

FALSE RIVER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Note: The majority of the comments received to date included statements of support and enthusiasm for the project. Following is a summary of the questions that have been raised in the comments that have been received.

Q1. How can the project be supported financially by local efforts?

A1. It is anticipated that the soon to be established False River Watershed Council will work closely with the parish to identify and implement mechanisms for donations and other methods of local fund-raising to support the project. In addition, A “Beneficial Environmental Project” grant is being submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality by the parish. The parish and elected officials are working with state agencies to obtain additional funding from sources that have been identified. A public outreach plan is also being developed that will assist with these efforts.

Q2. How will information about the progress and status of the project be made available?

A2. In addition to updates to this FAQ as comments and questions are received, additional information on progress and milestone achievement will be posted to the web site that is being hosted by DNR. The False River Watershed Council will also provide input to develop an efficient method to advise interested parties of what is being done.

Q3. What can be done to warn folks about the shallow water in the North and South Flats and reduce turbidity from boat traffic in the shallows?

A3. The parish recently passed a resolution requiring that the buoys in the North and South flats be moved out to a greater depth to enhance safety and reduce turbidity caused by boat traffic. Surveys are currently being performed to determine the optimum placement of the buoys.

Q4. Is the conceptual design of the islands that was presented the only design that will be considered?

A4. No. The conceptual design of the islands that is in the draft project plan will be replaced as the project advances with an engineered design, or an alternative, that

takes into consideration local concerns and establishes crucial edge habitat for the fishery.

Q5. What can individual land owners and residents of False River do around their property to assist the project?

A5. The project team is developing a pamphlet that will provide land owners and residents with list of things that can be done individually that will benefit the overall goal of the project. The pamphlet will also list activities to avoid around False River that would be contrary to the project goals (such as stockpiling bare soil near the shoreline). The information will also discuss underwater and shoreline items such as vegetative plantings and artificial reefs.

Q6. Can a drawdown be done earlier than the one planned in 2014?

A6. Community support and measurable results are very important to the success of the restoration efforts. Comments supporting an earlier drawdown, as well as other comments received, will be provided to the team of folks who are working on the plan and to the False River Watershed Council, which will also be working on this effort, for consideration.