nationally, and globally)but also because of the linkage with the people. The Cajun culture is focused on extensively in south Louisiana, so any focus on people in this area should focus specifically on linkage with the natural resources. This will help drive the proper restoration and conservation of this magnificent river system. We do like the idea of the culture trails, but feel that the trails should not focus on things like the civil war and slavery, but rather on trails of how trappers used the land or focus on the old houseboat communities. There is enough Antebellum and Civil War interpretation in this part of the country. Let's do something different here. Perhaps the African American trail can focus on the linkage of this culture with the early Cajun culture and how each taught the other to live with the land. Likewise, as the Native American trail will undoubtedly focus on the land, also explore the relationships between these three groups and their relationship to the land. These sorts of innovative culture ideas would be innovative and extremely educational, as nobody talks about that. To properly restore and manage these large river systems, we need to focus on the importance to the people. This effort is a unique way to do that, so it's important that it focus on the link between people and the natural resources.

Organization: The Nature Conservancy

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 140750

Comment Text: Packages for tourist, such as Bed&Breakfast, dining, entertainment, museums, etc.

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140933

Comment Text: The function of the Delta growth in combating coastal land loss should be emphasized in education elements. Ecotourism destination?

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140932

Comment Text: You have not indicated any function for the Atchafalaya Bay Delta except wildlife management. Why isn't the delta landmass shown on your maps?

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140922

Comment Text: Bayou Plaquemine gateway to the Atch. Basin/Trading route between N.O. & Washington, LA/Plaquemine Lock SHS/Cypress Logging history/Oil drilling history/Bayou Chene/Putt Putt Boats/Intercoastal Canal.

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 24 **Comment Id:** 140892

Comment Text: Increase educational opportunities for citizens, government officials, and K-12 education.

Organization: LA Department of Education

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140842

Comment Text: Rejuvenate Billie Little's Lake at South Ramah.

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140840

Comment Text: Alt B: Rejuvenate the upper flats at South Ramah Bayou.

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140838

Comment Text: Alt C: Trap silt sediment at Sherbone & sell it for foundation purposes.

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140835

Comment Text: Alt A: Allow flow of current to be the historic north to south direction.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141005

Comment Text: -Phone Call: want to make sure plan does not involve conservation easements-people/landowners feel that they were misled about how easements were implemented (they feel that limitations were greater than they were told)

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141003

Comment Text: -Need a plan that will pass and be supported by everyone-flexibility to implement a whole host of good ideas.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140997

Comment Text: -All resources are important

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140992

Comment Text: -Open people's blinders beyond "program" boundaries
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140990

Comment Text: -Continue to look at "Basin" to include areas outside levees-"from Teche Ridge to Prairie Terrace"

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140988

Comment Text: -Need to balance cultural events & activities with nature tours, education, etc.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141116

Comment Text: -Great to collect stories of the basin so they are not lost-book, oral histories.

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141114

Comment Text: -Education of young people is important-many kids hunt & fish and a big part of the culture.

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 140946

Comment Text: Yesteryear Concept.

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141039

Comment Text: -Improved Coordination on Websites Needed-Atchafalaya.org-link to Parish Tourism websites-Louisiana Travel.com-www.byways.org LA (find scenic byways site)

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141037

Comment Text: -70 corridor w/stops/interpretation

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

AL4005 Common To All - Suggests specific elements that should be common to all action alternatives

Correspondence Id: 1 **Comment Id:** 140745

Comment Text: Topic 3 - DO NOT ADD INFRASTRUCTURE

Correspondence Id: 21 **Comment Id:** 140869

Comment Text: Eliminate America's Foreign Country Alt A: Atchafalaya subtitle changed to: Atchafalaya: America's Natural Heritage; Alt B: Blank; Alt C: Blank

Commenter: Canoe 2

AL4006 Maps - Suggests changes to the alternative maps

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141043
Comment Text: -Update maps to include USACE-Indian Bayou
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 27 **Comment Id:** 140932
Comment Text: You have not indicated any function for the Atchafalaya Bay Delta except wildlife management. Why isn't the delta landmass shown on your maps?

AL4007 Implementation - Provides suggestions for implementation of various elements in the alternatives

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141052
Comment Text: -Website should be a central repository of information.-link to byways-Parish info-recreation info-paddling, house boat rentals, etc.
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141117
Comment Text: -Signage is important-where bayous are, fishing spots, etc.
Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140996
Comment Text: -Can offer forum to bring issues to higher visibility
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140985
Comment Text: -Discussion groups
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140983
Comment Text: -Tutorials
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140981
Comment Text: -Motivate local people & inform visitors
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141141
Comment Text: -Univ. L-Teacher training on Acadian history
Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141140
Comment Text: -CRT info-Lesson plans using Louisiana voices
Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141131
Comment Text: -65 C/35 B to draw people.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 141122

Comment Text: -Morgan City has approved interpretive center.

Commenter: St. Mary Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141112

Comment Text: -Ability to request materials about ATCH. NHA-Education

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141111

Comment Text: -Education workshop for CVB's certification/information on Heritage Area available here

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

AL4008 Partnerships - Identifies partners/potential partners (may be specific to individual alternative items)

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141039

Comment Text: -Improved Coordination on Websites Needed-Atchafalaya.org-link to Parish Tourism websites-Louisiana Travel.com-www.byways.org LA (find scenic byways site)

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141270

Comment Text: The Friends of the Atchafalaya Board of Directors would like to offer our continued support for the development and operation of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area as an important component of the multi-partner effort to educate the public, conserve the resources, and preserve important aspects of the culture of the various areas known to many as the "Atchafalaya Basin." The mission of the Friends of the Atchafalaya (FOA) is to promote conservation and awareness of the Atchafalaya Basin. Our vision is a healthy and sustainable environment that supports plant, wildlife and human existence. Our primary goal is to motivate and empower the citizenry to further the cause of conserving Atchafalaya resources. Our principal approach toward conserving as much of the traditional Atchafalaya Basin as possible is based on partnerships with other organizations with compatible goals. The FOA works with the Atchafalaya Basin Program to select water management projects through public involvement and scientific analysis. These projects are necessary to undo some of the damage done to this important ecosystem by public and private projects over the past two centuries. Some of these projects failed to adequately address negative impacts while extracting valuable resources and others placed emphasis on protection of outside communities at the expense of the quasi-natural environment. The FOA has already worked with the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and the Atchafalaya Trace Commission to educate and inform local residents and visitors about the value of and the challenges facing the various floodways, lakes, streams, swamps, marshes, forests, and agricultural lands that make up the historic Atchafalaya Basin, and the flora and fauna that survive throughout that area. One important vehicle for public outreach is the series of events, known as Experience Atchafalaya Days, which occurs each year throughout October, designated as Atchafalaya Month by the Governor of Louisiana.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 140758

Comment Text: The Promise Land LA Freedom Trail Site connects to both the purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area [ANHA] and our corporate mission. Community Benefit Import (Education) ? Content from other Freedom Trail sites would be at the disposal of the community for consumption at all levels of education programs including local schools. Community Benefit Export (Education) ? Inclusion in the "national freedom trail" content to historical and educational institutions. Connection of Karl Breaux's the Organic Farm component to the broader freedom trail organic farm. Community Benefit Revenue (Education) ? A portfolio of educational content and courses provides revenue streams to the state and local taxing authorities. Community Benefit Export (Tourism) ? Capitalizing on both the educational and scientific components, the intent is to use advertising and public media to draw tourist to a state of the art working excavation and laboratory site Community Benefit Import (Tourism) ? Capitalizing on both the educational and scientific components, the advertising and public media campaign that draws tourist to this location of the cemetery to tell story of this site. Transportation to the site would make use of the bijou (Bayou) waterway. A state of the-art repository would exist on the grounds which would connect with the du Sable museum network of satellite site as well as other local museums of the same mission Community Benefit Revenue (Tourism) ? A physical store would exist at the site selling a variety of local products to visitors ranging from: Period piece replica's excavated from the site Organic products from Karl Breaux's Experimental Farm which is the prototype for expansion to all freedom trail sites Community Benefit Revenue (Tourism) ? A e-store would be coupled to the physical store making available products from other freedom trail sites

Organization: AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ASRI)

Correspondence Id: 3 **Comment Id:** 140757

Comment Text: The Promise Land LA Freedom Trail Site connects to both the purpose of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area [ANHA] and our corporate mission. The central theme of our efforts center on a Freedom Trail Site with a working Slave Cemetery excavation and laboratory in Parks Louisiana; this site serves multiple sectors of the local economy as well as the goal of organization which is the factual recording of African American history and culture. Examples of Area Development ? Just a few examples however this is not a complete or vetted list by any measure Community Benefit Import (Science) ? Leading Forensic and Excavation Experts providing practical training and field experience to both professional and amateur students. Community Benefit Export (Science) - National recognition of the local community as a scientific and historically significant location. Expansion of the portfolio of the ANHA through the proposed partnership between A-F-D and ANAH Community Benefit Revenue (Science) Percentage of fee's collected for training provides revenue streams to the state and local taxing authorities. Non-local Professional and non-professional constituents shall provide stimulus to the local economy through the natural course of paying for accommodations, food and tourist activities Our mandate requires members of the local community be employed at the site and thus increasing employment

Organization: AFRICAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE (ASRI)

Correspondence Id: 42 **Comment Id:** 141170

Comment Text: Include interpreters already working in the Atchafalaya area in the formation of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area.

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140812

Comment Text: Alt B.: Work w/USGS Wetlands Center to develop/facilitate education program.

Organization: USGS

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141199

Comment Text: Greg Guirard, a member of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, has written numerous books focused on the Basin, including Cajun Families of the Atchafalaya. The introduction to that book shows that Cajuns connected to the Basin deserve to be a "consulting party." "There is an unexplainable, almost mystical connection between the Cajun fisherman and the swamp, a desire not only to see but to touch, to be part of the wilderness itself, to live deliberately in concert with the big woods, no matter how difficult the struggle may seem." from introduction.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141197

Comment Text: In addition to State Historic Preservation Officers, Indian tribes, local governments, historical societies, historical commissions, and property owners in the project area, other individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the project may participate in Section 106 review as consulting parties "due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties." Groups such as LCPA-West that are comprised of Cajun commercial fishermen have an economic, cultural, and historical relationship with the Basin. Consultation means the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of other participants, and, where feasible, seeking agreement with them regarding matters arising in the section 106 process. The Secretary's "Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Preservation Programs pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act" provide further guidance on consultation. 36 CFR 800.16(f).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141195

Comment Text: The Number One recommendation we have for you is to please read Greg Guirard's books. Greg lives and breathes the Basin and has all of his life. He is a good place to start. Obviously, there are other perspectives than his or even Cajun fishermen, but those folks are still out there. Consequently, Cajuns should be designated as a "consulting party" under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141189

Comment Text: Also, the emphasis on coordinated programs is excellent. Church groups could do clean-up programs. School kids could do water monitoring. There is a great opportunity to bring college kids from around the country to study the ecosystem and have a great time.

Outreach to colleges with interim semesters and study-abroad programs could also factor into this. Several regional liberal arts colleges and universities have interim semesters in January,

which would be a great time for college kids to come stay and live in the basin and do research or service-learning projects (clean-up, creating trails, etc.).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140998

Comment Text: -DEQ-new study-Iberville, W. Baton Rouge, Pt. Coupee-working on H2O quality in/out basin.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140972

Comment Text: -Need to get 2 big private landowners involved-They lease land to hunting clubs.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140966

Comment Text: -Partner with oil companies

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141130

Comment Text: -Need to work w/travel agencies.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141129

Comment Text: -Potential to partner w/ASRI-youth education experience.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141271

Comment Text: The FOA works with other local, State and Federal Agencies and private landowners, on projects that enhance the function, protect the value, and support the rejuvenation of the natural and indigenous components of the Atchafalaya Basin. We also support efforts that visibly and functionally clean up the waters, forests and adjacent levees and access points around the Basin. As part of our outreach efforts, the FOA has designed and now operates an Atchafalaya Basin News site on the internet. That site, accessed as <http://atchafalaya.info>, provides news to citizens about activities of the many organizations active in the area adjacent to, affected by, or affecting the Basin. This site links with the ANHA and ABP sites and with others operated by our other partners. Electronic notification of interested parties has proven more responsive and timely than other means of communication and less taxing on limited natural and organizational resources. We also strive to promote all compatible activities around the Basin and to recognize individuals and organizations working for the health of the ecosystems and diverse cultural aspects of Basin life and commerce.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141274

Comment Text: The members and Board of the FOA look forward to working with the Heritage Area to conserve all of the important resources that comprise the Atchafalaya Basin, in all its interpretations, by all of its constituents.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

AL4100 Alts - Supports a combination of the no action and either all or specific elements of one or both of the action alternatives

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140960

Comment Text: -Primarily focus on B, but don't lose components of C&A.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 140771

Comment Text: Alt A: Development of Alternatives A&B is most important.

Correspondence Id: 23 **Comment Id:** 140881

Comment Text: Try to keep and incorporate all plans. All are equally important.

FN1000 Funding - Comments related to funding/costs of the alternatives

Correspondence Id: 30 **Comment Id:** 140952

Comment Text: We need to identify all available funding sources for the appropriate use of this area consistent with the accepted management plan.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141010

Comment Text: -Some landowners willing to sell-lack of authorization & funding

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

IT1000 Themes - Comment suggests new interpretive theme(s)/comments related to interpretation of the heritage area

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141030

Comment Text: -Cajun Habitat community-raised buildings-habitat

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141046

Comment Text: -People are unaware of "the hill"

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141136

Comment Text: -This area was very multi-cultural-more than just Acadian

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141135

Comment Text: -Need to gather data from court records, etc. our "history is inextricably tied together"

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141134

Comment Text: -Very important to document the history/what it was.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141368

Comment Text: Hopefully Alternatives B and C of the Plan will be utilized; using B, C, or creating a mix and match of both will give more opportunity and flexibility for success. After studying those two alternatives, I would like to suggest that additional emphasis and support is needed in the center of "the basin" comparable to what is being afforded or suggested for the periphery of the ANHA. Let us not lose site that the Atchafalaya River is the beginning of the story and ALL in the designated area are co-owners and ALL would like the opportunity to be part of (le grand transformation.) Options B, C, and the consolidated version will offer a more precise cross sectional interpretation of such a large diverse area which spans a contiguous area three quarters in length of Louisiana. Its sheer size guarantees that the cookie cutter approach for its interpretation or local desires will not work. Also note, the farther one ventures into "the basin," the more he/she will encounter higher levels of poverty pockets. For those who made it to the outside, may now have an opportunity to help those who are within. Small, cash strapped local governments can't do it alone. In closing, finally, someone has recognized the value of the cultural economic engine, home grown and right in our own back yard.

Correspondence Id: 54 **Comment Id:** 141367

Comment Text: I, and the people I've discussed the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to are strong believers that "The Land" part of the Interpretive Themes of which the Plan advocates, highly suggest and supports that it would be advantageous for the upper section of the Atchafalaya Basin/ANHA to incorporate into "our" Welcome/Interpretive Center here at Simmesport what no other community in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area can claim; it's the story of why and how (it) the Atchafalaya River became such a pronounced part of the Louisiana/American landscape. In Simmesport's proximity there are five major physical assets that can be fully utilized to satisfy a portion of the people's thirst for knowledge . . . something they can SEE and FEEL: the Old River Lock, Old River Control Structures, the Morganza Spillway, the West Atchafalaya Floodway and the Simmesport "ring levee." These structures are "the real thing" . . . real visual displays that would enhance the entire Interpretive Themes' list, of which, Simmesport's "metro area" can surely contribute to, and given the opportunity, it will.

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Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141116

Comment Text: -Great to collect stories of the basin so they are not lost-book, oral histories.

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141113

Comment Text: -Old River Control Structure

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141110

Comment Text: -History of Basin is History of people & resources
Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 45 **Comment Id:** 141236

Comment Text: We feel that all parts of Alternative B should be included in the plan. Focusing on the natural resources is extremely important in this area, not only because of the biodiversity importance of the ARB (locally, nationally, and globally) but also because of the linkage with the people. The Cajun culture is focused on extensively in south Louisiana, so any focus on people in this area should focus specifically on linkage with the natural resources. This will help drive the proper restoration and conservation of this magnificent river system. We do like the idea of the culture trails, but feel that the trails should not focus on things like the civil war and slavery, but rather on trails of how trappers used the land or focus on the old houseboat communities. There is enough Antebellum and Civil War interpretation in this part of the country. Let's do something different here. Perhaps the African American trail can focus on the linkage of this culture with the early Cajun culture and how each taught the other to live with the land. Likewise, as the Native American trail will undoubtedly focus on the land, also explore the relationships between these three groups and their relationship to the land. These sorts of innovative culture ideas would be innovative and extremely educational, as nobody talks about that. To properly restore and manage these large river systems, we need to focus on the importance to the people. This effort is a unique way to do that, so it's important that it focus on the link between people and the natural resources.

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Comment Text: The function of the Delta growth in combating coastal land loss should be emphasized in education elements. Ecotourism destination?

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Comment Text: Bayou Plaquemine gateway to the Atch. Basin/Trading route between N.O. & Washington, LA/Plaquemine Lock SHS/Cypress Logging history/Oil drilling history/Bayou Chene/Putt Putt Boats/Intercoastal Canal.

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 141269

Comment Text: It should also be noted that, under court order, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated a critical habitat corridor for the threatened Louisiana black bear that goes through the basin and the Louisiana Delta to Arkansas. According to the Black Bear Conservation Coalition the Louisiana black bear population is increasing rapidly. The Zachary Taylor Parkway between Alexandria, LA and Poplarville, MS will consist of four laning LA hwy's 10 and 1 and will cross over the recently designated corridor. While managing wildlife populations is outside the province of the Park Service, except on lands it administers, the need for safe human-bear passage at this point should be publicized as part of the basin story. Other scarce or listed wildlife using the basin for all or part of its life cycle, like the swallow-tailed kite should be included in the basin story. This fascinating bird, which captures and eats all its food on the wing, is a favorite of out-of-state birders who ask where they can see the birds. Another developing form of eco-tourism is the annual bald-eagle festival in Morgan City at the southern

tip of the basin. Finally, Catahoula Lake, an internationally significant migratory bird habitat, is just north of the designated heritage area boundary, but connected by the French Fork of Little River which drains Catahoula Lake and joins the Ouachita River at Jonesville and ultimately the Atchafalaya River. Catahoula Lake is a 26,000 acre self-flooding and draining wetland, which is a Ramsar Treaty site. It has seen a half million water oriented birds at one time and annually hosts 100,000 ducks (including a majority of the flyway canvasback population), geese, shorebirds, gulls, herons, egrets, eagles, and other raptors. It was also designated one of the 10 most important wetlands in North America. As one of the most important natural areas anywhere, it is highly appropriate for the National Park Service to undertake a program to increase public awareness of its value and thereby help protect the basin in its wild state for generations to come. Like the Everglades, the Pascagoula River Swamp and Louisiana's coastal marshes, it is a national treasure.

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140841

Comment Text: Pay homage to the Chitamacha Indians & the Native Cajuns.

Correspondence Id: 18 **Comment Id:** 140839

Comment Text: Alt A: Allow university to put a play on Bayou Chene Settlement prior to being silted in.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141199

Comment Text: Greg Guirard, a member of Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, has written numerous books focused on the Basin, including Cajun Families of the Atchafalaya. The introduction to that book shows that Cajuns connected to the Basin deserve to be a "consulting party." "There is an unexplainable, almost mystical connection between the Cajun fisherman and the swamp, a desire not only to see but to touch, to be part of the wilderness itself, to live deliberately in concert with the big woods, no matter how difficult the struggle may seem." from introduction.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141195

Comment Text: The Number One recommendation we have for you is to please read Greg Guirard's books. Greg lives and breathes the Basin and has all of his life. He is a good place to start. Obviously, there are other perspectives than his or even Cajun fishermen, but those folks are still out there. Consequently, Cajuns should be designated as a "consulting party" under the National Historic Preservation Act.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141191

Comment Text: Please, please remember people still work and breathe the basin, from commercial fishing, subsistence gathering, and hunting for food to the maintenance of floating camps this is a living place, not a museum. Sinker logging is a good example of ongoing work out in the basin: working hard to find and remove cypress trees trapped in the muck of the swamp. Folks go frogging for food; they eat turtles and squirrels. There is a rhythm and calendar that folks abide by, most folks from the outside have lost the ability to live by the seasons. We think this is a powerful pull and powerful message folks want to see and experience. There is a great opportunity to turn this into an eco-tourist hotspot, but there has to be respect for the people

living off the land. Cajuns need to live as Cajuns, not live as acting Cajun for a bunch of tourists from New Jersey (or anywhere else).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140977

Comment Text: -Settlement of Bayou Chene

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140976

Comment Text: -Trade route between NOLA & Washington

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140975

Comment Text: -Bayou Sorrel Mounds

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140974

Comment Text: -History of Native Am.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140969

Comment Text: -People know more about East side.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141142

Comment Text: -Dispell myths thru cultural interpretation

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141140

Comment Text: -CRT info-Lesson plans using Louisiana voices

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141139

Comment Text: -Survival-geneology-study/website

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141138

Comment Text: -Geneology should be included.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141009

Comment Text: -Cypress legacy trees-once cut, they will not return-due to H2O level fluctuations

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140982

Comment Text: -Need to know where we came from-when & why were decisions made
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140979
Comment Text: -Old Engine boat club
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140978
Comment Text: -Put-put motors (bring generations together)
Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 140946
Comment Text: Yesteryear Concept.

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141091
Comment Text: -Need opportunities to educate youth about where their food comes from.
Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141044
Comment Text: -Without directions, basics of interpretation may be missed.(c)-hard to get into area on own w/o strong knowledge-navigation, etc.
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141032
Comment Text: -Need coordinated interpretation
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141034
Comment Text: -Improved access to Basin-signage/interpretation-beyond boat tours
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141037
Comment Text: -70 corridor w/stops/interpretation
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141038
Comment Text: -Scenic Byways-Interpretation-Coordinate W/Heritage Themes-Promotion
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

MO1100 Misc/Other - General miscellaneous comments or concerns/issues/complaints

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141036
Comment Text: -Natural & Cultural are interwoven
Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 11 **Comment Id:** 140803

Comment Text: 1. Alt A: Considering debt problems this seems the logical alternative. People will come with/without action. Of course, those who make a living running the Trace program would surely disagree. 3. See 1, above. I WAS responsible for the Birding Trails.

Correspondence Id: 26 **Comment Id:** 140923

Comment Text: Need to get everyone on the same page. [Illegible] do not reinvent the wheel-Protect Area. National Exposure.

Organization: Plaquemine Lock SHS

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141194

Comment Text: Most people are tired of attending meetings about how to save, preserve the Basin. These meetings have been going on for decades run by the state or the federal government. Instead of asking local inhabitants to attend a meeting run by people who have never lived in or depended on the Basin, government employees should go and visit the people who live and depend on the Basin. Folks cannot take off work to attend meetings in the middle of the day. And while, meetings at 5:00 pm are easier to make, it is still difficult to attend meetings in the middle of the week.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141183

Comment Text: Please let us say at the outset we appreciate the hard work that has gone into this effort and we do believe a National Heritage Area is a good idea. Our overarching message is that this project needs to make sure the folks on the ground and living here can take pride in the result. We must learn from our past mistakes such as the government's many ill-fated attempts to get it right at the Land Between the Lakes. National Recreation Area. What has happened at LBL should not happen here: government bureaucracy coopting and commodifying a people and place. Eco-tourism and cultural sensitivity can be done, but it is hard work. No one expects government employees to take the time to understand every nuance about the culture, but building government -funded, government-run buildings where the natives can perform for visitors is insulting and insensitive. The government needs to protect and promote day-to-day existence of the folks who call the Basin their ancestral home.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141002

Comment Text: -Genesis of State Heritage area was expose people to resources so they would become part of it; part of the culture.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141132

Comment Text: -The culture helps draw businesses to the area.-backed up by research.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 29 **Comment Id:** 140947

Comment Text: Become a strong leader/modeling for the entire world!

Correspondence Id: 43 **Comment Id:** 141180

Comment Text: Alternative A: No action. Given the state of the economy, it wouldn't surprise me if that's what happens, at least in the foreseeable future. Meanwhile, one of these days I suspect Mississippi may be doing some similar planning with our own Pascagoula River, another mighty swamp and national treasure. Fortunately, it's already pretty well protected by the state wildlife management areas that line much of its banks.

Organization: Enterprise-Journal

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141271

Comment Text: The FOA works with other local, State and Federal Agencies and private landowners, on projects that enhance the function, protect the value, and support the rejuvenation of the natural and indigenous components of the Atchafalaya Basin. We also support efforts that visibly and functionally clean up the waters, forests and adjacent levees and access points around the Basin. As part of our outreach efforts, the FOA has designed and now operates an Atchafalaya Basin News site on the internet. That site, accessed as <http://atchafalaya.info>, provides news to citizens about activities of the many organizations active in the area adjacent to, affected by, or affecting the Basin. This site links with the ANHA and ABP sites and with others operated by our other partners. Electronic notification of interested parties has proven more responsive and timely than other means of communication and less taxing on limited natural and organizational resources. We also strive to promote all compatible activities around the Basin and to recognize individuals and organizations working for the health of the ecosystems and diverse cultural aspects of Basin life and commerce.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

Correspondence Id: 51 **Comment Id:** 141270

Comment Text: The Friends of the Atchafalaya Board of Directors would like to offer our continued support for the development and operation of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area as an important component of the multi-partner effort to educate the public, conserve the resources, and preserve important aspects of the culture of the various areas known to many as the "Atchafalaya Basin." The mission of the Friends of the Atchafalaya (FOA) is to promote conservation and awareness of the Atchafalaya Basin. Our vision is a healthy and sustainable environment that supports plant, wildlife and human existence. Our primary goal is to motivate and empower the citizenry to further the cause of conserving Atchafalaya resources. Our principal approach toward conserving as much of the traditional Atchafalaya Basin as possible is based on partnerships with other organizations with compatible goals. The FOA works with the Atchafalaya Basin Program to select water management projects through public involvement and scientific analysis. These projects are necessary to undo some of the damage done to this important ecosystem by public and private projects over the past two centuries. Some of these projects failed to adequately address negative impacts while extracting valuable resources and others placed emphasis on protection of outside communities at the expense of the quasi-natural environment. The FOA has already worked with the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area and the Atchafalaya Trace Commission to educate and inform local residents and visitors about the value of and the challenges facing the various floodways, lakes, streams, swamps, marshes, forests, and agricultural lands that make up the historic Atchafalaya Basin, and the flora and fauna that survive throughout that area. One important vehicle for public outreach is the series of events, known as Experience Atchafalaya Days, which occurs each year throughout October, designated as Atchafalaya Month by the Governor of Louisiana.

Organization: Friends of the Atchafalaya

MO1200 Misc/Other - Provides history/shares a story

Correspondence Id: 50 **Comment Id:** 141265

Comment Text: First let me state how delighted I am the National Park Service is developing this program for the Atchafalaya Basin, which by any measure is one of the most important natural areas, both in our state and the entire country. In fact, if you list the Basin, which holds America's longest swamp river, the 600,000 acres of Kisatchie National Forest, the Louisiana coastal tallgrass prairie and our coastal marsh which extends from the Sabine River on our western border to the Pearl River swamp on the Mississippi state line, and throw in Saline Bayou, our only National Scenic River, some 60 state scenic rivers which range from tannic acid stained forest streams to the rocky, whitewater streams of the Sabine sandstone uplift and the little River/Catahoula Lake over-complex you would have a pretty good picture of the diverse natural habitat that comprise this fascinating state.

Correspondence Id: 16 **Comment Id:** 140828

Comment Text: Please don't create expensive tourist centers that require permanent employees to maintain at long-term costs for the taxpayers. Alt B: Do prefer B: would like to see the federal money used to restore the water quality to basin. I remember in 60s fishing & crawfishing was great because the River flooded into basin in spring & kept bayous and waterways open. Have blocked off well levees & spoil banks from. Digging canals and laying pipelines. Need to open flow again even if require some flood gates.

MO1300 Misc/Other - Questions

Correspondence Id: 36 **Comment Id:** 141124

Comment Text: -When will it happen?

Commenter: St. Mary Parish Public Meeting

MT1000 General comments and/or concerns about management of the heritage area; management issues, considerations, or opportunities

Correspondence Id: 32 **Comment Id:** 141044

Comment Text: -Without directions, basics of interpretation may be missed.(c)-hard to get into area on own w/o strong knowledge-navigation, etc.

Commenter: Baton Rouge (AM) Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141007

Comment Text: -Forestry easements do not protect the landscape (historically implemented)

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 13 **Comment Id:** 140816

Comment Text: Get rid of drilling-advertise where it is occurring & discuss impacts. Have posted current map of oil developments ongoing.

Organization: USGS

Correspondence Id: 50 Comment Id: 141269

Comment Text: It should also be noted that, under court order, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated a critical habitat corridor for the threatened Louisiana black bear that goes through the basin and the Louisiana Delta to Arkansas. According to the Black Bear Conservation Coalition the Louisiana black bear population is increasing rapidly. The Zachary Taylor Parkway between Alexandria, LA and Poplarville, MS will consist of four laning LA hwy's 10 and 1 and will cross over the recently designated corridor. While managing wildlife populations is outside the province of the Park Service, except on lands it administers, the need for safe human-bear passage at this point should be publicized as part of the basin story. Other scarce or listed wildlife using the basin for all or part of its life cycle, like the swallow-tailed kite should be included in the basin story. This fascinating bird, which captures and eats all its food on the wing, is a favorite of out-of-state birders who ask where they can see the birds. Another developing form of eco-tourism is the annual bald-eagle festival in Morgan City at the southern tip of the basin. Finally, Catahoula Lake, an internationally significant migratory bird habitat, is just north of the designated heritage area boundary, but connected by the French Fork of Little River which drains Catahoula Lake and joins the Ouachita River at Jonesville and ultimately the Atchafalaya River. Catahoula Lake is a 26,000 acre self-flooding and draining wetland, which is a Ramsar Treaty site. It has seen a half million water oriented birds at one time and annually hosts 100,000 ducks (including a majority of the flyway canvasback population), geese, shorebirds, gulls, herons, egrets, eagles, and other raptors. It was also designated one of the 10 most important wetlands in North America. As one of the most important natural areas anywhere, it is highly appropriate for the National Park Service to undertake a program to increase public awareness of its value and thereby help protect the basin in its wild state for generations to come. Like the Everglades, the Pascagoula River Swamp and Louisiana's coastal marshes, it is a national treasure.

Correspondence Id: 50 Comment Id: 141268

Comment Text: The Park Service should further be aware that Louisiana's Natural and Scenic River System will probably be expanded to include Bear Bayou and other streams in the basin. These might be suitable for inclusion in the aquatic trail system.

Correspondence Id: 40 Comment Id: 141161

Comment Text: Water Quality in Lake Dautrine & Lake Faussie Point Area, west of protection levee need improvement. Divert water during high water months to these areas.

Correspondence Id: 40 Comment Id: 141160

Comment Text: The State and Federal Government should acquire more land for hunting and fishing for public use.

Correspondence Id: 24 Comment Id: 140894

Comment Text: Just focusing on history & culture will not preserve the area. Litter and trash pollution is increasing.

Organization: LA Department of Education

Correspondence Id: 10 Comment Id: 140800

Comment Text: Over Development means more congestion. Leave it as it is.

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141200

Comment Text: The first step in determining the eligibility of something as a traditional cultural property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places is to determine whether it is a property - a place. The Basin is a discrete place that connects Cajuns to their heritage. It is already designated as a National Heritage Area. The second step to be eligible for the Register, according to the National Register regulations, is that a property must first and foremost have "integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. 36 CFR 60.4. The Basin is the ancestral homeland of Cajun fishermen. Cajun fishermen have been relentless in their efforts to protect and maintain the Basin as a place for recreation, work, and connection to their heritage. For decades, Cajuns were isolated from the rest of the country. To this day, many Cajun fishermen still speak Cajun French, not English, as a primary language. To this day, many families rely on the bounty of the Basin for sustenance - crawfish, deer, ducks, frogs, hogs, fin fish, berries, squirrels. In addition, there is a strong kinship structure amongst the fishermen that is unknown to outsiders. The third step, since the property has integrity, is whether the place meets any one of four general criteria for the National Register. If a property meets one or more of the criteria it is eligible for the Register. Traditional cultural properties are most often found to be eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, "association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." Outside of Indian tribes, there may not be a more recognizable, unique living and historical group than Cajuns. Also, the Basin may well be eligible under National Register Criterion "D" as a source of information about history. The people of the area themselves are a rich source of oral historical data. None of the disqualifying factors applies. The Basin should be designated on the National Register and Cajun fishermen should be a consulting party.

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 44 **Comment Id:** 141197

Comment Text: In addition to State Historic Preservation Officers, Indian tribes, local governments, historical societies, historical commissions, and property owners in the project area, other individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the project may participate in Section 106 review as consulting parties "due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties." Groups such as LCPA-West that are comprised of Cajun commercial fishermen have an economic, cultural, and historical relationship with the Basin. Consultation means the process of seeking, discussing, and considering the views of other participants, and, where feasible, seeking agreement with them regarding matters arising in the section 106 process. The Secretary's "Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Preservation Programs pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act" provide further guidance on consultation. 36 CFR 800.16(f).

Organization: Atchafalaya Basinkeeper

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141011

Comment Text: -50% of land between levees is publicly owned-clear title creates challenges.

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 141010

Comment Text: -Some landowners willing to sell-lack of authorization & funding

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 5 **Comment Id:** 140775

Comment Text: Safety, including flood preparation and environmental accidents (oil spills, etc.) should be highlighted.

Correspondence Id: 22 **Comment Id:** 140874

Comment Text: The management plan has got to interface with the efforts of the Louisiana Dept. of Natural Resources' Atchafalaya Basin Program.

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 140856

Comment Text: Free public access!

Correspondence Id: 19 **Comment Id:** 140854

Comment Text: Water flow management, open waterways that are silted up.

Correspondence Id: 2 **Comment Id:** 140751

Comment Text: Please take into consideration the rights of landowners in the Atchafalaya basin.

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140995

Comment Text: -NHA-broader-reach mechanism than DNR Basin Program

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141086

Comment Text: -Opposed to changes in water flow Atchafalaya into Bayou Courtableau

Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 35 **Comment Id:** 141115

Comment Text: -Concerned about impacts due to oil spill.

Commenter: Avoyelles Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140965

Comment Text: -Capitalize on current environmental disaster

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 31 **Comment Id:** 140987

Comment Text: -How to undo damage-mimic natural processes-what would nature do given man-made constraints

Commenter: Iberville Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 37 **Comment Id:** 141143

Comment Text: -I-10 cuts off areas/towns from larger tourism areas.

Commenter: St. Martin Parish Public Meeting

Correspondence Id: 34 **Comment Id:** 141092
Comment Text: -Need to work to keep area authentic.
Commenter: St. Landry Parish Public Meeting