

Recommendations for Tangipahoa Sub-Area

1	Backfill canals that are no longer in use, especially historic logging canals in swamp and marsh areas to improve overland hydrologic flow
2	Support Hope Canal River Diversion to introduce freshwater and nutrients to entire Lake Maurepas and Lake Pontchartrain system
3	Breach impoundments such as old railroad beds and flood control structures in swamp and marsh area
4	Ban cypress logging from Joyce Wildlife Management Area and surrounding swamps to prevent further degradation of the forests
5	Plant cypress in degraded and relict swamp forests; provide herbivory protection to planted trees, fertilize and give consideration to source population when planting
6	Control nutria populations through trapping, hunting and biological control
7	Suspend large alligator harvest in Joyce Wildlife Management Area and surrounding swamp to grow a population of large alligators that can consume nutria
8	The City of Hammond Wastewater Treatment Plant has consistently been out of compliance since its inception in 2005. To ensure compliance disciplinary actions such as fines should be issued
9	Three possible suggestions for rectifying the creation of large areas of open water at the Hammond Wastewater Assimilation site: 1) end assimilations project and retrofit the treatment plant for tertiary treatment; 2) move discharge site further south into cypress forest which historically has not resulted in negative impact; 3) convert half of the current discharge zone into a constructed wetland in order to save the rest of the area
10	Independent detailed monitoring of all aspects of the discharge zone (microbes, invertebrates, plants, hydrology etc.) by experts in each discipline to ascertain what happened at the assimilation site and to help make specific recommendations for future projects
11	Control nutria populations at the assimilation site to prevent herbivory which is adding stress to an already stressed environment
12	Hydrologic study of swamp, from I-55 to Tangipahoa River and from South Slough to North Pass, which elucidates where current impediments to overland flow exist, preventing freshwater and nutrients from reaching much of the swamp forests, contributing to forest degradation and conversion to marsh
13	Prohibit further construction and clear cutting within riparian buffer zone along the Tangipahoa River (extending 100 feet from either side of the river) and control sediment and erosion within the Tangipahoa River and Bedico Creek watersheds
14	Establish a riparian buffer, width to be determined in relation to width of water way, along Bedico Creek and large bayous in which construction and clearcutting should be banned
15	Planting of cypress and willow along river and stream banks to restore riparian zone which helps prevent bank erosion and provides a corridor for animals
16	Backfill shoreline canals to slow further shoreline retreat
17	Expand Joyce WMA area to include all of southern portion of Tangipahoa River and Bedico Creek to help preserve the riparian zone, swamp and marsh to afford ecosystem wide protection
18	Place the portion of the Tangipahoa River the lies between Highway 90 and I-12 in conservation by purchasing the land extending 200 feet from both banks where development and tree harvest would not be allowed

Recommendations for Tchefuncte Sub-Area

1	Backfill man-made canals to enhance overland flow in both the west and east Tchefuncte marshes
2	Reevaluate current and proposed assimilation projects discharging into marsh to ensure that large areas of open water are not created; use other criteria in addition to nutrient uptake, such as alterations to hydrologic regime and individual plant species life history during the design portion of the project

3	Support the proposal for the West St. Tammany Parish Coastal Wetland Habitat Acquisition which proposes to acquire shoreline from the Tangipahoa/St. Tammany Parish line to Mandeville for conservation and restoration
4	Backfill shoreline canals to help slow shoreline retreat; the large open area behind the shoreline weakens the integrity and makes shoreline breaches more likely
5	Acquisition of Guste Island area for inclusion into the Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge
6	Restoration of natural drainage in Guste Island through breaching impoundments and cessation of pumping which will help restore the wetlands that once existed in the area
7	Create a mitigation bank in the Guste Island area to help with restoration
8	Restore and enhance natural cypress ridge in Guste Island
9	Restore cypress shoreline in Guste Island area
10	Build breakwaters just west of Tchefuncte River and east of the lighthouse to prevent further erosion and establish SAV habitat

Recommendations for Lacombe Sub-Area

1	Support recovery and protection of the Red-Cockaded woodpecker in the BBMNWR through annual surveys for roosts, nests and 10% of the refuge area for cavity trees. Cavities will be added where needed. Banding of adults should be done
2	Restore marshes in BBMNWR through annual burnings and restore areas where large ponds (> 5 acres) have developed
3	Protect and restore pine flatwoods and savannahs in BBMNWR using prescribed fire and planting areas that that have been cleared or damaged. Invasive species control should also take place
4	Acquire the remaining 6,634 acres of lands within the approved BBMNWR acquisition boundary
5	Support the proposed Northshore Restoration Project (R1-PO-04) which will use dredged material to create 450 acres and nourish 300 acres of marsh in BBMNWR and Fontainebleau State Park
6	Support the proposed Bayou Bonfouca Marsh Creation Project (R1-PO-05) which will use dredged material to create and nourish 458 acres of marsh and repair breaches in the shoreline
7	Expand BBMNWR acquisition boundary to preserve wetland forest and pine uplands that exist north of the current boundary
8	Support the Green Property Preservation Project which involves the acquisition of 27.2 acres cypress swamp and bottomland hardwood as part of larger project to preserve riparian corridors along Bayou Lacombe and Bayou Liberty
9	Support the Northshore Beach Marsh Creation and Restoration Project which will create 600 acres of marsh through placement of dredged material and repair shoreline near Bayou Bonfouca and the community of Northshore Beach
10	Acquire land along Cane Bayou and the Tammany Trace for conservation of relatively natural forest to add to scenic enjoyment of nearby recreational areas

Recommendations for Lake Pontchartrain Sub-Area

1	Expand Lake Pontchartrain Sanctuary to include the entire Northshore shoreline extending 4 miles from shore, to protect valuable SAV and near shore environments
2	Tougher regulations should be implemented such as commercial crabbing permitted only 300 feet from the shore or at depths greater than 5 feet, no commercial net fishing, no commercial trawling and limit boat traffic over SAV habitat
3	More enforcement and tougher fines for violators of sanctuary rules
4	Improve signage delineating the sanctuary boundaries and rules and perform public outreach emphasizing the importance of the sanctuary and what it protects

5	Remove derelict crab traps which cause mortality of blue crab and other commercially important species, as they persist in the water and continue to catch animals that will not be retrieved
6	Public outreach on the detriments of derelict crab traps
7	Make and enforce laws that encourage trappers to retrieve equipment and register an identification number with the LDWF which would be written on all buoys and equipment so offenders can be tracked and fined
8	SAV restoration through planting and protection of source populations. Boat traffic restrictions over SAV habitat
9	Install offshore breakwaters in front of armored shorelines to dampen wave energy, which would create SAV habitat
10	Public outreach on the importance of SAV to commercial and recreational fishing as well as to the environment, institute public planting programs to get people involved in restoration
11	Ban commercial crabbing in the bayous and wetlands around Lake Pontchartrain to preserve stock populations
12	Monitor the clams and benthic populations closely in the dead zone of Lake Pontchartrain
13	Continue the ban on commercial dredging in Lake Pontchartrain to preserve clam populations and maintain lake water clarity
14	Continue ban on oil and gas exploration in Lake Pontchartrain