



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
New Orleans District

# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Amite River Basin: is ecosystem restoration feasible?** *Corps, Pontchartrain Levee District study is designed to find out over three years*

NEW ORLEANS – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pontchartrain Levee District have begun a \$5.2 million study to determine the feasibility of ecosystem restoration in Southeast Louisiana’s 2,200 square mile Amite River Basin.

“About 10,690 acres have experienced degradation of fish and wildlife habitat throughout the (Amite River) basin,” Corps Project Manager Jason McCrossen said. “Nearly 25 miles of the river above Denham Springs is degraded with significant loss of shoreline and aquatic habitat.”

The causes include a wider floodplain resulting from erosion, shallower water, faster flow, higher water temperature and increased turbidity, McCrossen said. Loss of vegetation and man-made changes also contribute to habitat degradation along the river.

One result has been higher river stages downstream. The Amite’s 1983 flood led to significant property damage, economic loss and disruption of lives in East Baton Rouge, Livingston and Ascension parishes.

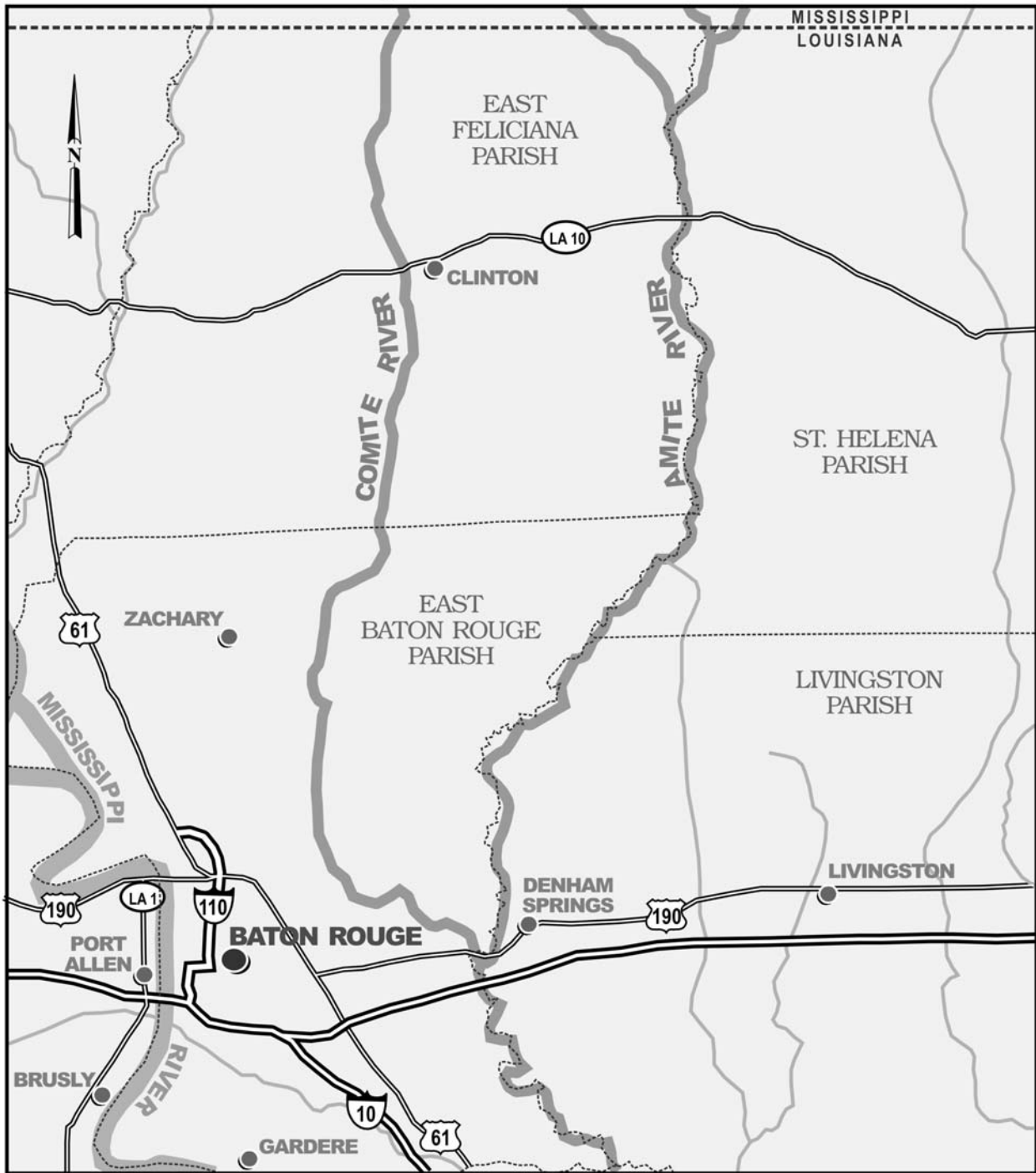
Restoration would be next if the three-year study indicates sufficient benefits. Possible actions would be channel training, bank stabilization and sediment control.

The study will focus on the Amite River Basin from about La. 10 downstream to about U.S. 190. The authorized project area is larger, including the Comite River Basin and adjacent areas. The authorized project area includes East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Iberville, Ascension, St. Helena and East Feliciana.

The Comite River flows into the Amite south of U.S. 190, and the Amite empties into Lake Maurepas, an extension of the Gulf of Mexico.

Map on next page.

# Amite River and Tributaries Ecosystem Restoration



*Elena Napolitano, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District*

This is the authorized project area. The first work will be along Amite River from about La. 10 to about U.S. 190. The authorized project parishes also include Ascension and Iberville.