

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper
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**THESE PROJECTS ARE CO-SPONSORED BY ATCHAFALAYA BASINKEEPER, LOUISIANA
CRAWFISH PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION-WEST, HEALTHY GULF & DELTA CHAPTER
SIERRA CLUB
10-25-2021**

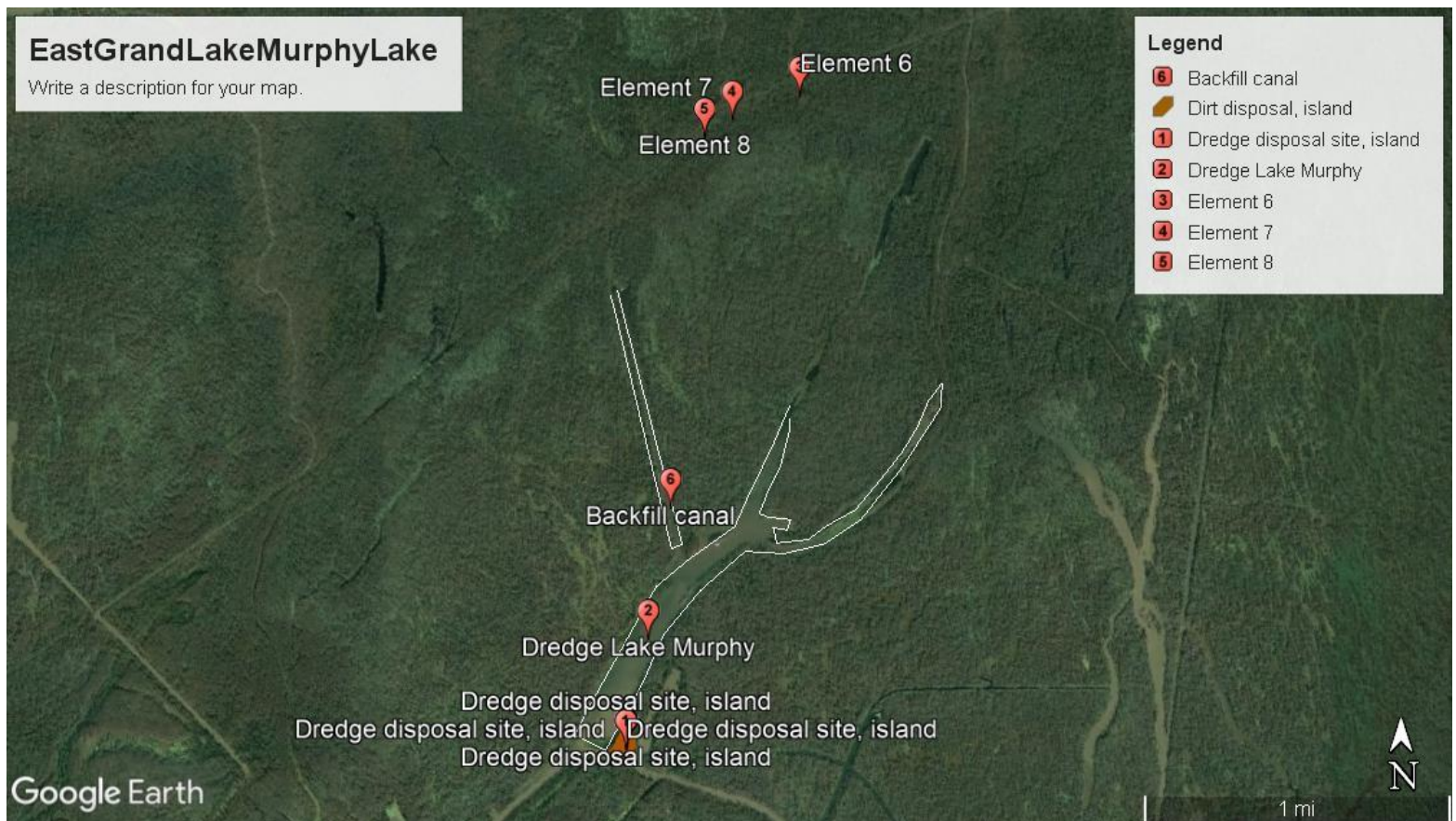
CPRA and the Atchafalaya Basin Program (ABP) have great groups to partner with in the Atchafalaya Basin, groups with a great history of working to protect the Basin with integrity, whose whole mission is to protect and restore the Atchafalaya Basin's wetlands for future generations. Our mission is compatible with the Corps and CPRA obligations to protect our coast, protect wetlands critically important for migratory birds and protect millions of our citizens from devastating floods. CPRA and the Corps should not be partnering with any groups or entities being paid by special interest groups whose goals are to fill wetlands for their own benefit, or illegal developers, or corporations with a history of destroying wetlands to maximize profits at the expense on the safety of millions, the millions of migratory birds that depend on those ecosystems and the Cajun culture. The only reason these corporations will finance an NGO with no history of working in the Basin is so they can continue practices that are non-compatible with CPRA's and the Corps obligations.

In addition to the projects that we are proposing, we ask the ABP and CPRA to demand that the Corps cease and desist with construction of the Element 10 of the Buffalo Cove Project. Element 10 will canalize sand and silt into wetlands and deep-water habitat into the Ice Box area. Element 10 of the Buffalo Cove Project is not compatible with the Corps and CPRA obligations to protect their citizens from floods, important bird habitat and the livelihood of the Cajun fishermen that depend on those fishing grounds.

Louisiana is the steward of some of the most amazing ecosystems in our planet, ecosystems that are also crucial for safe human habitation of much of south-central Louisiana and parts of Mississippi, our culture and bird habitats at the planetary scale. We pray that the day will come that we can move away from endless litigation and work together to do what is right for ourselves and future generations. Projects like the Buffalo Cove Project, the Beau Bayou Project and the East Grand Lake Project are contrary to CPRA's mission of restoration and increasing flood protection.

EAST GRAND LAKE PHASE 1 LAKE MURPHY RESTORATION CLOSURES

This is phase one of multiple projects that will be submitted to restore hydrology on the East Grand Lake area. To restore deep water habitat and improve waterflows in and around the Lake Murphy area of the East Grand Lake unit. The proposal kept three elements from the original East Grand Lake Project, elements 6, 7 and 8. Those cuts are in the Florida Gas Pipeline, farther away from the sediment source, and the pipeline has already filled with sand all the way to where Bayou Canon flows south from the pipeline, slowing the current and the amount of sand that will reach elements 6, 7 and 8. For the project to work, Lake Murphy needs to be dredged, the oil access canal backfilled and the plug at the southern end of Lake Murphy removed and piled as an island at the southeast corner of the lake. Lake Murphy should be dredged before working on elements 6, 7 and 8..



Rock dam Bayou Bridge Pipeline

Bayou Bridge Pipeline's cleared right-of-way is diverting huge amounts of water from the GIWW into the area, magnifying the hydraulic dam effect created by the Williams canal and diverting more sand and silt into the

area. Before construction of the BBP, during very high water periods, water will go over ridges and move north to south across the Williams canal, but after the BBP was built, during the 2019 and 2020 high water events, the hydraulic dam created by the BBP completely stopped the water coming from the north and the stink from rotten water was so bad that it was sickening.

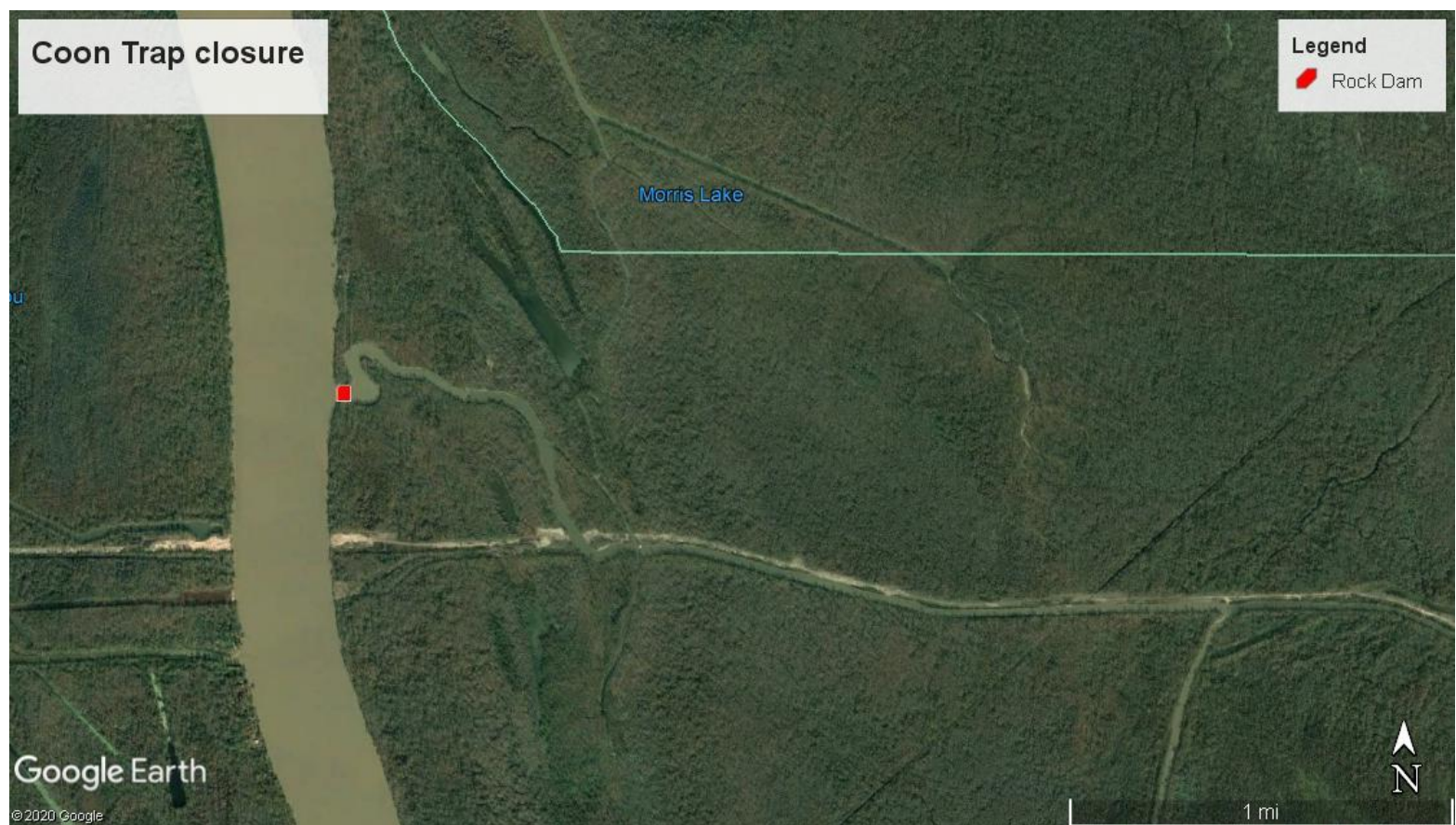
Only the BBP right-of-way should be closed. Williams canal should be left open for now until full restoration of the area takes place. The site is about 2.5 miles south of the Bayou Sorrel Locks. Approximate coordinates: 30°05'28.05" N 91°18'38.20" W.



Coon Trap closure

Coon Trap is the biggest threat to the ecology of the East Grand Lake Area of the Atchafalaya Basin. When first opened, fishermen were told that if it caused any damage Coon Trap would be closed, that was almost 30 years ago. Supported by local landowners/waterbottom claimants, the magnitude of wetland destruction created

by this river diversion project is hard to describe. It is mind boggling that the Corps and the state intentionally opened Coon Trap and allowed thousands of acres of wetlands and waterways to fill in with sand and silt, areas that are critical to protect millions of people from flooding. Coon Trap should be closed immediately, before the next high-water season. Approximate coordinates: 30°05'49.50" N 91°28'23.89" W



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We want to thank Coastal Protection and Restoration for their request to submit more proposals to restore the East Grand Lake Management Unit.

Removal of the Williams canal spoil bank is essential for Phase 2 to work. Most of those waterbottoms are claimed by Williams Inc., A. Wilbert's Sons and Jeanerette Lumber that we believe may oppose the project.

**EAST GRAND LAKE PHASE 2
ZADRICK, COW BAYOU,
HUMBLE CANAL, WILLIAMS**

Restoration is a tricky business and if done wrong it can do more harm than good. It is important that this phase is done in stages to maximize benefits and minimize damage.

- Stage 1: Remove Williams canal spoil bank from the GIWW to Cross Bayou. Two disposal sites are suggested:
 1. One on south corner where Cross Bayou and the Williams Canal meet on the east bank of Cross Bayou, that piece land is part owned by the state of Louisiana and others.
 2. Second one on the Bayou Bridge Pipeline right-of-way, land owned by the state. The BBP right-of-way needs to be blocked because of the amount of water in canalizing to the southern end of the EGL Unit, creating a hydraulic dam and huge water quality problems without mentioning bringing significant amount of silt. Since BBP directionally drilled under the GIWW and the pipeline comes up closer to the surface far away from the bank, it should be plenty of room to dispose dirt from the spoil bank.We cannot stress enough that removal of the spoil bank along the Williams Canal is essential for Phase 2 to be effective in its efforts to restore the East Grand Lake project area. Most of the waterbottoms where the spoil bank is located are claimed by Williams Inc., A. Wilbert's Sons and Jeanerette Lumber that we believe may oppose the removal of the spoil bank.
- Stage 2: Backfill Humble Canal to increase current through wetlands and Cow Bayou. Waterbottom claimed by Williams Inc., Jeanerette Lumber.

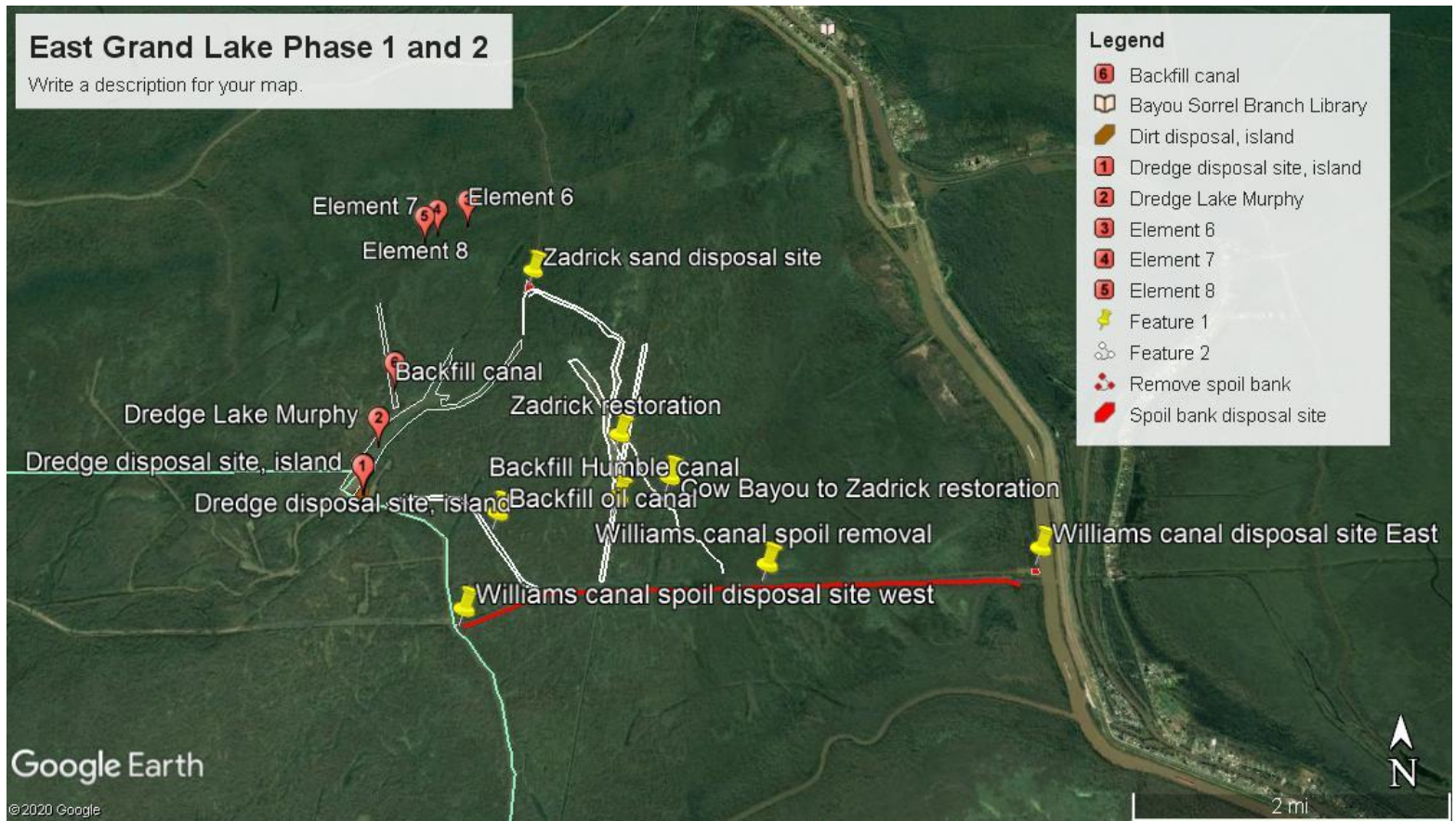
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- Stage 3: Immediately after backfilling the Humble Canal and using a small dredger, suction dredge Cow

Bayou to Lake Zadrick spreading the slush far and wide. This should be done during high water so the increased current created by backfilling the Humble can spread the very fine slush far and wide.

- Stage 4: Restore Zadrick Lake. Sand should be placed as an island on the north bank where Cannon Bayou connects with Lake Zadrick. Land for disposal site is owned by Norman, Mildred and others. A high island on their land may be a welcome development for them since that area is not a functioning wetland and higher land will be a good refuge for wildlife during floods. Iberville Parish School Board owns much of the east bank of Lake Zadrick and permission can be obtained by the School Board we may be able to identify a second disposal site along that part of the Humble Canal.
- Stage 5: If funding is available after finishing stages 1 to 4, backfill canal that splits to the northwest from the Williams Canal all the way to Bee Bayou. Waterbottom claimed by Williams Inc. We believe Rudy Sparks will try to stop this essential part of the project.





As it can be seen on the complete project map, the proposal restores deep water habitat, completely restore north to south flow more evenly throughout wetlands with minimum introduction of river water. The only introduction of river water are elements 6, 7 and 8, located at a place with lower sand loads. This project should increase the Basin's flood capacity by restoring lakes to historical depths and improving water flows.

We are looking forward to being of assistance to make this unprecedented and amazing project a reality. The project will be supported by all stakeholders, except some waterbottom claimants, creating excitement among all the fishermen and other users of the Basin and much needed support for Atchafalaya Program projects.