



Research Services & Sponsored Programs
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The Louisiana Environmental Research Center (LERC) at McNeese was approved in 1990 by the Board of Regents for the purpose of conducting research focused on environmental problems of importance to southwest Louisiana and the Gulf of Mexico region and to provide information and data to other agencies, researchers and industry on the impact of environmental hazards. The US Air Force donated nearly four acres of property and a former radar station facility near the McNeese Farm for the Wetlands Station's on-going research. The building has been renovated and houses some of the LERC research labs, including a greenhouse.

A hydrodynamic and sediment transport and tracking model (software) is being developed. Large- and local-scale hydrodynamic and sediment transport and tracking simulations are being performed in Calcasieu Ship Channel and surrounding water systems including Calcasieu Lake, Calcasieu River, Calcasieu Pass, Intra-Coastal Canal, and Gulf of Mexico. The simulation results will be used to not only identify the source of the sediments in the ship channel, but also the reason why sedimentation is so severe in this particular water system. The study will greatly contribute to the efforts of reducing and preventing future shoaling in the ship channel. The model (software) can be widely used for future hydrodynamic and transport simulations of many different types of watersheds.

The Louisiana Native Plant Initiative (LNPI) will collect, preserve, increase, and study native grasses, forbs and legumes from Louisiana ecosystems, conserving a vanishing natural resource and providing an essential step in the development of a native plant seed industry that will supply plant materials for restoration, re-vegetation efforts, roadside plantings and the ornamental plant industry.

The LERC Director also served on the Framework Development Team for the 2012 Coastal Master Plan. This just concluded and the master plan was presented and approved by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority on Wednesday, March 21st and has been submitted to the Louisiana Legislature for their approval.