Bayou La Batre Watershed Management Plan

A watershed management plan is being developed for the Bayou La Batre watershed and will be conducted over approximately a one-year period. The WMP is being funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund and is a joint effort between the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program and the Mobile County Soil and Water Conservation District.

NFWF is funding seven WMPs along Coastal Alabama including: Bayou La Batre, Bon Secour, Dog River, Fish River, Tensaw-Apalachee, West Fowl River/Delchamps Bayou, and Wolf Bay. The watersheds include a primary waterway such as Bayou La Batre as well as the land areas that drain into the waterway. The WMPs provide a roadmap for restoring or conserving watersheds and improving water and habitat quality.

The Bayou La Batre watershed study is being coordinated by the national engineering firm of Dewberry which has compiled a team of scientists and engineers who will look carefully at the following features of the watershed:

- Environmental health and resiliency (the ability of the watershed to bounce back from natural and man-made disasters)
- Culture and heritage
- Public access to the waterway
- Fish, wildlife and habitats
- Shoreline stability and changes
- Water quality

The overall goal is to determine the current health of the watershed and then develop a comprehensive, community based approach to guide the process of improving the ecologic and cultural vitality for all community uses including recreational and commercial applications. The guiding principle for the study is that a healthy waterway means a cleaner environment, job stability for local citizens and a better quality of life for all.

A substantial part of that process is building partnerships within the community that will lead to meaningful citizen participation. Meetings with small groups of citizens from throughout the watershed are being scheduled to 1) provide accurate information concerning the importance of the study and the process that will be followed, and 2) obtain citizen feedback concerning the importance of the watershed in terms of culture, heritage and quality of life.

More information on the study can be obtained locally by contacting:

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