Background

The National Wetlands Research Center is located in Lafayette, Louisiana, where we are nestled within the research park of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. The Center uses state-of-the-art technology to provide natural resource managers with environmental data and computerized analysis techniques necessary to make informed decisions. During the 2008 hurricane season the Center was involved in emergency response, humanitarian aide, and scientific assessments related to hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Mission Statement

The National Wetlands Research Center Science Response Vehicle (SRV) is capable of rapid deployment in response to natural disasters throughout the U.S. The SRV is equipped with computers and software capable of providing spatial analyses, biological assessments and emergency assistance during and after natural disasters. U.S. Geological Survey personnel will be available for deployment to meet the needs of the nation in response to natural disasters. The features of the SRV include:

- Spatial analysis technologies to:
  - evaluate land use, recovery, and restoration
  - model biological impacts of natural hazards (hurricanes, earthquakes, and wildfires)
  - help in emergency response and humanitarian aide search and rescue operations
  - provide rapid scientific monitoring assessments for biological resources

- Response capabilities to:
  - provide connectivity to the internet through an onboard satellite dish
  - receive TV signals through the satellite dish
  - provide living quarters to response personnel
  - provide equipment usage to other response agencies
  - provide communications (satellite phones, side-band radio)
The National Wetlands Research Center’s Science Response Vehicle was pre-deployed to Houston at the Reliant Center during Hurricane Ike
Deployment in parking lot day after landfall. Beaumont, TX
Lake Charles and Lafayette Mapping Activities
Coastal monitoring and stream gaging networks play a major role in the Centers assistance to the NWS and Office of Emergency Preparedness (La Homeland Security)
Ground water/salt water encroachment/competing needs

- Sparta, Chicot, and Southern Hills
- Center is the major collector of gw data and studies in the state. LADOTD is the major cooperator.
- Program provided critical information for enactment of the initial ground-water management legislation in 2001-2002
- Water-use program is critical for managing the states gw resources
USGS WRD Louisiana Activities – River Monitoring for Gulf Hypoxia

- Supply side: USGS NASQAN program major source of historical nutrient data in the Mississippi River - now have 6 NASQAN sites on the lower Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers
- Real-time gages in place on the Mississippi River (only real-time velocity meter on lower Miss) including nitrate and ortho P at Baton Rouge
- 4 real-time fully instrumented gages on Lake Pontchartrain
- Nutrient study NRP on C/nutrients/ and Hg in Pontchartrain and Barataria Basin
USGS WRD Louisiana Activities - Coastal Monitoring

- Center has been working in the coastal area since 1981. Working closely with NPS, FWS, and COE.
- Projects are coordinated with NRP, BRD, and GD. Includes Venture Capitol Projects.
USGS WRD Louisiana Activities-Restoration of the Atchafalaya Basin

- Major project for the Army Corps of Engineers-relying on the USGS for sediment, discharge, and accretion studies-work done in partnership with NRP and BRD
2008 Flight Status, All delivered, 1-5, 8-11 QA/QC; LOTS 6 & 7 have some alignment issues
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