

**Michael E. Stout, AICP, Project Manager for Tree Removal,  
Liaison to City of New Orleans  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District**

**New Orleans vegetation management activities in response to Katrina**

ABSTRACT

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, the New Orleans District, Corps of Engineers established a tree removal project team to reduce the risk to public safety caused by the existence of trees and other woody vegetation on or near levees and floodwalls. With 1300 miles of levees in the New Orleans District, the first priority has been removal of trees that endanger the New Orleans hurricane levee system.

The problems posed by trees to levee stability and seepage, as well as levee maintenance, inspection and flood-fighting will be discussed. Tree removal work completed and underway will be reviewed, highlighting challenges and issues. Finally, a summary of a recently completed tree root documentation study will be provided.

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Michael Stout is a 30-year employee of the New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and has worked in a variety of positions including archeology, planning, project management, and natural resources management. At present, Stout serves as senior project manager in the Protection and Restoration Office (PRO) responsible for removal of trees that endanger the 1,300 miles of flood protection levees in the New Orleans District. Since February 2007, Stout also serves as New Orleans District liaison to the City of New Orleans.

In 2006, Stout served as Corps liaison officer to FEMA mission ESF-14 (planning for long-term community recovery) assisting the state of Louisiana in planning for its recovery from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Formal education includes a B.A. degree in anthropology and a masters degree in urban and regional planning (MURP), both from the University of New Orleans. Stout is a certified planner by the American Institute of Certified Planners, American Planning Association.