United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

Natural Resources Conservation Service
3737 Government Street
Alexandria, Louisiana 71302

July 7, 2003

William Conner, Chief
Damage Assessment Center
Office of Response and Restoration/WOS
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1305 East-West Highway, SSMC#4, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Conner:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program (RRP Program). As described the RRP Program will expedite the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process, making it more cost-effective, and should shorten the restoration planning phase through the development of individual Regional Restoration Plans. The RRP trustees will strive to coordinate with and complement to the fullest extent possible, the goals and efforts of the Wetlands Reserve Program.

The USDA-NRCS supports efforts to more efficiently and effectively administer conservation and restoration practices. As a federally designated trustee the USDA-NRCS in Louisiana looks forward to establishing and coordinating a technically sound role in RRP restoration efforts utilizing our soils, plant materials, hydrology, and conservation planning expertise. Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Donald W. Gohmert

Donald W. Gohmert
State Conservationist

cc: Diane E. Gelburd, Director Ecological Sciences Division, Washington, D.C.
James P. Burgess III, NEPA Coordinator, NOAA, Washington, D.C.
R.S. Carmichael, SRC, NRCS, Alexandria

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.

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