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Coastal Protection and  
Restoration Authority of Louisiana

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Corps and State Reach Cost Share Agreement on Coastal Restoration Projects** *Louisiana Coastal Area projects can move forward*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state of Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) signed a cost share agreement that will initiate several studies that are part of the recent Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) authorization.

"Louisiana has lost more than 2300 square miles of vital coastal wetlands over the last century and this loss continues to threaten the safety of our communities, the energy security of this country and the essential fisheries and wildlife habitat along our coast," said CPRA Chairman Garret Graves. "The LCA projects we are moving forward with mark the first truly comprehensive efforts to reverse the loss of Louisiana's wetlands."

Included in the 2007 Water Resources Development Act, the studies under this agreement will evaluate numerous options for introducing freshwater and sediment into marshes and restrict saltwater intrusion throughout southern Louisiana. The studies will evaluate how to increase organic deposits and improve the productivity of the marsh while working to prevent further deterioration.

"We are very pleased to work with our state partner, the CPRA, on these studies," said District Commander, Col. Alvin Lee. "These restoration efforts will help to protect and restore Louisiana's valuable wetlands."

The total cost for the studies is approximately \$27 million. The studies will culminate in a report the State and Corps will release in December 2010.

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