# Big Island Mining (AT-03)
## Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

**Project Description**

The Big Island Mining project is located in the upper Atchafalaya River, which is annually dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for navigational purposes. The riverbed is continually increasing in width, combined with dredged material deposition. The project consists of dredging a 21,000 ft (64,000 m) secondary distributary conduit for river sediment to the Gulf of Mexico. The main distributary channel starts with a bottom width of 400 ft (122 m) bottom width at NGVD elevation -10 ft (-3 m) to create a venturi effect to accelerate flow. Dredging is to occur at a distance of 500 ft (152 m) from the right bank of the Atchafalaya River, which is annually dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for navigational purposes. The continually increasing channel width by the Lower Atchafalaya River, which is annually dredged by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for navigational purposes. The continually increasing channel width results in significant river migration over time, which is expected to impact riparian areas within the vicinity of the project.

**Data Source**

- **Preconstruction Habitat Classification:**
  - 1994 Habitat classification data were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 3, 1994. The postconstruction habitat data of 1994 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 1998.
  - 1997 Habitat classification data were derived from 1:40,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 15, 1997. The postconstruction habitat data of 1997 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 8, 1998.
  - 1998 Habitat classification data were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 15, 1998. The postconstruction habitat data of 1998 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 3, 1998.
  - 2000 Habitat classification data were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 2000. The postconstruction habitat data of 2000 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 15, 2000.
  - 2007 Habitat classification data were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 2007. The postconstruction habitat data of 2007 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 8, 2007.

**Inventory mapping conventions.** Uplands were aggregated from the 1979, FWS/OBS-79/31) as modified for the National Wetlands Deepwater Habitats of the United States” (Cowardin and others 2007). Habitat classes are based on “Classification of Wetlands and Open Water Areas in the United States” (Anderson et al., 1976; USGS, 1992). Inventory mapping conventions. Uplands were aggregated from the 1979, FWS/OBS-79/31) as modified for the National Wetlands Deepwater Habitats of the United States” (Cowardin and others 2007). Habitat classes are based on “Classification of Wetlands and Open Water Areas in the United States” (Anderson et al., 1976; USGS, 1992).

**Project Features**

- **Project Area Acreages:**
  - 1994 Project Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 437 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 0 acres
    - Upland Barren: 0 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 2 acres
    - Wetland Forested: 1,054 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 155 acres
  - 1997 Project Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 2,036 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 2 acres
    - Upland Barren: 2 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 196 acres
    - Wetland Forested: 1,057 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 193 acres
  - 1998 Project Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 2,765 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 4 acres
    - Upland Barren: 5 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 247 acres
    - Wetland Forested: 1,266 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 239 acres
  - 2000 Project Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 3,221 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 13 acres
    - Upland Barren: 14 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 257 acres
    - Wetland Forested: 1,701 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 258 acres
  - 2007 Project Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 3,419 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 21 acres
    - Upland Barren: 15 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 345 acres
    - Wetland Forested: 1,902 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 236 acres

- **Reference Area Acreages:**
  - 1994 Reference Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 4 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 0 acres
    - Upland Barren: 0 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
    - Wetland Forested: 0 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
  - 1997 Reference Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 4 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 0 acres
    - Upland Barren: 0 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
    - Wetland Forested: 0 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
  - 1998 Reference Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 4 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 0 acres
    - Upland Barren: 0 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
    - Wetland Forested: 0 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
  - 2000 Reference Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 4 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 0 acres
    - Upland Barren: 0 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
    - Wetland Forested: 0 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
  - 2007 Reference Area Acreages:
    - Beach/Bar/Flat: 4 acres
    - Agriculture/Range: 0 acres
    - Upland Barren: 0 acres
    - Upland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre
    - Wetland Forested: 0 acres
    - Wetland Scrub-Shrub: 1 acre

**Data Source**

- **Preconstruction Habitat data were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 1998. The postconstruction habitat data of 1998 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 3, 1998. The postconstruction habitat data of 1994 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 1998. The postconstruction habitat data of 2000 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained November 15, 2000. The postconstruction habitat data of 2007 were derived from 1:12,000 scale, color-infrared photography obtained October 29, 2007.**

**NOTE:** The reference area had not been selected at the time of the 1994 flight.