

Appendix B:
Survey Comments

Please keep it for us to use like it is!

I really hope that the state does buy Elmer's Island. I have had many great time there and I would love to be able to go back. The state should be able to get their money back in a matter of a couple of years off of the fee that they would collect for you to enter.

This would be a big plus for all people of the state of Louisiana. Not only for recreation but also for costal preservation. Louisiana needs to own Elmers Island!!!

I grew up fishing Elmers Island. With the issues on other beaches that were once accessable by roads and are now not it would he horrible to allow Elmers Island to fall into the same situation. As more and more of the land in Louisiana becomes "private property" or "posted", it is becoming impossible to enjoy any part of the very state we live in without being part of a hunting or fishing club. If the state has the opportunity to purchase Elmers Island, I believe it should do so. The tax payers deserve a place to go, whether a fee is charged or not, where they can enjoy coastal Louisiana. The state park on Grand Isle has suffered severe erosion and has limited access on the beach front where vehicles are allowed. Elmers Island could be developed to the same status of the state park. If Grand Isle is hit with a category 4 or 5 hurricane, more than likely the park would suffer erosion that would take years to repair. Elmers Island would be another state owned facility that could take some of the overflow from the state park until Grand Isle was repaired. Either way, I believe a state owned park at Elmers Island would be profitable and also utilized by Louisiana as well as out of state residents. It would be horrible if this valuable resource fell into private hands and became "posted". Even worse, if it were developed into a gated type of community accessed only by the wealthy. Our waterfronts are already becoming overrun with these type of developments. I believe the state should do everything it can to obtain Elmers Island.

We need the states help to save Elmer's Island for us. Please do not let this site go private.

I would love for the state to purchase Elmer's Island and build something to the Grand Isle park. Nothing too fancy; just a good clean site with park rangers to enforce good camping ethics and insure everyone's safety. I have always loved to camp at Elmer's Island and have had some of my best camping/surf fishing trips there and was very disheartened when I found out it was no longer available for my outings. I feel that a state run park would generate income and provide relief to the park at Grand Isle. I would personaly go to Elmer's Island over Grand Isle even without any development. As an avid fisherman who really loves surf fishing and I'm sure a lot of others feel the same, I'd love to see a state owned Elmer's Island with public access and camping facilities with a bathhouse. Thank you for taking the time to care about our feelings for Elmer's Island and I hope that I can wade the surf on that beach very soon with a stringer full of Yellow Mouths !!!!

I would very much like to see Elmer's Island become a state park. Unfortunately, I am unable to contribute financially to the project. Please do all in your power to save this valuable and non-renewable resource for us all. Thanks.

I think that the island should have its own slot limits to allow fish to get larger and more plentiful.

We liked Elmers Island just the way it was. A fee at the gate kept the teenage partiers out because they didn't want to pay the fee. No 4x4's tearing up the beach like at Fouchon Beach. The road was grated to the beach and along the beach. The sand being grated kept the sand packed (avoiding getting stuck). We miss going to this beach since it closed. We hope to see it open again soon. JUST LIKE IT WAS!

As a zoology major, I would like to see Elmers Island kept pretty much undeveloped, but with open access by the genral public. I have utilized this area for sea kayaking, fishing, beach combing and swimming, and nature watching. I bring my family (two daughters) to Fourchon Beach in the summer months when school is out. I have also fished the entire area around Elmers Island, both inland bays and offshore. Thanks for letting me voice my opinions.

We have a Motor Home, that we camp in. And we have friends that has a camper to. They come the same time we do.

I believe that Elmer's Island should be open to the public; however, my greatest concern is that it will be maintained and preserved for the future. I am willing to pay a reasonable amount to ensure that it is.

"Elmers Island should be preserved for the people of Louisiana. It is one of only a few coastal areas in Louisiana accessible by auto. The price seems very reasonable for the resources and area being acquired. Once it goes to a private concern it is gone from the citizens of LA forever!"

I hope the state buys elmers island. If you don't have a boat there are only a few places in the state of Louisiana that you can go to actually see the Gulf of Mexico. Grand Isle and Johnson Beach. You really can't call Johnson Beach a beach because it is just a seawall. If you look on a map of the state you wouldn't believe this until you actually drive toward the coast and find out you can't get to it. That's a shame. I'd like to see you put the question in your survey that's asks how many people were born and raised in Louisiana, but have NEVER actually been in the Gulf of Mexico along the Louisiana coast. I think you'd be surprised by the response.

The island is a great resource, but what about the highway used to get to the island? the more people who use highway 1, the more money needed to keep it up.

"IF THE STATE BUYS IT, IT WILL BE FOR THE USE OF THE PUBLIC.
IF IT IS PURCHASED BY A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION, ONLY THE RICH WILL BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO GO THERE."

"I've been going to Elmers Island for as long as I can remember. This is one of the last places to go fishing and camping along a beach where you can drive. I don't want it to go the same way as the beach a Fouchon, where just the rich will have the rights to the beach just because they can afford to buy the property fronting the beach. Leave Elmers Island for the public. Didn't Elmer have it that way. Why change it."

I really hope that Governor Foster and the State Legislature purchase Elmers Island so that my family can start going back again. Make some basic improvements, i.e. paved roads, restrooms, trash cans, primitive camping areas.

"One of the best-unknown safety advantages for boaters at night was Elmer's Island. When you are fishing offshore and coming in at dark or fishing bull reds out of Caminada Pass, you could always count on the camp site fires or vehicle headlights on Elmer's Island to help guide you safely into the Caminada Pass. Since the beach has been closed, it is a guessing game to find the pass for any boater who does not have the high dollar Sonar or GPS systems to help them.

A lot of people who cannot afford to rent camps used the island as a place for their kids dreams of camping, fishing, and swimming to come true. It sad to think of these dreams and realities to being taken away from the younger generations. Now that the island is closed these same families and these kids are forced to fish on the side of LA 1 where their chances of getting killed by a motor vehicle have greatly increased. I see them on the side of the road while driving down to Grand Isle hoping that one of them wouldn't run into the road while playing and fishing. I also hope that the people fishing do not accidentally cast their lines only to get hooked on my vehicle traveling 55 M.P.H. down the highway. Does it happen??? Does it happen often??? Do the possibilities exist??? DEFINITELY and DAILY.

I think it would be a good investment by the State to purchase this land and bring it back where it belongs. To the People of Louisiana!!!!

"I've never been to Elmer's Island and, should the state purchase, might never go to Elmer's Island. However, I think it's important that we not lose any more of our coastal area to whatever interests -- be it coastal land loss or private developers. We do not have much land remaining here, and what's left, we need to protect.

Elmer's Island is a beautiful site and would be an excellent addition to our park system if kept somewhat primitive. Restroom and garbage disposal systems would be a must, as well as improved roads for access to the beach.

"With better access to the bays near Caminada Pass, I would change my windsurfing vacations from Padre Island, Tx. to Elmer's Island.

We spend so much money in this state and country on very useless things. Why in the world would the state NOT do this? I think this would be a very good expenditure of tax payer monies.

Please let the state buy Elmer's Island. Public access to Elmer's Island should be preserved for this and future generations.

Please do not let Elmer's Island get away! It is a state treasure, nay, a national treasure at an international scale. I've been around the world from Mexican desert to Nepal Himalaya - Elmer's Island is unique in its diversity & abundance of fauna & flora, in its position next to a world class deltaic system, in its significance as a geologic, ecologic, & environmental analogue, etc., etc., etc.

Let's show the world that La. politics can and will do the right thing with this tiny spit of sand and mud. I will help if I can.

Make sure the new Governor knows the importance of this matter.

I have been going to Elmer's Island for more than 20 years. My kids grew up and learned fishing on Elmer's Island. I would hate to see it turned into a private "condo" area. There are way too few places you can still drive to, drive on the beach and fish, swim or camp. Keep Elmer's Island for ALL the people of Louisiana not just for a privileged few.

I would love to see it open to the public.

We love Grand Isle and Elmer's Island. When we were children, we went there every weekend. Please, Please buy it, so we can enjoy it for many years to come!!!! We still go down there, but not as often as I would like.

Question 22- won't visit at all if it goes to a private ownership. Private ownership usually cost too much. Elmer's Island needs to stay for the public and at reasonable entrance fee. Also the Daily Comet in Thibodaux had a typo or error for your web site. I did inform them. I hope they run it again and point out the error so you can get more people to participate. Thank you.

Elmer's Island is a one-of-a-kind place. I certainly hope the government of Louisiana can step forward to preserve its semi-wild state. We have far too little of that kind of habitat available along our ever shrinking coast!

We are in desperate need of natural areas which are non consumptive to allow our bird populations to breed with some protection.

I believe Elmer's should be set up just like the State Park at the end of Grand Isle except without a pier.

I would like to see Elmer's Island purchased by the state and be managed like Grand Isle State Park.

Keep it primitive, Louisiana needs more public funded/accessible campgrounds on the Gulf coast. For someone wanting to go camping in the Grand Isle/Fourchon area it is a shame that those people have to settle on the beaches with no facilities. As much recreational money goes out in the state as it does it is a shame that we are even discussing this topic. Go to other surrounding states that do have the resources we have and they have great facilities and go fishing here in Louisiana and we have dumps on our coastline. It is a crying shame!

I have a camp on Grand Isle. It would be nice to have Elmer's open to have another option for birdwatching.

Please preserve Elmer's Island for the people of Louisiana -- there are two few accessible coastal sites for ordinary citizens of modest means!!!

Grand Isle was my second choice for coastal destination and Elmer's Island would be a part of going there.

In the Grand Isle area, I think Elmers Island would replace the Fourchon beach as the best shore-bird site to find shore and marsh birds.

Best wishes in acquiring and preserving Elmer's Island. I would prefer less development rather than more development but either way it would be a nice area for the state to acquire for the protection of our migrating birds.

Elmer's Island should be in public ownership, with a level of development commensurate with its vulnerability to storms. The nearby Cheniere Grand Lizard should be purchased as well. Driving should continue to be allowed on the beach, but ONLY IF dunes and nesting birds can be protected. Low level park ranger type enforcement is needed if any infrastructure is added or overnight camping allowed.

I encourage the state to buy the land. The price is right. It is an investment that can be done with little physical plant improvements, and it is a unique piece of land that should be state owned and available for the public's use. Just do it...

"MY TRIPS TO THE COAST VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR. ELMERS ISLAND IS A UNIQUE PLACE FOR ME. DUE TO A ACCIDENT WHICH LEFT ME WITH SOME BAD ANKLES I CANT WALK VERY FAR. AT ELMERS ISLAND IT'S SO NICE TO BE ABLE TO DRIVE RIGHT UP TO THE BEACH, GET OUT OF MY TRUCK AND BE RIGHT AT THE SURF.

"

elmrs island should be open to the public.**please help **

Elmer's Island is a real gem.

This is important to Louisiana tourism because of the excellent fishing and easy access.

As a resident of the State of Louisiana, I firmly believe that we need to step up and buy Elmer's Isle. If not, commercial interests will surely acquire the land, and has happened time and time again, develop, overdevelop, essentially destroy a virgin paradise. To the true sportsman, the beauty of Elmers is held in its primitive state. Let's ensure that it remains this way.

Some of the questionnaire is rather poor. There are many factors to consider before answering some of the questions. When you speak of a visit to the island, I assume you mean driving and not fishing the front of the beach by boat. If a private conservation group purchased it, that would be fine. There are many private uses that would not destroy the environment and would be acceptable uses. If the State can afford to purchase and not overdevelop the site then that would be ok as well provided that the purchase price was reasonable. This is a complicated process that a simple questionnaire is not going to represent.

Fees should be in keeping with fees charged for visitation of state parks. The ridiculous fee of \$3/person at the Cameron Jetties is a case in point. Few birders spend more than an hour at a site, if that much time. Why pay so much money when there are alternative places to go that don't charge. Fees should be realistic. If you're going to spend a day someplace, \$3/person is okay. If you're only there for short term parking, so to speak, the fee should be appropriate.

Question #22 is poorly written. Do you mean what would I be willing to pay to put Elmer's Island into public ownership? I certainly wouldn't pay anything to subsidize its privatization, even if the owner allowed some access.

"Some of my most successful speckled trout fishing trips came from Elmers Island. I am looking forward to a day when I can bring my own son to experience this first hand.

I would like for the state to purchase and care for this wonderful resource for future Louisianan's to enjoy!"

"I can't believe you don't include hunting as a possible response for the most preferred natural resource enjoyment in Coastal Louisiana (question #1)

If you don't intend it to be considered in this survey, you should say ""excluding hunting"" in question 1.

"

My "other" is duck hunting in coastal Louisiana. I currently have a private duck lease on Point Au Fer Island.

I am all for the purchase of Elmers Isle for public use. Otherwise It will go Private and all access will be lost to me the Public. I am not rich enough or inclined to own a camp yet my wife and I love to visit own La. coast.

"Elmer's Island is a wonderful place that should be keep primitive and open to the public. Camping on the beach and camp fires should be allowed. Bathrooms and showers would be nice, but not necessary. ACCESS IS THE PRINCIPAL NEED."

I'd love to see the state buy the island as part of the state park system.

Elmer's Island is a jewel in the rough for Louisiana. Its perservation as a fishing, camping and birding sactuary to be enjoyed by the public for generations to come should be a high priority in the state's effort to protect and manage our dwindling coastal resources.

I own a camp on Grand Isle.

Birdwatching in Grand Isle is developing for nature-based tourism. These birdwatchers would also travel to Elmer's Island and Fourchon. This would make an important stop for the upcoming La. Great Gulf Coast Birding Trail.

I did not understand question # 22. I hear that the area is valued at six million. That's what the state should pay if that is indeed what it appraises for.

This survey got a little screwy at times questions re: one time contribution are not specific enough. I would be willing to contribute toward state purchase of the island, IF I was guaranteed that is what would happen to the contribution.

My main concern with property like Elmer's Island is preservation and of course the money to maintain, preserve, and operate the property. It could be a great park with primitive camping and fishing facilities without too much development. Why did the private landowner close it?

"Losing public access to Elmer's island would be a huge loss not only to Louisiana residents but to sportsmen around the world. On more than one occasion, I have taken friends from different parts of the country and globe surfing there. There is very little access for this type of fishing in Louisiana. I guess we could all move to Mississippi and surf fish there, but who really wants to do that."

Your survey is directed toward recreation of all of us. I ask you, please, to consider habitat needs of birds, both resident and migrants, and any other creatures that use Elmer's Island. Please buy it! Make it something we can be proud of as a state. This is a perfect opportunity to do something great for the community as a whole.

I responded to items based on what I do for recreation in coastal Louisiana. I engage in swimming/beachcombing more often than indicated, but I drive to Gulfport/Biloxi or even make a 4 hour one-way drive to Florida due to the limited availability of clean, well kept beaches here at home. With regards to camping, my husband's family owns a residence in Port Fourchon. Since it is called "the camp" I considered that as camping. We don't actually own a portable camper, nor do we go camping in actual tents.

Instead of purchasing some new lands, why not make Venice into a Louisiana attraction not some back water swamp pit.

Elmer's Island is a great treasure especially for those of us who cannot afford an expensive boat and motor. It would be a shame if private developers purchased the property and only the more wealthy people could enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of the area.

Returning Elmer's Island to public use would be a fantastic asset to the Louisiana tourism industry.

I would love to see cabins such as at Bayou Segnette. I can find surf fishing and marsh fishing in lots of places including the existing state park on Grand Isle. What is hard to find in affordable, clean, nice lodging on or near a beach. Camping on the beach is not something my family enjoys too much - too hot and sand gets in everything.

The State of Louisiana would be foolish to let this opportunity pass without purchasing Elmer's Island.

Please keep the Island public and PRIMITIVE.

The importance of Elmer's Island as an undeveloped beach ecosystem cannot be emphasized strongly enough to state officials. It is imperative that the state find the meager resources needed to purchase this land and keep it in its current condition in the interests of the public.

I would prefer to see Elmer's Island become a separate unit of the Grand Isle state park.

Elmer's Island regularly hosts some of the largest flocks of sandpipers, terns, and plovers on the Gulf Coast (not to mention a Reddish Egret nest colony). The management of Elmer's Island during 2001 and 2002 seemed to provide a nice balance between bird needs and people camping and fishing needs. The owners' practice of charging a moderate visitation fee has kept visitation low enough so that disturbance was tolerable to the flocks. Maintaining the current dirt road to the beach may be the biggest expense, but its existence is very important to viewing all of the habitats in the area. The site is near Grand Isle, so information could be provided at the GI visitors center, so it would be hard to justify a visitors center. Lots of Grand Isle birders learn about Elmer's Island through word of mouth. Increasing visitation by campers and road warriors would cause destruction of Wilson's Plover and Least Tern nesting sites. Currently, an occasional off-roader does little harm and even provides shade (in the ruts) to these species. More frequent use would, however, drive the flocks away. The beach is narrow, begging the question of whether a road along the beach is needed. Such a road would reduce stuck vehicles but would increase use of the beach. Since the beach is often heavily used by fishermen in SUV's already, I am not very inclined to support such a road.

All of Louisiana's coastal resources should remain open to the public. It is unfair to allow private development on lakes, batture lots, beaches, and bayous. These are for Louisiana citizens--all of them--not just the rich ones. Louisiana has a limited amount of coastal land. Let's protect it. Let's keep it undeveloped and unpolluted. Let's preserve the wildlife that calls these areas home. I want to be able to take my nieces and nephews to a beach or a lake and say "This is Louisiana's most precious resource. It's up to your generation to preserve it like mine did."

If the island is acquired, I prefer that it be kept CLEAN and free from party-goers and rowdy groups of people. Fishing should be permitted, but anyone littering or leaving dead fish, fish parts or bait should face a large fine/penalty. Please institute a small entrance fee, so that people who visit have an interest in keeping it pristine and UNDEVELOPED.

This property should be bought and made a wma. there is a fee already collected for management areas.

I fish, fish, fish, and totally believe in the restoration of the La. Coastline. I spend along with my brother more than \$3,000.00 per month on this activity. I also think that night time fishing with bows in shallow waters need to be stopped!!!!!! Fishing is Fishing, hook and line!!!

I have a camp on Grand Isle, but i enjoy being able to drive on to the beach of elmer's island, wether it's to fish, gig for flounder, or to socialize on the beach with friends.

Elmer's Island is important to kids, less fortunate low income people that don't have access to boats etc. It's one of the few places where a family can go to camp, fish, picnic where you can catch fish. A tremendous resource and opportunity for the State Park System.

The acquisition of elmer's island would be a great coup for the state, and would provide great public fishing and camping opportunities. it would be a shame to see it turned into developments, which would be inaccessible to the public.

Elmer's has the best surf fishing in all of Louisiana and the back marsh is perfect for a kayak.

Please save Elmer's Island!

I started going to Elmer's Is. as a little boy before it was called Elmers Is. I believe the state has a chance to do something really great by purchasing this site. It, I believe would become one of South Louisiana's most visited sites. It is great for fishing, camping, birding, beachcombing. It is a site that I know many families enjoy as a family activity at reasonable cost. Too many areas of South LA have fallen into the hands of private owners to the detriment of the general public. It could become a test site for beach erosion projects where the state could try some of the things that they have studied to death and would not cost the state 2 billion dollars as they are going to have to pay for the water diversion projects. Once again I must say that the state would be missing a golden opportunity if it let this site slip away. Please send results.

I would like to see elmer's as it was in the past. open to the public.

I was thrilled to hear of the state's interest in purchasing and preserving Elmers Island. I have been to the State park in Grand Isle but Elmers Island would be a much better attraction to the public whether they fish or not. A unique quality about Elmers Island was that it was semi-primitive which lowered the amount of "traffic" and "drifters". I think it's a no brainer for the State and would be a huge missed opportunity if they don't follow through with the purchase. As much as I enjoy fishing, the bird sanctuary that is on the property is phenominal and I know many people who don't even know about it would love to visit. I would visit often year round.

I am 36 yrs old and the father of two boys, age 5 and 3. I rember going fishing and crabbing on elmers island and grand isle when I was 5 yrs old. It is a crying shame my son's will never be able to enjoy the same experiance. I guess I will have to show it to them from a boat. That sucks!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I used to fish Elmer Island when I lived in Baton Rouge. Loved to fish it again !

I would like the State to purchase Elmers Island.

There are too few places to camp and fish along our magnificent coastal area. I'd trade Elmer's Island for White Lake any day!

State should buy the island!

I recently sold my camp in Grand Isle and miss that area of the State. South Louisiana has so little areas of beach front it would seem unfair not to provide this access to the general public for their pleasure and enjoyment.

My family and I visit the grand Island area several times a year for the main pourpose of crabbing in the surf at elmer's island. The reason for chosing elmer's is the easy acsess to the beach with my pickup and gear. The only improvement that I would like to see, no-matter who owns it, would be raking the beach of the surf debre.(trash,seaweed,logs,etc.)

As one of the very few places in Louisiana where you can drive to the coast, I feel it is important for the state to buy Elmer's Island. Oak cheniers in that area need to be preserved.

Even if I don't return, I would like to see it kept open to the public, whether state or private owned. I do not think the state should pay more than a max of 50% more than the appraised amount.

Elmer's Island Rocks!

The louisana taxpayer should not be funding public rec. projects of this nature.

It is important to the state to provide recreational locals such as Elmer's Island for the enjoyment of it's sportsmen.

Elmers Island is such an important natural resource it should be expropriated by the state if necessary to preserve it as a state park for posterity. This is a unique opportunity to aquire Elmers Island. We must seize the moment. Thank you for spearheading the movement to acquire this little pocket of paradise.

In 1992 I lost my job and started my own company, had to sell boat and had 2 young boys. Fortunately then you could fish up and down Fourchon beach. I can't imagine not having those memories of fishing and camping on the beach. Hope others have a chance to share in this low cost high quality activity. I have a boat now and could go anywhere but we would probably visit elmers island often and one day share it with the grand kids

If bought with public money thier should not be any charges for access

"Maybe we could have the state purchase the island and then have it run by a private board and have lottery visits by a dozen or so of the general public once a year and have the very rich pay \$25,000 for exclusive guided fishing visits. That way it would always be preserved by the state for the general public even if they never get to visit there.

I know, lets have the governor and the secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries be on the board so everyone would be assured it was on the 'up and up'. That way we wouldn't have to worry that shenanigans were going on behind the public's back."

Emler's Island is an important resooruce to a variety of birds associated with marsh and beach habitats, including the threatened/endangered Piping Plover. It also provides much-needed stopover habitat on the northern edge of the Gluf of Mexico for Nearctic-Neotropical migratory birds.

The state should absolutely purchase Elmer's Island. It is a rare jewel and it would be a shame if public access is denied to this marvelous part of our state.

Elmers Island is one of the last coastal areas that we have available. We need to keep this available to the public. We also need to keep it properly maintained by the State. This will protect this resource and help the Grand Isle community and residents. Charge what ever it takes to aquire this land. People will use it!!! Thanks

I feel that the purchase of Elmer's Island, by the state, would be very beneficial. I think that the state does not have enough WMA's on the coast that can allow sportsmen to enjoy surf fishing. I think that my tax dollars would be well spent if this streach of beach were purchased.

I used to enjoy bringing my family to the Island. My kids use to like to crab and play on the beach. My dad, brother and myself would fish. Most of the time we would camp the weekend.

"Dear Sirs,

I do appreciate the oppportunity to participate in your survey. It may help to make the survey shorter and more concise.

Elmer's Island is a true Louisiana paradise for a number of various uses. I feel that with the vastness of the size of the island it may make sense to develop a portion of the island for public use and a portion for private development. Public access is critical as there are not many places the public can access the La. coast and fish or enjoy the beach without a boat. However, it may not be cost efficient to use the whole 1,700 acres for public use. A great private development coupled with public access would ensure that that portion of the coast is used extensively and well maintained.

Good luck! If I may be of further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me.

I believe the purchase of Elmer's Island would be a wise move by the state. The Grand Isle area needs an alternative to the Grand Isle State Park. Elmer's Island offers an area with little to no development for people to enjoy. The only bad thing about Elmer's Island is that the inlet separating it from the Fourchon public beach was washed shut by Hurricane Andrew, atleast it was still that way the last time I visited Elmer's Island. Please purchase this property. Sell bonds, liscense plates, lifetime memberships, what ever is necessary to purchase the property.

Questionairre would not accept answers to questions that had no predetermined choices.

"I believe that Elmer's Island would be one of the best purchases the State ever made it is a beautiful and breath-taking place, it is Louisiana."

keeping elmers island from private owernership will at least give the public a place to fish and camp.every time some rich owners buy something like elmers island the general public loses. once gone forever gone.prime example; gated canals. keep elmers island for our youth.maybe a fishing trip to elmers island may keep them out of drugs and alcohol.....

The state should purchase Elmers Island. It is a great oppportunity for the citizens of Louisians that should not be missed. The state government would be doing a very good thing for Louisians and we would feel like the state government is doing something good with our tax money.

"I would love for the state to purchace the island and run it as it once was or like an inexpensive state park, fairly primitive."

If the state buys Elmer's, I just hope they leave it primitive without all the rules & regs that they have at the Grand Isle state park!!!

Make Jerald pay extra

Open to public with modest fees for everyone to enjoy.

First let me say THANK YOU for your interest in this project. Elmer's Island has long been a favorite fishing location for many outdoorsmen. I would love nothing more than seeing it reopened to the public. Having a camp in Grand Isle and unfortunately no boat, Elmer's Island gives me an excellent alternative for surf fishing. In section 2 questions 13 & 18 where I responded "other", I'm refering to crabbing. Once again THANKS for the opportunity to fill out this survey and for your interest in this project that means so much to so many people.

My thought's are if the State does buy the Island it should be kept primitive and natural. If a private investor bought it, the state should get out of there way and let free enterprise take over.

I am a flyfisher that prefers to use a kayak. I also use the kayak for touring, outdoor/wildlife art, and for observing nature.

I feel that the purchase of Elmer's would be a great asset to the State of Louisiana.

"I feel that Elmer's Island would make a great addition to the Louisiana State Park System. We are State Park Campers. We love everything about Louisiana State Parks. I feel that the State could make this a great addition to the already fabulous park in Grand Isle.

PS. A Dormitory would be great. I don't see any reason it would not stay booked up year 'round. (Just check out the rental camps in the area.)"

What makes Elmers Island an ideal surf fishing spot is convenience. On Grand Isle, you need to carry your equipment and supplies to the beach. On Elmers Island, you drive along the beach and you leave your supplies in your vehicle. If the fish ain't biting there, you throw your pole behind your truck and you move a half mile up the beach and try again. You repeat this procedure with little effort until you locate the trout.

I have been going to the Grand Isle area for 25 years. I love it and would like to see improvements so my kids can enjoy the coast of La as I did.

I believe that Elmers Island can be best preserved for the public by the state of Louisiana purchasing the property and developing it as a state park or other area."

I would like to see the state purchase Elmer's Island and make it into a park/wildlife conservation area with a well developed multiple use plan and well managed.

I have been fishing and going to the beach and marsh at Elmer's Island all my life. A piece of my heart was taken when it was closed. It provides an outstanding opportunity for the public to experience the beauty of coastal LA. I hope that the state seriously considers to purchase this true treasure. It can generate much revenue for the Tourist Industry and also help the local economy. The opportunities it offers for all involved are endless. Please consider what the public voice cries out for!

Elmers island is a great natural resource to the state of Louisiana. I pay more than 90.00 a year to be able to fish this area and hope that i can continue to. being from mississippi i love to visit the area and have for my entire life. I would hope that my children will be able to do the same. the state has my complete support in this matter and i will help in any way i can.

The state should purchase if the price is right so more people who do not own bats can have a place to have recreation

Please state ownership not commercial. A great idea for the state to buy.

The state is always harping on the coastal erosion process, well now is the time to do something about it. Time to put up or shut up.

I hope that the state buys the island for all the right reasons!!! Not to put money in some politicians pockets!!!! I used to spend many days fishing and playing on the beach and I would like to start again!!!!

Excellent survey; thank you!

Elmers Island was very popular and was enjoyed by many. The state as a whole needs more public areas to compete with other states. We need good class parks for our residents and others . We need to look at what the future holds for this area.

Cmon Louisiana not another White Lake controversy!!!! If anything buy it to prevent coastal erosion! And pay for it with Federal Relief funds

I can remeber visiting Elmer's island when i was justa child. The memories is something i would like to share with my kids and grand kids by being able to bring them there and watching them enjoy it also. There arent many places in this state that is open to the public that offers what Elmer's island has to offer. LETS PROTECT WHAT WE HAVE.....THANKS

Reasons E.Is.should be purchaced by La.:Our coastline is a national treasure, very few opportunities for sale; education, my generation is ignorant of how our coast was developed and what the economical

and ecological benefits are; recreational opportunities for those who do not have a boat or camp in the area. Good luck

I've been fishing the Elmer's Island/Fourchon beaches for almost 25 years. When they both were no longer open to the public, I had no desire to go to these areas and spend any time and money anymore. Something needs to be done quickly so the Economy in that area does not suffer anymore.

I really want to see Elmer's Island open again. I grew up going there, and would love to share it with my children some day.

"I have used the airstrip on Elmer's Island several times to go offshore fishing and to buy shrimp from Estay's Shrimp co. and others. I would like to see it restored, and I wish it were possible to restore the one on Grand Terre also. We used to have a good time flying in there and camping, crabbing, shelling, beachcombing, and fishing."

We need a place to go where you don't need a big boat to go fishing, and also a place you can bring your family to enjoy the beach.

I live in the community of Choctaw near Thibodaux, my family has been taking me to this area Grand Isle, Elmer's Island, Fourchon as a family outing as a child. Now I take my family, I also own property on Grand Isle. This area is a great family week end outing from fishing, swimming, family get togethers, cooking. By the way I met my wife there 22 years ago. THANK YOU FOR TRYING TO GET THE STATE TO REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THIS AREA IS TO OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS. hope my son catches a great partner in life as I did there.

Louisiana needs to purchase and protect as much of our coastline as possible or it will all be gone in 20 years.

Please open Elmer's Island

Please make this worthwhile investment for ALL the people of La. 8 miles of PUBLIC beach was taken from the citizens of La. when they closed the eastern portion of Fourchon Beach (against state law!) to the public.

It would be a shame for the state to pass up an opportunity to purchase and care for this beautiful area.

Elmer's Isle is the only place I can trust on the safety of my children due to the lack of traffic, when it comes to taking my family on a trip to spend "Family Time" with.

"I grew up fishing and camping Elmer's Island and it is a shame that my kids will never get a chance to do what I did with my father some 10-20 years ago....."

We were happy to take this survey just to learn about Elmer's Island. We hope it becomes a public site to preserve the integrity of our coastal environment.

I hope Elmer's Island is bought by the state to keep as is. My only visit was a very enjoyable one for fishing and sunbathing. It was closed not long after my only visit.

I strongly believe that Louisiana should buy this property to be maintained in the most primitive condition possible that would allow visitor use with minimal habitat degradation. I do not know how much that would cost to maintain, therefore I cannot estimate how much I would be willing to spend on it. I do not know how much it will cost to purchase this land, but I absolutely believe it should be state property and not privately owned - once again, I do not know how much this will cost individual tax payers. I would much rather pay for this sort of investment in our future than in purchasing a new stadium for the Saints.

"I would like to see the state of Louisiana purchase Elmer's Island and leave it exactly as it is. There are lots of fisherman such as myself who do not have a boat capable of fishing along the beaches. It was a sad day for me when Elmer's Island was closed. It was the only place left where one could drive out onto the beach, and it was a great fishery for speckled trout, redbfish, flounder, and crabs. I would definitely make more trips to the coast if Elmer's Island were reopened and the state allowed vehicles on the beach. Parking and walking is not feasible due to the amount of rods, tackle boxes, ice chests, and bait buckets I feel are needed to catch a decent amount of fish. As long as the state patrols the beaches and tickets those who abuse the area, it would be a great economic benefit to the state and local economy. I purchase an out of state saltwater license every year, and I can say with quite certainty that there are many more out there like myself who would not mind paying the higher license fees if Elmer's Island were reopened by the state. Sincerely: A Louisiana native who still loves to fish the Louisiana coast"

I believe that Elmer's Island should and MUST go back to public access. I can't believe that there is even a debate about this topic. Just another example of a small special interest group wanting to make a really nice camping/fishing area off limits to anyone but them. This island has been camped and fished for generations in my family and should go back to being that way. I don't believe that it should be free....however, I do believe it should be reasonable for the low to middle class income strata.

I would like to keep Elmer's Island in a natural state, as it was in the past. easy beach access and great surf fishing.

The state should buy Elmer's Island for public use.

The state does not have the funds to purchase this land. Also, The state can not afford the upkeep of this land for the public.

Elmer's Island needs to be reopened for the public.

I think Elmer's Island should be purchased by state or federal government; habitat should be restored & protected for maximum fish, migratory bird, & marine mammal benefit. No development other than perhaps sanitary facilities & showers located near Hwy 1. Keep beach camping open but completely primitive. Allow driving on the beach as long as the impact is kept to a minimum. A full time ranger onsite to enforce the rules.

I would like to see Elmer's Island primarily for the wildlife and humans as just the visitors and I would like the wildlife to come first. I would like to see a park ranger on every corner keeping the humans in line.

"I just wish I had the money to buy the island and give it to the people of the state. You must remember most people who use the island do not have a lot of money. The take there kids to swim, fish and crab for family fun. "

If Elmer's Island is allowed to be purchased by a private investor it will most probably be turned into an exclusive community just like Point Fourchon and the public will lose out.

We need more state areas to hunt, fish and relax.

We need this property, and we need it in the state it is in, not the state that the Grand Isle State Park has been to, we need it to stay primitive with the exception of roads. LDWF has certainly purchased less desirable properties in the past several years without all the hoopla--properties that probably see less activity all year than Elmer's Island would likely get in a summer weekend. We don't pay to use WMAs, why would you consider paying to use EI? It should be managed within the same framework.

Elmers Isle should be open for the public's enjoyment. We need more areas reserved for public use for family enjoyment. It is getting to the point that everywhere you go is posted for private use, this is "OUR LOUISIANA", not "my louisiana". Lets keep it that way for the present and future generations to enjoy.

This is a great place to bring the family to fish and camp.

Love to fish and spend the day at Elmers Island. Really miss not going there.

Please buy this property so everyone can enjoy this beautiful area. I haven't been to all of the area but the small part I have visited was beautiful-even with all the trash. If the state owned and operated this area and kept it in a semi-natural state, the overwhelming growth (and related problems) experienced by Grand Isle can be controlled. I would hate to see camps, hotels, and lounges all over this area.

A state park at Elmers would be more popular than Grand Isle State Park and would produce more money returned.

I THINK IT COULD MAKE A GOOD WILDLIFE REFUGE, BEACH ACCESS BY TRUCK SHOULD BE MINIMAL, PROBABLY SOME OF THE BEST BEACH FISHING IN ALL SOUTH LOUISIANA ITS ASHAME IT CAN'T BE USED BY THE PUBLIC.

Due to a family illness I have not visited this area as much as I usually do. In previous years and probably in the future, my visits were and will probably be more frequent.

I definitely feel that Elmer's Island should remain public. This purchase would be one tangible example of our tax dollars at work, and provide public access, at reasonable cost, to all residents.

I think Elmers Island should be purchased but managed by a multiple agency/ nonprofit partnership (State Parks, Wildlife and Fisheries, TNC, Department of Natural Resources, etc.). It should have some type of visitors or interpretive center with naturalist on staff (similar to Audubon Nature Center). The area should include trails, boardwalks, observation tower, etc. The park/area should be self sustaining in that all proceeds go back into the management/maintenance of the area.

I WOULD LOVE TO SEE ELMERS ISLAND PURCHASED BY THE STATE. THERE ARE TOO FEW BEACH ACCESS AREAS IN LA.

Being Disabled it is very important that there is a fishing pier and accessible Bathroom and camping area.

In Louisiana there is very few places for people to fish, swim and enjoy the gulf without a BOAT

I would like to suggest a one (1) time fee added to basic fishing and salt water fishing licenses for 1 year. A one time \$20 fee for one year to help the state purchase Elmers Island. This fee would give a HUGE boost to the state towards the purchase price.

Please keep Elmer's Island as it was. Rustic & simple. Charge \$10 a car load for a 24 hour period. Maintain only the roads. This way it would be affordable for many more people to enjoy.

THIS IS ONE OF THE ONLY VEHICLE ACCESS BEACHES IN THE WHOLE NATION AND LOUISIANA NATIVES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS WHILE IT IS STILL THERE THIS IS ONE OF THE ONLY VEHICLE ACCESS BEACHES IN THE WHOLE NATION AND LOUISIANA NATIVES SHOULD HAVE ACCESS

"I hope they reopen the island its a land mark for Louisiana. And I've fished and camped there since I was a little boy. Now everytime I pass by it all I can do is think of how much fun we use to have.

have always enjoyed Elmers Island and would like to see it remain as is. or at least was, when it was open...charge as much as needed for upkeep of the road...as has always been done

I strongly support conservation of LA's natural resources and its places of beauty and wildlife. I oppose development in these places because of its effect on wildlife and the coastal waters.

This would be an excellent opportunity for the state to develop an area exclusively for the salt water sports enthusiast. It would also give us the opportunity to show Washington what proper land conservation can accomplish with our efforts to keep it from dissolving into the Gulf of Mexico

I would offer to give more, but my budget is slim. Also I am getting to be elderly and travel less, except for my work.

While I love the Grand Isle/Elmer's Island area, I am not in a position where I can justify the expense based on the distance that I would have to travel to visit

My responses are based on the hope that the public would properly maintain the islands features and keep it clean.

I believe it is not a question as to, should the state purchase Elmer's Island? It is the states responsibility to purchase the island for those whom in my opinion, provide the greatest amount of tax revenue to support our states natural resources and that is the general sporting public not the commercial sector. It should not become a showcase for corporate businesses to win contracts. Elmer's Island should be an adventure for the young. A place they can enjoy and learn why our coastal wetlands are so important to our state. It is our future generation that will be the ones to fight for the preservation of our wetlands not big business. Give our kids a place they can experience the joy and excitement of the states coastal beaches and wetlands and they will be your greatest supporters.

I truly believe that Elmer's Island should be purchased by the state to preserve its natural beauty and unspoiled beach. It has been a landmark for generations. It truly would be a shame for such a place to be sold for real estate development. We need public access to natural coastal beaches that are accessible for people without boats. Please don't let it slip between the cracks.

Please do not let them shut us out of this area any longer!

While growing up, we spent many days and nights camping, crabbing and fishing at Elmer's Island. I have great memories of my grandparents, parents, Aunts, and Uncles bringing us there to fish and crab. We actually brought the equipment to boil the crabs on an open fire right there on the beach. From there, we owned a camp across the highway from Elmer's Island for 20 years. We spent every summer and almost all holidays there. As a kid we would also ride our bicycles to the Elmer's Island beach to fish and crab. Mr. Elmer and family were really great people! When we caught a mess of fish or crabs, Mr. Elmer and his family always received some of the bounty.

Louisiana doesn't have nearly enough of these types of places, especially with the access to such great fishing for the "common" person. It would be terrible to miss this opportunity!

I am originally from La. and had to move away for my job. I am preparing to retire in the near future and would love to have a place that I could enjoy fishing and camping.

It would be a shame if the public did not have access to this area.

I think this area should be purchased by the state, some fish cleaning areas would make it nicer. Also maybe someone could try to organize a fund raiser to help buy the area. A state run fishing tournament could also help.

Louisiana should make this a state park it would very profitable

I would love to see Elmers Island opened back up to the public so my kids can enjoy the fishing, camping and spending quality time. I took my 2 sons there right before they closed, they had a blast and have been asking when can we go back. hope you open soon.

I believe that Elmer's Island would be a great asset to the State of Louisiana. There are so many people I have met while fishing in south Louisiana who are from out of state that would spend more time here fishing/camping if there were a place like this being maintained by the state.

Question #23 I answered no. The reason it would not change is due to the time limitations I frequently have, and the other areas being a reasonable day trip. I feel that the state should purchase the Elmer's Isle property, to insure the lasting quality of the area. I believed it would also make a GREAT addition to the properties use for the tourism industry which LT. Governor Kathleen Blanco is so deeply rooted in.

I have enjoyed many wonderful outings on Elmer's and hope that I can do so again in the future. I have never minded paying what the owners had asked. The area has opportunities for inshore recreation when the surf is too rough - which is important. Please save the island for the public! It is far too unique to let get away from the citizens of the state. Don't let it be developed!

Although Louisiana has better fishing than any other gulf-coast state, it lacks commercially-developed beaches. Elmer's Island represents one of the only remaining opportunities for Louisiana to develop such an area, which would likely generate tremendous tourism and investment \$\$ into the state and region. It would be amazing to see a Destin, FL - like development in that area, allowing people from all over the country to experience the wonderful natural resources of Louisiana.

Elmer's Island is one of the premier South Louisiana fishing holes. It needs to open back up soon.

They should purchase this property. This is a sportsman paradise and we have almost no public beach access for the hundreds of miles of coastal waters. Install the necessary things to ensure the environment is not disrupted and at the same time provide a clean beach.

Proper waste disposal and parking facilities will be essential to the continued environmental health of Elmers Island.

We all need to get Elmers Island back in use, it is one of the best spots in the state to fish and enjoy yourself.

We all need to get Elmers Island back in use, it is one of the best spots in the state to fish and enjoy yourself

As Louisiana residents, our coast line is disappearing and private entities continue to restrict or limit access to key areas that have been available for 100 years or more. We need the state to take steps to insure that our descendants have access to those areas in the future. The state has done a great job of acquiring property to form wildlife management areas but has done little to provide public access to our coastal beaches and marshes. It's time to step up to the plate and provide this access for our generation and that of future generations.

I would love to see an area of Louisiana's coast become open for recreational/ecological enjoyment.

This would be a great loss if we do not get Elmers Island. This is a great place for family trips!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

My family and I have been to Elmer's Island many times and have very fond memories and would love to see the state purchase it. Email mbihm@bellsouth.net

The state should purchase the site mainly because our public access is eroding dramatically.

Elmer's Island has a history of public usage and it would be a shame to lose that option. There are very few sites for camping on the beach in Louisiana.

I think it would be terrible if Elmer's was privately owned. We need places that families without boats or that just enjoy the outdoors to visit. Please tell the politicians this.

"This is a very unique property. It is the duty of the state to purchase this property to provide access by its citizens. I also believe very strongly that the state needs to do something about the access problem at the Fourchon beach. Most states protect beach access for their citizens. Why has the state allowed this to be taken away?"

I think enough land in the United States is owned by private parties and is becoming overdeveloped. There are fewer and fewer places to go and have a family outing without spending a large sum of money. Pleasure is continually being measured in how many dollars you wish to spend. The state should purchase Elmer's Island because so many people want to enjoy the natural state of the state and don't want to overpay to experience and enjoy nature. A private party will only care about how much money it can make on the property. This will only lead to greed. Everyone knows that money is the root of all evils. Buy this land and give a little something back to the state, the residents give a lot, they should at least receive a little. Thank you.

"Question 22 is unclear. I assumed it asked how much I would pay personally, not how much the state should. Also, I have a bed, port-a-potty, sink and ice chest in my van, so no lodging fees. I'm 73 now, so I may not be going offshore too much longer, in which case, access to Elmer's Island would have greater importance to me."

Elmer's Island should be purchased by the state and managed by LDWF. I'm a private citizen with no ties to LDWF. I think LDWF could convert this site to good state use.

"I think that if the state can afford to take care of White Lake we can afford to purchase Elmer's Island. I would imagine that Grand Isle has lost money in tourism since Elmer's Island has been closed. I know personally that since it is closed I no longer visit Grand Isle as much as I used to. Elmer's Island was one of the last places a man with no boat could go and catch speckle trout that would compare with those that are caught by others in a boat anywhere.

Please reopen Elmer's Island and the entire Fourchon Beach.

Keep the area as near primitive as it has always been, except provide bathrooms & "A" frame picnic shelters like at Cypremort Point State Park & keep the LDWF out - don't need harassment during quality time away from work and my kids are petrified of game wardens.

I feel the state would be foolish to pass on such a great deal, it would be a loss to the citizens of our state.

Elmer's Isle is a place that holds many wonderful memories for me, my friends and family. I feel that every effort should be made to keep the island accessible to the citizens of Louisiana and the future generations of Louisianians who may then create their own memories of this wonderful natural resource. The Elmer family used to charge a very fair fee to use their road to access the island, I would be in favor of paying much more to continue the tradition that began for me as a young boy and pass this treasure on to our kids. Let's not lose this opportunity to preserve one of Louisiana's only accessible beaches.

THIS IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE PLEASE KEEP THIS LAND OPEN FOR THE PUBLIC TO USE.

I hope the State buy it so we can go back to Elmer Island

This site isn't just important for natural resource use, it's a key part of the coastal barrier system. Its habitat qualities as nursery and forage habitat outweigh its importance as a recreational site, which is why I would encourage only minimal development. With public access should come regular patrols and enforcement of litter and fishing laws.

When we go to Grand Isle we stay at a family owned camp and do not actually "camp out".

It is 2 - 2.5 hours from Thibodaux to Grand Isle or Elmer's Island

I would love to see Elmer's Island maintained as a "Primitive" state park.

The state needs to reopen Elmer's Island. There are a great number of people that do not own boats that used the island many times a year and do not have the option anymore. I used to go there even when we had a boat it's just a great place I remember as a kid and hate to see it go.

"I feel safe taking my kids to Elmer's Isle because they can enjoy the outdoors without worrying about the speeding traffic, especially when it's raining. To this day I have my kids asking me to take them back to the place where they could fish and have a great time."

We need this area for a reserve for my grand children to have place to fish. Thanks

I found the request for \$/person/trip to be a little confusing. It was unclear to me whether I should report how much I expected to spend per trip total or per person. I broke it down based on four people; thus, my numbers are relatively small. Please adjust them x4 if I have misunderstood the directions.

I been dying to get back on the Elmer's Island beach, I hope the State will purchase the island soon, I miss the island!

We must act now to preserve our heritage. This is the sort of thing we need to invest our \$ in. Not the Saints!!!!

I would like to see the state purchase Elmer's Island because it is easier access than the Grand Isle state park. Not as far to drive. There also seems to me to be a better quality of fishing, not having all of the camps and residents vying for a place to fish. Some amenities are nice to have there, such as bathroom facilities and a place to retreat from the sun, such as canopies, so as to not have to drag a lot of equipment and such for just a one day visit. Enough trash receptacles so people do not litter the grounds and strict enforcement of these policies.

Elmer's Island as public access will only work if there is an admission fee at the gate. Otherwise the garbage and sleaziness issues as seen currently at Fourchon will negate any advantages of public access.

Would like to see Elmer's Island purchased by the State to be developed into a State Park with Campground to accommodate tents, campers and motorhomes. A boat launch protected from Gulf wave action would be of great benefit. The remainder should be left undisturbed with unsurfaced roads providing access to beaches and other points on the Island. Elmer's Island is a unique parcel of property in coastal Louisiana. This property should be preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Myself and my family has enjoyed the area of Elmer's Island for more than 25 years. And would hate to not be able to enjoy it for the next 50 years.

If the state lets this property go to a private entity, then you can be rest assured that it will be posted and off limits to the public! I think it should become part of the state park system thus providing new jobs for people.

I would hate to see more land taken away from public use, our children and their children will never have the enjoyment.

I've been going to the Grand Isle/Elmers Island area as long as I can remember. That makes it around 44 years. Although I live in Central Louisiana, visiting the coast is a part of me. My children and friends have joined me in my love for the area. Elmers Island is where my Father taught me to surf fish, and I have done the same for my sons. Buy the place and save a little bit of fun for those of us who need it. :-)

The time I have spent at Elmer's Island have been some of the most restful time's I have had since my wife passed away. It is the only time that I have not felt alone since she passed. We need to do what ever needs to be done to keep this area open to ALL of the people of this state. Not just for the fishing or the camping but, for anyone that needs to feel the power of raw nature washing away the pain.

"Elmers Island is a best place to surf fish in the state. It was a great low cost destination to take the family. It was one of the few spots in the state were with little expense in equipment a person could take a family and enjoy the beach and catch fish."

"As an avid Louisiana coastal fisherman I would think that our state would do the right thing and purchase this great Coastal Property. I feel it would provide a great deal of revenue. This would almost be a guarantee considering the closure of Fouchon beach. If you have ever seen the beach lined with people at Fouchon during the summer just think if everyone paid a small fee of atleast 5-10 dollars for access. Lets not let what happen at Fouchon happen to Elmers Island.

Thanks for the chance to voice my opinion.

I would be forever grateful if the state would be able to purchase Elmer's Island and allow the public to return to this invaluable resource. I had grown up camping and fishing at Elmer's Island. My son and I have always loved this beach and we have very fond memories of many days spent together on this beach. It would be priceless!

"Elmers Island should be a public access facility. many anglers fish that area often and opening elmers island to the public gives us all one more location to fish, and to camp.

it has been some time since i visited teh state park on grand isle but making elmers island somethign similar to that i beleive would be a great thing for all of us."

i think elmers island needs a bathhouse.

I feel it would be of great value if the state would buy this land. For residents, vistors and preservation of a louisiana treasure.

I am not willing to support no privatization at all. I am a Afro-American sportsman who lives in Louisiana. As some of do know that when these places become or made private. The average Afro-American sportsman cannot afford the cost. Most times the fees are made purposely sky high to grade out most Afro-American sportsman an also it eliminates some whites to. The Afro-American citizen in the state Louisiana aren't exposed to some of these so call resources that this state gets it credit for having. I often wondered a many times about the license plate slogan. "Sportsman Paradise"? I have caught hundreds of fish and many bushels of crabs on Elmers Island. I sure hope the state buys this land. I feel that the public would support the expence by there participation.

If it is state or publicly owned and opened to the public what difference does the matter hold unless the people in the area need more financial support to maintain the area. Sounds as if someone wants to purchase the area for their own creed and for no ones elses use.

i think it would be great if it were opened back to the public because i loved to fish there when i was younger and i would love to fish there again.

I am now 33, but when I was little, we used to go fishing and camping at Elmers Island several times every summer with our whole family (cousins, uncles, etc). I have many very fond memories of Elmers Island - walking along the beach, finding jelly fish, catching crabs, setting up tents, quiet nights, setting crab traps, and the men catching lots of fish. My husband has recently starting fishing as a hobby, and he has NEVER been there. I would LOVE to be able to take our children there for a weekend of camping - and I wish I could. With any luck, one day we will be able to!

The State really needs to buy Elmers Island. There's very few places on the La. coast that people can drive right down to the water and its such a good fishing spot. The way La. coast is disappearing Elmers Island may not be there much longer and it sure would be nice to enjoy it a little while longer.

Every area in Louisiana that is at least semi-intact environmentally should be purchased for/by the public and managed strictly so that whatever "quality" remains is at least maintained. Beaches, wetlands, large forested tracts and riparian areas are the most important to protect.

The loss of Elmer's Island has been very disturbing to myself and many of my friends over the last year or so. There is nothing quite like being able to drive your vehicle to the beach, drop the tailgate, back up to the surf and start fishing...I have fond memories of Elmer's Island dating back some 25 years.

I really want the state to purchase Elmer's Island to protect it from private development. I think that the state should buy Elmer's Island, make it accesible to the Public but protect the wildlife.

"With the east side of Fourchon Beach closed, the west side as become much more congested with people with minimum amount of space between the beach front and sand dunes. With Elmer Island closed, there are no other place to surf fish and crab, swim or camp other then the west side of Fourchon Beach. The land owner who closed the west side of Fourchon Beach is doing so illegally. We have the rights to access based on high tides.

This land owner is not stepping back on what is right for Public Property. Public Money was used to build back the same area of beach that we are no longer able to access after Hurricane Juan. If we get the same type of Land Owner for Elmer Island, the State of LA will no longer be called the ""Sportman Paradise"".

I have fished at elmer's island for nearly 20 years and would consider it a great loss if I were not able to bring my kids there and if others could not enjoy it. Please don't overdevelop it - keep it clean, safe and development free.

One of the state's best surf-fishing destinations. would be great to make this available to the public on a somewhat exclusive basis to ensure that it was properly maintained and not abused by those who would take advantage of the state's gesture to purchase the land. minimal development would go a long way towards ensuring a greater degree of limited access, and would help create a scenario where only the "dedicated" sought out the island as a vacation destination.

I am strongly in favor of the State purchasing Elmer's Island.

As a resident of Grand Isle. We would like to see it as Jay Elmer had it. We were personal friends of his and he allowed residents of Grand Isle to come and go for free. A large amount of residents do not want

the state to get this for fear of them ruining yet another piece of land. They do not help with Grand Isle. If they do where are the improvements? We residents cannot see it.

I use to enjoy fishing at Elmer's Island. This is were I took my first saltwater fishing trip and have been going back ever since. Being one of the only vehicle asesable areas on the coast made it a good place to go if you did not own a boat or if you simply enjoyed surf-fishing. It would be a good investment for the State to purchase this area, not just for now but also for future generations. It would be nice to one day take my children and even grand-children there for there first salt-water fishing trip. I think maybe activites such as camping areas, nature areas, and a educational area for coastal conservation would be nice.I would be to back to this area in the future. Thank you for your efforts. I used to have a great time at Elmer's. The last few times I tried to go it was not open, so I had to go to Fourchon or Grand Isle instead. Elmer's was beautiful, whereas Grand Isle and Fourchon are quickly becoming built-up and aren't as accessible as they were in the past. I'd love to see Elmer's in safe, public hands!

GREAT PLACE TO SURF FISH. IT'S NICE TO ABLE TO PARK YOUR TRUCK AND STEP INTO THE WATER. IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR TRUCK AND YOUR EQUIPMENT. IT'S ALSO NICE TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE OUT OF YOUR WET PANTS PRIVITLY WITHOUT STANDING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD LIKE ON GRAND ISLE. I PERSONALY DON'T KNOW OF ANTHOR PLACE LIKE THIS IN EASTERN LA.

Make sure that the state purchases this land. There is very little of this type left and don't let it go just to the rich and famous. PLEASE!

elmers isle should be kept just as it is , a barrier island,not a camp ground.camping would bring problems. charge a fee to fish for the day and leave at dark.

The times that I went to Elmers were to surf fish at night for Bull Reds.

I first visited Elmers Island when I moved here in 1994 from North Louisiana. Before I purchased my first bay boat in 1996, I used to fish there almost exclusively. I thoroughly enjoyed the peacefulness and tranquility. It does not seem right that this area has been closed to the people of Louisiana. If I had my preference, the state would own all of the coastal property to protect it for the future generations. I think the State should purchase this most treasured piece of heaven.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE STATE PURCHASE, AND DEVELOPE ELMERS ISLAND FOR CAMPING. ALSO FIX IT LIKE THE STATE PARK ON GRAND ISLE, BUT TOTAL ACCESS WITH VEHICLES, THE WHOLE LENTH OF THE BEACH.ALSO CHARGE ADMISSION LIKE THE STATE PARK, TO HELP EXPENSES, AND TOHAVE IT PATROLLED BY LAW ENFORCMENT. LET IT BE KNOWED THAT RECKLES DRIVING, AND HOTDOGING WILL NOT BE TOLLERATED, BY IMPOSSING STIFF FINES, AND REMOVAL FROM THE ISLAND. THAT IS ONE REASON THAT FOURCHON BEACH IS MY LAST CHOICE, TOO MANY KIDS HOTDOGGING WITH THERE VEHICLES ON THE BEACH. I WANT A SAFE PLACE FOR MY CHILDREN TO PLAY AND ENJOY.ALSO PLACE A SAFE SPEED LIMIT, AND ENFORCE IT STICKLY. IF THIS IS DONE THE WORD WILL GET OUT, AND TROUBLE MAKERS WILL STAY OFF AND BE BETTER FOR ALL THAT IS INVOLVED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, AND I HOPE THE STATE CAN SEE FIT TO PURCHASE THIS VALUBLE PIECE OF PROPERTY, FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

Elmer's Island is a state treasure that would be a beneficial addition to the parks that the State now runs. If purchased, hardly any capital outlay would be needed to open it to the public for use as it is now. In coming years restroom facilities and sewer dump sites could be added. Up until this year we utilized the Grand Isle state park with no electricity or water.

If I did not have a boat, Elmer's Island would be my preferred location along the state's coast. The Grand Isle state park has eroded since installation of the the breakwater field by the Town of Grand Isle and the Corps, reducing the recreational experience and opportunities in the surf. With increasing restrictions at Fourchon Beach from the Caillouets and Wisner Foundation, loss of beach at the Grand

Isle state park, there is increasingly less beach recreational opportunities in the Barataria-Terrebonne Basin.

Hopefully the state will be able to purchase it. It will give the public a beautiful area to visit and show off the abundance of resources that Louisiana has to offer. It has been like a home away from home for me and my family for many years. My family had land between Hwy 1 and Elmer's Island, it is now gone due to coastal erosion. I believe the land can be purchased by the state and sold to private owners for camp sites. The profit generated can be used to help our coastal erosion problem. Operating the property as a state park would generate minimal funds.

I would like to see this treated the way the barrier islands in NC and Pensacola beach is treated. I would like for it to remain as primitive as possible with limited access by people to preserve the land and the natural habitats.

Great Idea

I would certainly like for the state to purchase Elmer's Island. It would be the only opportunity the average citizen would have the opportunity to enjoy this area.

This is one of the last places a family can get away and fish and camp and it should be preserved by the State.

I've been going to Elmer's Island since the mid 1970s with my dad and others. It has always been the best that Louisiana coastal fishing has to offer and to lose something like this to privatization would be borderline criminal. There is just no other real access to the beach than at Elmer's, not even on Grand Isle itself.

I would like to see the state buy the island but not develop it. I think the more people that access the island, the more trash that would accumulate on the beach. Since the island has been closed to the public, it has never looked so good.

Buy it and have a good campground with full hookups....I'll come a lot...so will a lot of other folks.

Please make this open to the public

This would be a major asset for the state of Louisiana for local and out of towners alike.

I wish the state would purchase Elmer's Island for conservation purposes. It is every bit as important as preserving the basin. Don't let this purchase slip through our fingers. This is a great opportunity for the State to save a very important area. Elmer's Island could be one of the most popular State Parks.

I've been going to Elmer's Isle for years, I also knew Jay Elmer personally (GREAT GUY) I spent 21 days there for my honeymoon, and would love to spend every anniversary there as well. It's got so much to offer for all ages and types of people it just needs a little love and care and authority to run it so that the YAHOO'S don't ruin it for everyone PLEASE LET THE STATE BUY IT so us good law abiding people can have a place to go no matter what the cost with in reason

I believe that Elmer's Island is a state treasure that should be maintained for our future generations use.

Elmer's Island should be treated as a state treasure. The state should buy it and charge admission just like Grand Isle State Park.

Each and every time I visited Elmer's Island I always enjoyed myself. It was a great place to fish and crab. Also it was a great family spot for all kinds of activity. Would love to see the state own and call me to work at keeping it active for all to enjoy.

Regarding the category about how developed I would want the Island, I would like to see it like some of the other state parks around the state where you have primitive areas for tent camping, areas for RV's, and cabins for rent. The whole beach would be public to fish where you wanted.

Elmer's Island (& Fourchon) are a priceless treasure that should be enjoyed by all.

i am bias because i lived on elmers island. my mother ran it for years. idont live in grand isle anymore but i visit grand isle often, since my mother, sisters, and inlaws live there. i had the opportunity to help my mother and met people from all over. we had quite a few "regulars". i see some of them every once in a while and they always ask about the island and are very interested in fishing, camping, and swimming there again. my sister also helped out and now works at the state park in grand isle. my family and i were very close to jay elmer and would love to see elmers island owned by the state so that we could visit again. i am not sure but my mother may have some of the information about how many people visited it each year, maybe even how many regularly since we wrote down the license plate numbers.

It would be a great buy for the state.

I've been to Elmer's Island a couple of times to camp fish and crab. My wife is from Lockport and spent many summers camping on the beach with her family. I prefer to fish the marsh and bay areas in my bay boat. We are planing to spend a long weekend with her family at a rental camp at Fourchon probably in July. We also spent many days at Fourchon beach before it was closed. I always hated to see people who abused the resourse by leaving trash and tearing the beach up with their vehicles.

I would enjoy being able to surf fish on Elmer's Island. If the grass airstrip was maintained & open to the public, I would probably visit a much greater number of times. I really hope the state buys it.

My family has spent many great weekends and holidays on Elmer's Island. We really miss being able to go there. One of the things I enjoyed most was the access to the beach and the primative environment. Another nice thing (over Fourchon) was, at least it seemed the the paying customers at Elmer's took care in preserving the area and picked up after themselves. I always noticed that Fourchon was trashy because of the free public access. It just seems to attract a different crowd. I'm willing to pay to be able to use this great resource we have in our state.

i wish the state would buy elmer's.....it's alot better than goin to fouchon beach when your in grand isle.....just dont make it like the state park cause the state park is horrible. Please do not regulate it in such a way the public cannot enjoy it. Many WMA's are regulated so tightly that people feel that they are not worth the trouble to use them.

A protected boat launch would be very important for me to begin revisiting elmers island. Elmers Island is a very natural area and should be kept that way with minimal improvments made for public access

Coastal Louisiana has provided many enjoyable vacations for my husband, myself and our family over the past ten years. Elmer's Island has a good beach as well as great fishing possibilities. I hope it can be preserved!

I have traveled to many places surf/marsh fishing WITHOUT a boat, and Elmer's Island is by far and way the greatest natural resource I have ever encountered. This is one of the most magnificent resources our children may never enjoy. I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of the owner, and expected to see condo's popping up any day. This place cannot be lost to developer's.

the coast of la. needs a well maintained campground and fishing area a fishing pier would be nice to have for people without a boat a fee to the pier would be no problem these things would probably pay for the purchase

The older I get, the more I realize that the natural resources I've grown up with are becoming sparse. We need to build and maintain these public sites for everyone to enjoy.

Most people would pay small fees to use these facilities if the fishing and crabbing were good, just compare the state campgrounds use.

If Elmer's Island is purchased by the state, I would like to see it remain as natural as possible. There is no doubt that the area could be made into a commercial success by adding cabins, camper hookups, showers, restrooms, boat launch, etc., but these things are already available in the area. I am in no way against development, but limits have to be set to restrict the number of visitors to this pristine area.

I strongly believe these type areas need to be preserved for the future and be public. I used to go to the Cape Lookout Seashore in E. N.C.. I really enjoyed it and think that this is close to the same. Raw beach and maybe a bathroom. I keep up with Elmer's Island in the Louisiana Sportsman.

Break the bank>>>>>buy the dam place>>>>>get it over with!!!!

The state should find the money and buy Elmer's Island!

If the state buys it ,the tourist money in the area will increase.It will create accessibility to a very rich environment.Buy it;they will come!!

Buy it, It's Paradise!!!!

I do hope that the state buys the property so that me and my family and friends can continue to enjoy Elmers Island as we have in the past.

I think it should be like a WMA. Most WMA's (don't think any) have a charge to use them. It would be kept up with taxpayers money and if we would get charged to use the island, then the state would be doubling up on us.

IF THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM WERE TO PURCHASE ELMER ISLAND, I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE PUBLIC MONEY WELL SPENT. IT WOULD ALSO TAKE THE PRESSURE OFF OF THE FOUCHON BEACH/PUBLIC ACCESS PROBLEM, AS IT PERTAINS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY. WE ALL AGREE THAT THIS IS "A UNIQUE PIECE OF PROPERTY". WE ALL AGREE THAT THE CONTINUED PUBLIC ACCESS TO THIS PROPERTY WOULD NO BE A "CHANGE", AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT PRESENT A "NEW ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT" TO THE AREA. IT WOULD PRESENT A NEW "ECONOMIC IMPACT" TO THE AREA. IT IS MY HOPE THAT IF THIS PROPERTY IS PURCHASED BY THE STATE, THE FEE STRUCTURE WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO NOT ONLY PROPERLY CARE FOR THE PROPERTY, BUT WOULD SUPPORT PRESERVATION OF THE ADJACENT COASTAL AREAS AS WELL. BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ON THIS SURVEY!

I would like to visit Elmer's Island again and visit its Resources. I would some day bring my kids down there. Please do all possible to open the island to the public

I have enjoyed Elmer's Isle since I was 9. It's a shame it closed. I would be willing to pay a daily fee to fish there as I had done in the past but I would be totally against a one time fee of any kind. Why would anyone agree to pay a one time fee for something that they have no guarantee will stay open. I also think Elmer's Isle (if it opened) could benefit by constructing a boat launch somewhere on the land. This way they could benefit from those with boats as well as those who surf fish.

The State of Louisiana should purchase Elmer's Island. It is part of our history and it is uniquely Louisiana. To lose access to this primitive island would be a travesty.

WE HAVE MADE MANY MEMORABLE TRIPS TO ELMERS IN THE PAST AND WERE SADENED WHEN IT WAS CLOSED.WE LOOK FORWARD TO IT'S REOPENING IF POSSABLE.

I would like to see Elmers Island open to the public, but not open to commercial buisnesses.

Louisiana Beach litter is horrible. Why can't the state keep these clean as other states do. I'll gladly pay an admission fee for a litter free scenic view.

This is of the utmost importance to the citizens of our great state.

This is a very comprehensive survey. My only wish is that it brings to light the lack of public beach access to the powers that be. With the closing of five (5) miles of Fourchon Beach, Elmer's Island would be welcome addition to the quickly disappearing coastal beachfront that Louisianians have enjoyed for so many decades. This is a good thing that you are doing. Thank you !

When we visit Elmer's Isand it is usually by boat. However i believe the state should take it over. To provide activities for those who don't have boats. However, I know of many people who have boats and visit the island. The problem is that once it's lost we can never get it back. You know our tax money is spent on some pretty ridiculous things. This something that will benefit the state forever.

LA has too little seashore to waste any chance of developing area for public use.

I think that the opportunity to acquire Elmers Island should be a priority of the state and taken seriously. After all this is one of our resources that makes this state such a great place to live. I think every one should have the chance to visit Elmer's Island. I don't think it should be exploited commercially.

It would be a shame is this area could not be used in the future. Being able to drive your vehicle to the surf and fish is something all who enjoy La. should be able to do.

I think the state should pay the full asking price to the owners, as long as it appraises as compared to similar properties. If the state is unable to do so, the owners should be allowed to persue a private sale without a hassle from the whining public who want to steal this private property. I firmly stand behind land owners rights, as I hope one day to be able to afford to be one, and not cry or be envious about other's success in the American Dream of private land ownership and the bundle of rights which goes along with it.

I have a camp in Grand Isle and love to go to Elmers Island.

We need a place to surf fish around grand isle other than grand isle and fourchon

I think it would be a terrible thing to loose more of our valuable wildlife and wetland habitat than what Mother Nature is taking from Louisiana every year. As a natural resource specialist by profession (and not some crazy environmentalist tree-hugger), I think it would be a great opportunity to provide some sort of facilities for the public to come and use the area for recreational purposes, but I hate the thought of fully developing this area and loosing this preserve. An undeveloped area like this is hard to come by these days. Unless a private agency such as the Nature Conservancy or some other conservation group were to get their hands on this property, I think it should be bought by the state and managed as a primitive recreation area. I spend most of my weekends during the summer in the Grand Isle area and as an avid off-shore and surf fisher(wo)man and birder, I would definately be willing to pay for its use.

This is a reasource that the State of Louisiana can not afford to lose. Louisiana has let the oil companies get away with murder to our enviornment and coast and not paid enough to fix it.

I would hate to see this island totally commercialized. I would love to see a State Park erected and maintained there. I think that it would have a positive affect on tourism as well as simply being a place where people without big boats and equipment could take their kids and enjoy the coast.

I would love to see Elmer's Island remain an uninhabitted fishing sanctuary where people can go to enjoy a place that remains natural and pristine, untainted by development. Thanks for opportunity voice my opinion!

"I hope to see Elmer's Island reopened. My concern is the swift tides and the possibility of drownings. I'd like to see it state-owned and managed, with several lifeguards on duty during periods of peak use.

IN MY OPINION, ELMERS ISLAND PRESENTS SEVERAL POSSIBILITIES FOR THE STATE. AS MY OPINION, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE STATE ACQUIRE ELMERS ISLAND, BUT, LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO BE ON ELMERS ISLAND AT ONE TIME.

I would choose Elmer's Island over Grand Isle because of its proximity to my home. We are loosing far to much public lands to private entaties. Everytime some of this land is lost the majority of the population loose. The only to be guranteed that the land will kept as natural as possible is for it to be managed by the state.

I enjoy spending time fishing and just relaxing while driving around Elmer's Island. Before I was fortunate enough to own a boat and a camp on Grand Isle, I spent every morning an evening surf fishing on the island. If it was purchased by a private party, there's no doubt in my mine that it would be gated community, just like Pirate's cove on the end of Grand Isle. Many fisherman who are not as well off as others will lose a valuable resouce.

I like to fish. Open the island to the public. PLEEEEEEEASE!

The state does very little to protect sites like elmer island. More should be done to ensure public access to sites like this.

The reason I would hate to see the state take over Elmer's Island is because of the way the State Park on Grande Isle is run. Generators are no allowed on the beach, only tents. If you have an RV you need to park behind the dunes on what looks like a soccer field. They have a list of rediculous rules. I visit State Parks all around La. and Ms. and I gotta say, Grand Isle State Park sucks. To do that to Elmer's Island would be a tradegy.

I have been going to Elmer's Island to fish and camp with my family since my childhood. It has been a tradition for my family until the island's closure. We hope that the state would purchase the island. I would like to continue this tradition with my future family. Elmer's Island holds many, many memories for many fellow campers and fishermen that I know. It was where my father showed me how to fish and where my wife caught her first redfish.

I was very dissapointed when I went down there to take my kids fishing and it was closed. Fourchon and Grand Isle are nice but I really enjoyed Elmers and would like my kids to be able to go there.

I THINK INMY OPINION THEAT THE ISLAND SHOULD BE PURCHASED BY THE STATE AND MANAGED IN A WAY TO PRESERVE ITE BEACHES AS WELL AS THE ISLAND ITSELF FORM LITERRING AND OTHER MEANS OF DESTROYING THE ISLAND.I HAVE BEEN GOING THERE

SINCE I WAS A CHILD AND IT WOULD BE A DISASTER IF THE ISLAND WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM US. ANOTHER THING IS I DON'T THINK THAT VEHICLES SHOULD BE ALLOWED ON THE BEACH AREA LIKE IN FOURCON BEACH, LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO IT. THANK YOU.

If Louisiana acquires Elmer's Island, it should clean it up and make it a useable attraction for campers and anglers. However, if Louisiana purchases the land and allow people to treat it like they do the rest of the state, I say let it go to a private developer. Upon doing this, the developer must have the stipulation that the land must be accessible to the public and must adhere to the laws and regulations of the NWF and all national wetland and wildlife restoration organizations.

Louisiana should keep its natural beaches for public use this is a natural resource that everyone should be able to enjoy

I have heard good things about Elmer's Island and would like to visit.

I NOW HAVE ACCESS TO FOUCHON BEACH TO SURF FISH. IF THIS IS ELIMINATED IN THE FUTURE THE PRICE I WOULD BE WILLING TO PAY MAY CHANGE. IF I DON'T HAVE EITHER ONE I WOULD MOVE TO FLORIDA. THEY ACTIVELY WORK TOWARDS PROVIDING ACCESS TO FISHING TO THOSE WITHOUT A BOAT.

Elmers has provided three generations of my family with some wonderful experiences and would seriously like to see my tax dollars used to purchase the land so many more people would have the opportunity to go there especially the people with less financial means than myself. The state wastes unbelievable amounts of money all the time and the purchase of Elmers would be a positive way to spend our money for us rather than all the pork the la legislature dishes out to their "friends". It's a no brainer that the state needs to purchase this wonderful tract of land, an I'am sure that with good management it could pay for itself through user fees. Save our coast for us makes sense to me. Property for general public access along the coast is very limited. Not everyone can afford boats, camps, etc. (we have to think of everyone)

My "other" favorite activity is duck hunting in the coastal marshes.

We liked the Elmers Island. We kept a boat in Grand Isles for a summer and we would use the island to land our plane.

The main concern for me as a surf-fisherman is weather the sand on the beach is being maintained and compacted so that I don't get stuck. This also helps maintain the integrity of the beach.

To open this place to the public would be the right thing to do b/c as you questionnaire asked earlier, IT IS FOR THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.

I have visited Elmers Island all my life, I have so many good memories there and hope that my children will have the same , I grew up in New Iberia, now live in Biloxi Ms. I visit Grand Isle , Elmers Island every summer and plan to continue doing this for the rest of my life.

In a 2001 International Piping Plover census, 18 birds were found wintering on Elmer's Island. Winter habitat also warrents attention for the recovery of the endangered species.

I have six children and two grandchildren. Four of the children accompany my wife and I regularly.

Elmers Island has been a great place for us to get away from the city. Its beaches have provided many, many years of enjoyment. We go there to camp, fish, and relax. Please open it back up to the public. We miss coming there. There is no place quite like it!!

If not able to drive vechiles on beach then don't worry about buying it.
Please allow Recreational vehicles on the property. dirt bikes, 4 wheelers, 4 wheel drive trucks.

It is a beautiful resource to keep from the public. It would be an asset to the parks commission. It would also compliment the Grand Isle state park with its new 48 spot campground. Thanks to Ranger Resweber.

Elmers Island was a favored fishing spot for years, especially Thunder Bayou. It would be nice to have them both back.

Elmer's Island is a great Louisiana natural resource that we should do our best to reserve for the public.

As a child going to Grand Isle & Elmers Island was a wonderful experience. As a adult looking back, comparing myself to my peers of that era. I believe the respect for nature that my parents taught me there and other areas we camped and fished. Helped me with duty and respect for all things in life. I would like to be able to do the same for my son. It saddens me to see what has happened along the Florida and Mississippi coast! I feel if all there is for young people to do is to look forward to gambling and high rise condos bought with illegal substance profits. We as a whole will pay a higher price. leave the place alone--maintain sand roads--provide security--severely punish litterers

GOOD LUCK

The state should purchase this property and maintain it in its natural state, but completely open to the public the year round (for a nominal entrance fee).

I do not think the state should purchase it"

I have to admit that I know that the state is taxed for money particularly for funds toward some recreational facilities. However there is very little public access for to saltwater fishing areas that can actually produce a good catch of fish with out trespassing. Assuming that you are refering to a place that would be fished from the shore. Elmer's island offers a rare opportunity to fish from shore on Louisiana Coastline. Its unique location gives fisherman the chance to fish for several species of fish that are sought by marsh fisherman and also would allow access for boats to a deep water route to the Gulf for those interested in offshore fishing. Please consider the purchase of this land seriously but do not let a recreational improvement break the bank. Your first concern should be the loss of coastland period then worry about buying the good spots. If erosion isn't stopped Elmer's won't exist.

I believe the state should purchase and preserve this wonderful natural resource for the present and future generations to enjoy as it has been in the past. Any development should take into consideration both consumptive and non-consumptive use. The most important consideration for me personally is to preserve the area for wildlife. Because of the importance of Louisiana's coastal habitats for neo-tropical migrants and other birds, wildlife preservation should be the prime reason for state purchase of Elmer's Island

If a private company buys Elmers Island the state will still be spending money to keep the erosion down. The private company is going to want to dredge canals to allow big boats to the dock. This would probably lead to more coastal erosion. Lets get together with the state and make sure Elmers Island is here for our future generations to use

Elmers Island is very unique and should be bought by the state for all to enjoy. Grand Isle would feel the economic benefits forever. What is the cajun bahamas with out a beach? This is the area where I learned how to wade fish and it would be a disaster to miss the chance to buy this land!!!

"I am hopeful that the state will purchase the site. My fear is that some ""lottery winner"" or ""injury settlement winner"" would buy and the public no longer allowed.

We need places like this to bring our children to and to avail it for other people to enjoy.

Keep Elmers Island open to the public like old Mr. Elmer wanted it.

"As a member of the Terrebonne Bird Club, I've been discouraged lately with the amount of 4 wheelers allowed on our birding trails during Spring/Fall Migration and the lack of enthusiasm from young locals in birding in general. The Grand Isle youths always make me feel unwelcome as though I were invading their "space". As a birder/naturalist, I feel strongly that Coastal Louisiana should have an area that is kept pristine and in its natural state so that we and future generations can appreciate the importance of this area. Public awareness regarding the uniqueness of the migration patterns of tropical birds is crucial to the survival of the island and for these birds. If this island were made too accessible and too developed, these birds would have no place to land and possibly die off. A welcome center at Elmer's Island would help to educate people about the importance of our coastal zone and migratory bird habitat. A "walk through only" birding trail and/or a boardwalk through the area would be ideal. I feel that if this island had restroom facilities, a welcome center, an open-air education area, camping facilities and a walking trail; it would be the perfect place for all birding clubs to gather for Spring/Fall Migration, an excellent place for school/church field trips, and an all around interesting place to visit. People from all over the world come to this area just to see these tropical birds. Having an area specifically made to enjoy the beauty of the Louisiana coastline in all its glory is something I personally would love to be a part of.

I think that Elmers Island needs to be kept as primitive as possible. Keep access fees as low as possible. Restrooms would be a nice addition but keep it the way that it has been for all these years as much as possible.

This should be a no brainer for the state. The state should buy the island now before someone from out of state gets it and changes the whole island. Keep the island as is and make it a state park with FULL CAMPER HOOK-UPS for about 100 campers and it will be full most of the time. Example, decided to go camping in GI on a last minute and could not find no place for my camper with full hook-up. IT'S A NO-BRAINER, BUY ELMER'S ISLAND.

Have enjoyed camping and fishing at Elmers isl would like to do it again soon.

In the past, Elmer's Island was closed from sometime in October until around the first of April. If it had been open all year, I would have visited it an average of twice a month, perhaps more. If it is open in the future, I would expect to visit it two to three times a month all year long.

I am in favor of a state purchase of Elmer's Island for the public use.

just to see the state buy Elmers island so we can fish and camp on the beach with out haveing a boat to get there.if you have a boat you wouldnt have to pay to get there . just put in at bridge side and motor over.

i think that if the state should buy Elmer's Island and make it a state park it would be a huge benefit to the public.

i think the state should buy so we can have a place to fish and do other things

Dear Sir, I live in Kuwait, but I am a Louisiana native son and want to see the coast of Louisiana maintained in as natural a condition as possible. If a private individual purchased Elmer's Island and kept it pristine, that would be fine. If the island were purchased for commercial development, then I would be 100% against it. In a nutshell, preservation or use, but not abuse.

LA needs to set aside some accessible sea shore that is protected from development. Public access should be limited with natural areas off limits to motorized vehicles and pets. These areas are very sensitive and under appreciated. Elmer's Island is ideal. I accidentally submitted prematurely a few minutes ago. Dave Patton, Lafayette, LA

I have enjoyed Elmer's Island for most of my life it would be a shame to let it go to private developers. This is a prime piece of land and is essential in our coastal marsh protection. Thank you for trying to help LA obtain this wonderful area for continued public access

Please visit my Louisiana surf fishing/beachcombing website at: www.LaFishMag.com to see what goes on in this area almost weekly for the last 6 years or so. I have a link to this form on my popular web site. If I can help with any additional questions about this area please give me a call. I know the area and the fishing conditions yearly.

We have a camp about 1000 yards from the road to Elmer's Island - - - an love to go there for fishing and swimming - - one day will have to sell camp but still would love to go to the island with children and grandchildren too - - - think the state need to buy it just and fix like the state park on Grand Island

Good luck

I would like to see Elmer's Island purchased by the state and opened to the public as either a State Park or National Park with a nominal access fee to cover at least maintenance and security but primarily to keep open access to the land by the public.

The state should buy it! They can regulate the traffic, manage the trash, and maintain the roads. However, it should only be for day use.

I would like the State to purchase the property as a state park and keep its name "Elmer's Island", also would like to keep the land as natural as possible. without all kinds of strict rule. I enjoyed going to the island as a child and remember how peaceful and free it felt going to Elmer's Island.

"Elmer's Island would be a great addition to the state park in Grand Isle. I would like to see it as it is now with the addition of restrooms and trash cans, with driving on the beach allowed. I'm not too sure about camping--maybe tents but no RVs or trailers. Grand Isle has enough motels and camps but needs more public access for fishing without boats."

Elmer's Island is a treasure just as it is ... it's a natural landing spot for migrating birds and has been for years and years ... to change it would be an environmental shame ... The few spots as important as this area that do remain should be guarded and protected to remain the natural areas that they are ...

Please Protect Elmer's Island and guard its future .

It would be more than a crime to for all generations to come to lose Louisiana premiere fishing beach to private interests.

I grew up fishing Elmer's Island with my father. It was some of the best times he and I had, catching specks and crabs. I would like for my son someday to be able to experience the same thing

I fished off Elmer's Island many years ago before I was seriously into birding. At that time, you had to stop at a trailer and pay a \$2 fee to a little old lady we called "Granny". The fishing was great and I'm sure the birding was also. It has been many years now since I've visited Grand Isle. Due to recent changes, helped along by Nature Conservancy, I would like to visit again.

I would love to see the state own Elmer's Island so that we could begin going back there to fish when we are in Grand Isle camping or vacationing.

I would like the state to buy it, enforce litter laws, and keep it like it is. We need more places like Elmer's Island

None, I just wouldn't want to see it in Private hands.

I really was not sure about the question of one time payment to enjoy Elmer's Island. Is this to be given to the private owner as a permit or membership type payment.

I would really like to see Elmer's Island remain as a public camping facility with regular patrols by Wildlife agents and Law enforcement officers while keeping development down to a minimum.

The length and types of questions is the reason most people do NOT fill out surveys!

Elmer's island is currently being wasted by not being utilized for its beauty!!!

"I HAD SOME OF THE BEST FISHING TRIPS AT ELMERS ISLAND BACK IN THE EARLY 90'S WHEN I WAS SINGLE AND ATTENDING THE TARPON RODEO. EVERYTIME WE WENT TO THE ISLAND WE CAUGHT FISH AND HAD A GREAT TIME.

LOOKING FORWARD TO BRING MY 8 YR OLD SON DOWN THERE ONCE YA'LL OPEN THE ISLAND BACK UP. KEEPING MY FINGERS CROSSED.

The state needs to buy it!

Elmer's Island was a wonderful retreat for the serious surf fisherman and camper. Even when visiting Grand Isle, we made a trip over to Elmer's Island while there to see the area, see how the fish were biting, and maybe even beachcomb a little. It was great, and the owner's were not overbearing with the fees.

I think it would be a great idea for the state to purchase Elmer's Island. At least we would know that that portion of monies set aside to purchase this prime fishing and camping area would not be going to pork barrel pet projects!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I really do not think the legislature can see that far in front of itself to cash in on this piece of real estate!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Please save elmer's island for public use. i really enjoyed that island as a child for surf fishing.

Do we want what happened to the Mississippi gulf coast to happen to us?

We enjoy going the elmer's island so much that the summer are not summers without going, our son talks about all the great times we had there and often ask when we are going back so we can bring his little sis' to play in the sand with him.

Elmer's Island is a wonderful place. It would be a great benefit to the state to purchase this amazing area. Please do not let this opportunity slip away.

A state park on elmers island would be beneficial to tourism, the environment, and the enjoyability of a trip to the area. i am in full support of a state purchase.

"I really believe that elmer's island can remain open to the public and owned by the state with minimal improvements, and still maintain the idea of a ""primitive"" state of being at a low visitation fee. there is no reason that it should cost me and other louisiana residents, regardless of their income status, more than 20.00 to camp overnight at elmer's island. Furthermore, if a private owner were to buy the island

and maintain it as semi primitive with some minimal improvements in the area shell roads and bathrooms Etc. this would be acceptable to me. However, I know , as well as everyone else should know, that this would not happen. As a matter of fact , I sort of half heartedly believe that this survey, along with any futher debate or frustration by myself or anyone else is almost a waste of time and effort. We live in a state of corrupt idiots who care nothing for the environment, family tradition and way of life, heritage, or the simple pleasures that are derived from having places like elmer's island. Simple truth is, Grand Isle used to be a primitive place in itself along with it's surroundings. Not anymore. I am saddened by the massive take over of the ""rich Man"" in this state. Fishing, camping and hunting and other outdoor activities are here for everyone. However, every place that ""I"" hold dear, from my childhood memories all the way to now, seems to be dissappearing. There are reasons that places remain special to people. I don't believe that I am the only person who feels this way. I am not against progress and improvement. I am against destruction of nostalgia. I am not the world's smartest man by far, I am not the most popular, and I don't have an enormous bank account. I am simple. I like simple. I come from simple. and one day when and if I have children, i wil raise them to be simple. There are far more simple men in this state than there are complicated men. Yet, everything in Louisiana has remained complicated. Bottom line here is that like so many other places(i can name dozen's and if you'd like examples ask me)in this state, elmer's island is bound to dissappear into obscurity and re-emerge as another overbuilt, overdesigned, RICH MAN'S PLAYGROUND. I and many other's will be forced to have nothing but memories of elmer's island, for we do not \$200,000 to buy a lot and build a camp, nor do we have hundred's of dollar's a month to pay for storage of an overpriced boat. I am sorry that I feel this way. I really am. But I have been forced to feel this way.

I have a family of five and we have had many enjoyable trips to Elmers Island. Although they are still young (the kids,13,7,&3). I would like to continue this tradition that was also part of my growing up as a kid. Please help us to keep Elmers Island accesable at whatever cost. Thanks,James R. Holiday

We need a place to be able to drive along the beach to fish, crab, & swim; we need all the space to we get to spread out and to get away from camps and houses; I have fished Elmer's Island from the time I was just a boy to it's recent closure. It needs to be open to the public. The state needs to buy it.

Elmer's Island is a great place to stay with the whole family!! Kids can swim and fish along with the adults. I would like to see limited development of the area; with the exception of restrooms I would like to see it stay just how I remembered it last time I was there.

I own a camp on the coast and that influences many of my responses. I am fortunate but Elmewr's Island needs to be preserved for everyone. It is special.

Would love to see the state purchase Elmers Island and preserve its natural resources. Leave it open to the public to enjoy. Make it a state preservation area. I love the great outdoors and it's disheartening to see wonderful places like Elmers Island be destroyed or over developed.

I think that a fair price show be paid for elmers island and that the state should maintain it as natural as possible and that it should be patrolled by qualified personal and equipment to keep it safe and clean. people that abuse this site should be banned from its use or fined and made to fix-up their mess-up, not the state.

Fabulous fishing and primitive camping area. Hope the state can come up with some funds to purchase it for Louisianians who cannot afford a camp on the coast.

I feel it is very important to do what we can to make sure Elmers Island is reopened to the public.

This Island should be purchased and maintained by the state to insure that the sportsmen and outdoorsmen will get the best for the taxes and recreational dollars that they spend inside the state. The number of people per day should be limited and reservations should be required, five day max stay. If only camping is allowed, shower and rest room facilities should be provided. Good Luck.

I love the area of Grand Isle to Fourchon (including Elmer's Island). If the state did purchase it (which they should), I like the set-up at Grand Isle State Park and think a similar facility would be a big draw. You will have to include enough facilities so that people could stay for a day or two (min.) to enjoy all the area has to offer which would also give you the opportunity to draw revenue from several sources. I've been visiting the area since the early 80's and think it's a special place.

I think we all should be able to visit Elmer's Island. Too much of the coast is privately owned, and we no longer have access to it. Some of us cannot afford to purchase beach front property. This may be our only chance to treat our kids the coast while it is still here.

Good work with the survey....glad to see people back in Louisiana are taking an interest in this. I moved to Houston four years ago but regularly commute back to Grand Isle on summer weekends to fish. Much better fishing than what we get here in Galveston.

I would like Elmer's Island to become a state park with full hook ups for R/Vs and tent area also. A large lighted fishing pier and launch would be nice also.

Keep Elmer's Island public

I would like to see the Island developed by private investors. More Marinas, restaurants, and entertainment businesses.

Hotels on the beach. More like the Alabama or Florida coast. Shopping malls, things that will bring more recreational dollars to the Gulf Coast. The locals could have jobs servicing tourists instead of exploiting natural resources.

I would hate to see Elmer's Island turned into the Grand Isle State Park. Vehicle access to the beach is of utmost importance. The park is a waste. I think Elmer's Island should be purchased but left alone. I'd really hate to see politics turn it into a moneymaker.

The state should not buy Elmer's Island. 6 million is a ripoff. Jay Elmer wanted to sell it for 3 million. Who's taking the extra money?"

A BAIT STAND W/MARKET AND LIVE BAIT, LIGHTED FISHING PIERS, AND 24HR SECURITY ROAMING THROUGH OUT TO ENSURE A FAMILY ATMOSPHERE WOULD MAKE IT MORE LIKELY FOR ME TO BRING THE FAMILY AND CAMPER FOR WEEKEND GET AWAYS.

I have fished Grand Isle for about 17 years. Two of my friends own a camp on GI. We are blessed to be able to afford boats from which we fish around Elmer's Island. Some of the guys do get out there to wade fish. There are a lot of folks that may not be able to afford what we have. I feel this is why an area like Elmer's Island should be purchased by the state. There could be primitive camping, and a fishing pier to provide access to good fishing. Look at the number of people that fish the bridge on Grand Isle. There are times when it is completely full. We have went to the bridge in the evenings to watch the sun set & to fish at night. The state was willing to spend millions to keep the Saints (GO SAINTS) who could be moved any time, so why not spend the money to keep something that could be here for generations of La. folks to enjoy!

It would be another disgrace to this state if the state doesn't acquire this once in a lifetime opportunity. There is no other place on the entire Gulf Coast that compares with it in every aspect. I've been everywhere on the Gulf Coast and Elmer's has it all period.

It would be a tragic event for Louisiana to lose a great resource like Elmer's Island. We (Louisiana) have a rare opportunity to gain valuable land to be enjoyed by all.

I work 6 days so i can spend the money made in one day fishing and camping on the coast of la.

I think enough profit can be made at Elmers Isle to pay for the up keep of this valuable resource.

I believe that, due to economic pressures and increasing population/demands, that, once allowed to be developed commercially, Elmer's Island will be permanently lost as a natural resource for citizens to enjoy in its current state. If purchased by the state, the chances appear greater that this area would be properly preserved.

Keep Elmer's public. I grew up fishing/hunting/camping "public areas" in the Delacroix marsh hoping to share these spots with my boys (now 2 and 5 yrs). Those days are gone.

In a few years, when my kids are not infants and I have progressed on a few debts, I would be likely to visit Elmer's more often and may have some money to donate!"

Although I am not a camper and would visit the island by mostly boat, I nevertheless think that keeping it in a natural state, with some basic amenities, is good for the area and the people who visit there. Commercial development should be ruled out.

Not another white lake, please !!!!

Elmer's Island IS a public treasure and I was real upset when the old man started selling the sand off of the island... could not understand how he could do it (or the state let him). Buy the damn thing. Call me if we need a private lands trust... i will chip in.

I WOULD HOPE THAT THE STATE WOULD BUY ELMERS ISLAND AND OPEN IT TO THE PUBLIC AND THE FEE CHARGED TO VISIT WOULD BE REASONABLE.

I have been coming to Elmer's Island since I was a child and have missed it greatly since it's closure. I grew up in New Orleans, and although I now live in North Louisiana, and the travel time to the island is prohibitive, I still make the trip to fish and camp in or near Grand Isle at least twice a year. It is truly part of my heritage. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to introduce others to this wonderful treasure over the years. We all miss going there and hope that it can be preserved for everyone to experience in the future.

"Question 17: I would answer less than 1 but more than 0."

we would like to see this reopened as a campground with boat launch [water electric and sewer, this would be a boom for tourism and great for the State

It would be very nice to make Elmers Island a state park to rival the state parks in other states. The island could be split with some being commercial for groceries food ice gas etc and some private camps. The rest should be a state park. It will need camper hookups, a shower house, a bay side fishing pier and some cabins for rent. There is potential here to do it right and make most people happy. A small marina on the bay side.

My grandmother used to manage elmers island. I been going down there since i was about six.I want my kids to enjoy it as much as i did.Ihope and pray that it reopens again.

If their would be a charge, maybe by the vehicle size might be the way to go.

A perfect weekend is a mix of surf and offshore fishing, Flounder gigging at night while camping on an island and cooking some of my luck on a camp fire.

It will be very sad to see the State not purchase this property. I have surf fished and camped out at Elmers island (when it was open) and the Grand isle state park for many years, and Elmer's had much better fishing. Plus it was an excellent place for primitive camping, away from all the mecahnized camping on GI.

The purchase of Elmer's Island should be a no brainer for the state. I am outraged by the lack of action in regards to Elmers Island by the state!

I think we need all the beaches we can.

I believe Elmers Island is the greatest site in the state of louisiana yet to be developed.

To develop this site would bring tourism to south la. and many jobs for the local people. Cabins and dorm facilities are a must. You would draw groups from many states for varied purposes. I pastor a church in Nashville Tenn. The people here are anxious for me to take them to la. for a fishing excursion. I would gladly use such a facility for this purpose. I ecourage you to pursue this developement quickly because Grand Isle discourages many because it is so congested during peak seasons.

I love south Louisiana

I hope the state does not miss this oportunity to purchase Elmers Island.

Keep it public!

I appreciate you putting together this survey. I host a hunting and fishing radio show in Baton Rouge every week and I would be interested in discussing with you the results of this survey. I have advocated on numerous occasions publicly the re-opening of the Elmer's beach. I love to fish the surf and Elmer's has some of the best surf fishing in the country. But I have also seen the destruction of what's left of the accessible Fourchon beach and it makes me angry. If the Elmer's beach were re-opened I would use it as much as possible. But I would hope that the beach would be patrolled on a regular basis in much the same way as the state park on the east end of Grande Isle. Littering, public drunkenness or driving on the beach while intoxicated, purposeful destruction of the beach or dunes with vehicles and dumping would hopefully be offenses not tolerated by enforcement agents. Also, a strong presence by the Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries would be needed to keep poachers from taking more than their legal limit of fish or illegal crabs. It would also be nice to see Wildlife and Fisheries ban shrimp trawling within the first 500 yards of surf. I realize all these goals are not easily attainable, but I consider Elmer's Island a treasure and I don't want to see it trashed and intentionally destroyed like many of our other public beaches. Far too often I have had to pull drunken beach goers out of the soft sand at Fourchon only to see them become stuck again or turn doughnuts in the sand or leave their trash strewn along the beach. It sickens me to think that this is how many of our citizens show their respect to our natural resources. I guess the bottom line is I would celebrate if Elmer's was opened again for public access by the state, but I would want their to be some strict rules laid out and have them stricly enforced.

The state needs to purchase Elmers island because of the situation at Fourchon beach

I certainly hope that the state does purchase Elmers Island, but I would hate to see it developed like other state parks, etc.

We need to keep this area open to the public. I would like to go back some day and catch another big redfish like that 44 inch bull red I caught when I was in college.

I would like to see Elmer's Island open to the public as it was in the past. When visiting Grand Isle as we used to at least once a year we would spend most of our time at Elmer's fishing and having fun. Since Elmer's has closed we have not been back to Grand Isle.

IT WOULD BE NICE TO HAVE A SECTION OF LAND DEDICATED FOR CAMPING WITH FULL HOOKUPS INCLUDING SEWAGE (UNLIKE WHAT IS AVAILABLE AT THE STATE PARK). I THINK IF YOU BUILD SOMETHING FIRST CLASS PEOPLE WILL COME. THERE'S SO MUCH POTENTIAL WITH THIS PROPERTY IF IT FALLS INTO THE RIGHT MANAGEMENT.

My friend and I have been going to Elmers Island for the past 4years .We caught many of fish in the surf. The beaches are nice to ride and there is plenty of places to fish without getting over crowded. There's not to many places for a person to fish in the surf down there. I hope the state is sucessful in purchasing Elmers Island.

Elmer's Island is a fantastic place to camp, fish bird watch and enjoy being in nature. It is important to ecotourism to have not onlyn for state residents but to attract out of state tourists. La. needs to develop it and aother areas to enhance our attractiveness to bring in out of state dollars.

Whether it goes to the state or public. Please keep it open for use and improvements, thank you

I would support and encourage any and all efforts by the state to aquire the island. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE A GREAT THING IF THE STATE WOULD OBTAIN THIS PROPERTY FOR FAMILIES WHO DON'T OWN A BOAT WOULD HAVE ACESS TO A GREAT FISHING AREA

You can't put a price on the joy this island brings to people. I think the state has given away more than this to big company. Louisiana government owes this to the people and the some!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Although I haven't camped at Grand Isle or Elmer's Island in the past, I would camp (overnight, wk-end)in the near future if camp sites, hookups are available. Hopefully my wife & I will purchase a small travel trailer (18-22 ft.)in next couple of years.

I am from the "Bayou" and i remember well when it was open. With the harbor patrol in the area and watchin the activity on the fourchon beach. i am sure we can do something to convince the Callioute family to open it back up if the state doesnt buy it. Thier is great fishin in that area and its such a shame fer them to close it . cause now the people who cant afford a boat to go in the gulf . cant acces this wonderful resource we have in the state

Elmer's Island has been a tradition in our family since I was a small boy. It is shame that we, the people of LA, may loose for all time the right to visit that beach. I can not express the joy that that area brought to us a children and to us as parents when we had children of our own to bring to the beach. Elmer's island should be protected and cherished by this state.

We need more places where the PUBLIC has access to the states resources. We need to provide the access, enforce the rules, and make arrangements to clean the area. People in other states know that if an area is used by the public, rules must be enforced and garbage hauled away. They do it, Louisiana public official just bitch about it. Plan for it in the beginning and just do it.

I definitely think the state should purchase it and put in the minumum amenities for the public to enjoy it. Fees should be kept to an absolute minimum but enough to pay the costs of operating the area.

I believe purchase of Elmer's Island is a worthwhile purchase for the state. If developed properly, it could bring in significant out of state dollars by way of tourism as well as providing added areas for state residents to enjoy.

In regards to question # 23. The question is to vague and speculative to give a concrete answer. If Elmer's island proved to be a hot fishing spot that was accesable and enjoyalbe, then I would probably use it more."

The closure of all the beaches is revenue being lost in la. I have had to find altenative fishing spot that are located out of state. Which in turn cost me more money to buy out of state fishing license.

Always wanted to visit ELMER'S Island, but it closed before I had a chance to visit! I hope the state buy's it!would like to take the kids camping and fishing!

The purchase of Elmer's Island is something the state NEEDS to do. I haven't been to the island in years, but my daughter is approaching the age where we can enjoy it as a family

I fished much more often in Louisiana when the license fees were reasonable. Since the increase in fees (and the ludicrous regulation of having to purchase a freshwater and saltwater license in order to fish in the marsh), I have spent much more money in other states that are more receptive to out of state sportsmen. If the out of state sportsmen were not punished for living outside of Louisiana, I would spend more time and money in this state. Adding a fee for Elmer's Island is acceptable, but the fee should not be set at an unreasonable level.

It would be a shame if this property was closed to the public. Hopefully the government will purchase it and keep it up so it can be enjoyed by everyone for years to come.

I would like to see a marina with boat launches and bait shop on the island

It would be criminal for the State of Louisiana to allow a private enterprise to buy Elmer's Island. It would loose all of its beauty if developed. The developer would more than likely be from another state, and only interested in the all mighty dollar. Saying that the developer should move to Louisiana and become an elected official.

If Elmers Island was free access It would improve the Elmers Island/Grand Isle combination for fishing camping etc. I would also like to see a air strip maintained on the island.

I think the state could spend monies better protecting our coast line than buying elmers

I have fished and crabed,and camped on Elmers island many yrs and I think it is a shame for such a great place for a faimly to be able to go and enjoy the weekend. What a waste if the state doesen't purches it.I think this survey ought to go out and let everyone know who all the yeas and nays are, if you get my drift.

If Elmer's Island is purchased by the state, I would like to see it managed in a "first class" manner. First class meaning "FIRST CLASS" for all the years to come, not just the first 2 or 3 years, and then the state forgets about the importance of the Island. Keep it relatively primitive and clean and environmentally sound. This is my hope.

I've been enjoying fishing on Elmer's Island for as long as I can remember. When I was a kid I used to go on trips with my Uncle and cousins, we used to camp out and fish all weekend having a good time. This is the beach where I developed my skills and passion for fishing, I would hate to see this wonderful beach privatized and unaccessible to the public. The state has a oppportunity to invest in a place where others can develop a passion for fishing just as I did. This could also be another opprotunity for the state to promote outdoor activity, after all we are the sportsmans paradise.

The best and highest use of Elmer's Island Would be aquired by the state of Louisiana and preserved as a public recreational facility."

With all of the water around our area, we have little recreational, fishing provisions

I like to see Elmer's Island belong to the state that way everybody in La would own it and be able to visit it at a fee that would help maintain it so all could afford

With the development of Grand Isle and its proximity to GI, Elmer's Island is a perfect candidate for a scenic, passive park that all of us can enjoy. Especially if the road is improved from Leesville to GI. This could be a candidate for a Federal Park.

If Elmer's Island is bought with public funding, development should be kept at a minimum. Everyone loves it the way it is.

Would love to see the State purchase and maintain this pristine area as a park. Florida has many places to fish from the shore...Louisiana does not. We need to offer wade fishing and daytime activities. Not sure vehicles should be allowed, except on paved surface. Area needs to be patrolled and rules enforced. Litterers should be fined ON THE SPOT!

I do not believe it is right for any government to acquire land from another person simply because the land is attractive or could be enjoyed by other people. It is not theirs. If they want land people should buy their own not steal from others.

Let's keep it for the public. But leave it like it is.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE ISLAND BOUGHT BY THE STATE FOR THE PEOPLE WHO ENJOY FISHING THE COAST THE WAY IT WAS ON ELMER'S ISLAND IN THE YEARS PAST

Getting Elmer's Island opened to the public again would be a very big plus for the Grand Isle economy. I know of a few people who don't hardly go down there because it closed. I hope you succeed in your push to make it publicly owned, it would make a lot of people happy. Thank you

IT WOULD NOT BE THE SAME IF MY SON CAN'T GO FISHING AT ELMER'S ISLAND, IF YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT KEEPING IT THE WAY IT IS, AND YOU HAVE NEVER GONE THERE AND FISH, I HOPE YOU DO BEFORE YOU VOTE ON THIS WITHOUT KNOWING HOW GREAT THIS PLACE IS AND IT COULD IF DONE RIGHT MAKE THE STATE IT'S MONEY IT SPENDS ON THE LAND AND MORE, IF IT IS DONE RIGHT.
I AM ALAN DRUMM, 7425 SATURN CT, VIOLET, LA 70092 U.S. ARMY"

Survey is a bit on the longwinded side.

I feel if the state made it a park like Cypermor Point it would be a nice place to visit and fish.
THE STATE SHOULD PURCHASE ELMER'S ISLAND

This is a chance for Louisiana to own this valuable resource for all of its citizens.

I thank the Island should be open so the public has use of it if the state buys it.

ELMER'S ISLAND TO ME WAS ONCE THE BEST PLACE TO SURF FISH OR TO GO CAMPING IN A TENT. BEFORE THE CAILLOUETS CLOSED THE FOURCHON BEACH TO THE EAST, WE USED TO DRIVE THE BEACH TO GET TO ELMER'S ISLAND AND DO SOME CAMPING AND FISHING.

Our whole neighborhood used to go there to camp, crab and fish and just have a good time. In tents, sometime 25 people would be in 7 or 8 tents.

Buy it Don't let it go commerical.

I would live for the State to purchase Elmers Island. I just have never had the chance to go there to see if it fits what I would like to do there.

Please keep Elmer's Island open to the public!

We used Elmers Island many times as a family. We fish, bird watch and beachcomb during these times usually for a day trip since we have a camp at Grand Isle. Elmer's Island has an outstanding rookery which must be protected against private development.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE STATE OBTAIN THIS PROPERTY AND CONTROL IT LIKE A STATE PARK WITH RESTROOMS WITH RUNNING WATER AND TO MANTAIN THE BEACHES AND PLACE TRASH CAN ALONG THE BEACH. GOOD LUCK

The state should own Elmer's island. The cost of operation should be just enough to operate the facility. The state should be willing to subsidize the campground to enhance the commercial businesses around the island. Improvements to the island should be the ones that enhance it as a recreational spot. Please do not clutter the place.

Survey too long. People go to the coast for specic reasons, I had a difficult time finding this website. Not a computer wizard. Will not visit if privately owned

I feel this site could become a great tourist attraction, for both residents and non-residents. The State of Louisiana should use all its resources to obtain this area, and recoup the cost through fees for admittance on the island and from overnight campers.

We always hear politicians espousing family values. This area has always promoted families doing things together. It will be interesting to see what happens.

I am from Germany. I had the pleasure to spend the best time of life from Jan. 1999 until May of 2002 in Louisiana. I started surf-fishing on Elmer's Island. The best solution would be build a statepark on Elmer's Island just as on Grand Isle. Elmer's Island has to be kept open for public.

I was making overnight trips on a regular basis to elmers island (several times a year)until it closed. Since that time I have attempted to locate another place with similar qualities within reasonable driving time / distance of my home. I have not found any such place. The beach at fourchon is the closest thing to elmers but does not have marsh access as does elmers. As I do not own a boat there are very limited sites if any that allow good camping & fishing such as elmers. I for one would love to see elmers made accessible once again. I think it would be great if this were made into an accessible state facility with very limited improvements. (Just some security & access maintainence) It is a shame that this area is currently inaccesible. My trips to elmers have been some of the most enjoyable in my life.

I hope the state buys elmers island because it is one of the last coastal beaches for public fishing and camping. It needs to be cleaned and kept for public use.

I own a class a motorhome and would like to see a full access camp ground for all types of rv vacationer to enjoy and bring more revenue to the state like florida .

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE BUY ELMERS ISLAND

Don't let it get into private hands, although I was happy with the last owners I expect another private venture would ruin it. I would love to see a State or Federal Park similar to Fort Pickens in Florida.

Willing to donate plenty of man hours to the project.

We used to go camping at Elmer's Island when I was growing up. My family went every weekend. I hope the state buys it so that we can go camping, fishing and crabbing once again.

I'd sure like to see Elmer's Island OPEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Having been a life long resident of La., I honestly mean & tell people if you don't like to hunt or fish you have no reason to be in Louisiana. It would be a shame for the state to not acquire this island especially in lieu of the fact of how this state squanders money and resources. 62 years leads me to believe they will let it get away or screw it up!!

Should remain open to the public...

I think Elmers Island should be turned into some type of recreational park with primitive and camper hook-ups along with cabin rentals. Some of it should be left for bird and animal refuge along with surf fishing, crabbing, and beachcombing. A section could be sold to private investors for developing Condo's along the canal from the Hwy to the beach with access to the gulf with boats. The Economic impact of the development of Elmers Island would benefit the state and parish, along with the other two natural beaches in Louisiana, Grand Isle and Fourchon Beach. Public fishing peers would also add to the unlimited resources available if this were developed. If our elected officials could ever visualize a road from Fourchon Beach to Elmers Island with development on the inside of the road and leave the beach side of the road for swimming, fishing, crabbing and beachcombing. Maybe they could take a look at Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Why is Louisiana the only state that does not want to develop their beaches. The Economic development potential is so great that it is hard to believe that this has not been done yet.

I believe Elmers Island should be bought by the state and made accessible to the average working taxpayers. We as the public are getting more and more accessible beach front taken away from us. Look at the disgrace that took place in Fourchon Beach. More than half of the beach was closed to the public for no apparent reason. I have no qualm about paying for access to the beaches as long as it's reasonable for the average person with a family. This is one of the last few places where a man can take his family and have a really good time and not cost a fortune to do so. To allow Elmers Island to slip into the hands of rich developers would be another disgrace for Louisiana. Just look at what is happening at White Lake and to what has happened to Fourchon Beach. I think the taxpayers have had enough and it's way past time to stand up and be heard. I think they should have a public hearing on this.

I have a camp 5 minutes from Elmer's Island. The surf fishing in this area is as good as it gets in La. I often take advantage of this in the evenings. If it is not open to drive thru, I'll just keep using my boat. I have done this for the last 2 years.

Would also like to see a fish cleaning building and garbage bins thrown out the place. An our local sheriff office using the trustees to keep the beaches clean to pay their dept back. Also life guards station for the swimmers.

Lets keep elmers island public and somewhat primitive. leave it as natural as possible. but ,by all means,keep it clean.

I have had many good times on Elmers Island and would like to continue bringing my children and grandchildren to this nice, clean beach.

HORRAY TO THE ONES OF YOU WHO SEE THE MERIT IN KEEPING THIS PLACE AS IS. IN MY PAST MY CHILDREN AND I HAD MANY WONDERFUL TRIPS TO ELMERS' AND THEY WILL FOREVER REMAIN A GOOD MEMORY. PLEASE, IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF HELP FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC OTHER THAN THE SURVEY (I HAVR TOLD EVERYONE THAT I COME IN CONTACT WITH TO TAKE IT) CONTACT ME AT PAWPAWGOTRUCK@AOL.COM.

It would be great if the state purchased Elmer's Island and have it open to the public. This site is the best surf fishing site in the state and should be accessible for all who chose to enjoy.

"I think Elmer's Island is great resource for the state of Louisiana. I moved to Texas two years ago and I really miss having a place like Elmer's

Island to bring my kids. I would like to see it purchased by the state and used properly for all to enjoy.

Elmers Island is a great place to fish and beach comb. We always enjoyed going to Elmers Island and hated to see it closed.

It is a good thing for the state to purchase the island but there is an opportunity for a multi-agency partnership that would maximize the use of the resource and greatly benefit the public. If this is going to happen it will not be easy to get all to the table.....but it is possible. The head of all agencies involved will have to be thinking outside of the typical agency agenda's and work toward what is a reasonable and beneficial plan for the island. The first step should be to look at some beach nourishment projects because if you look at some historical aerials of the area and look at some photography post storm, there are several areas in danger of breaching and once the gulf gets back into that shallow open H2O area, the marsh is in danger. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I have enjoyed fishing for years. I would like to see the Island stay as natural as possible.
I Have a camp on Grand Isle I occasionally surf fish Elmers

This area should be preserved for Louisiana citizens. there are not too many places for Louisiana residents to fish from land. we are surrounded by water in this area and cannot access it because of too many private owners.

I strongly believe the state should purchase Elmer's Island in order to preserve its natural beauty and wildlife and to ensure that it is open to the public for fishing, camping, nature observation, etc. I believe strong law enforcement should be used to protect its environment, wildlife, and visitors. It should be a place where people who respect nature and our laws feel comfortable.

Let the Rich with money buy a camp on Grand Island or take a trip to Cancun or Florida. Nothing against the rich wish I was. I think the state would do a better job keeping it up plus we wouldn't have to rebuild a bunch of camps everytime a storm hit. Keep it simple with easy access.

I would love to see any coastal areas preserved and kept in tact. I've seen too much land disappear over the years. Hopefully Elmer's Island being purchased by the state will increase overall coastal restoration awareness throughout the state. It's our most valuable resource. It's important to keep as much marshland preserved as possible!

Given the current situation with the White Lake ordeal this purchase should not be a problem for the state. All the people of the state could use this beach and not just the chosen few.
miss the fishing on Elmer's Island. We need to get it reopened

I fished Fourchon this weekend and was appalled at the amount of litter and debris, more importantly the lack of respect and appreciation for the land. Should the state purchase Elmer's Island, I would encourage the state to place trash receptacles every few hundred yards or so in hopes people would utilize same.

Elmer's Island has always been a favorite place to enjoy both fishing and spending the day with the family at the beach. For the state to purchase this property would be a tremendous asset to the people of Louisiana both as a place for recreation as well as an added tourist attraction to accompany Grand Isle

I have a new fishing boat and generally use it to go fishing wherever I feel like going. Prior to having the boat I visited/camped/fished Elmer's Island. It's nice to be able to take the kids to the beach to fish, camp, BBQ, etc. and have a wide open space to do all of these things. Even though there are other people visiting the island there is plenty of room out there to get away from everyone and still have people around if you feel like visiting. If roads are developed - I think there should be plenty of beach front parking and maybe some beach areas that stay the same as it is now. It's fun to ride along the beach and drive as far as you can without feeling bunched up with other people. That would be great as

long as people didn't tear up the beaches, wildlife, etc. I also think it is very important to have some park rangers patrolling the area for policing, general safety reasons, and to make sure that Elmer's Island remains a family type environment. As you know, the Grand Isle area is no Miami and we like it that way but I think if the park is done the right way - it may be somewhat of a tourist site. Other than Pirates Cove and a few nice camps in Grand Isle - the area is very industrial with quite a few run down trashy eye sores. It could be very pretty - take away the trash and then look at the scenery and wildlife. There is nothing else like it - not to mention that the fishing is second to none. Just my thoughts - hope it helps!"

I would not mind if it went private , as long as there was public access to the beach . It would be nice to have some real nice accommodations for the family to come down and spend a week like I do now in Gulf Shores.

I really miss the fishing that was available @ Elmer Island.

i will support and vote for any politician who takes this all the way. it will show he or she really cares about the common family man who can bring his family for a day or two to have fun without spending a lot. it will show other people what we have and what it takes to enjoy the simple things

Needless to say, any of Louisiana's land and especially coastal and/or wetlands should be preserved at all costs. Thank God someone is taking the time to preserve the land. Native's have no idea that the demand for wetlands in Louisiana is incomparable to similar states. At least make it a sanctuary accessible for fishing and camping february through November and close it the rest of the year for duck hunting if applicable.

I think this would be a great resource if the state purchased it.

I think it would be good to keep it a public place because it brings a lot of people to Louisiana and I've always gone there all my life and I would like the same for my kids.

I have frequented Grand Isle a couple of times a year in the past, sometimes for the day, sometimes renting a camp w/lighted warf. I didn't know enough about Elmer's Island to go there, but was always curious. I knew it was privately owned, but also thought it was private. I do enjoy camping also. I have relatives in Florida, which I know is a completely different story, but there are nice places to spend a day at the beach, where the area is protected by a rock wall, or you can go in the unprotected area. Something like that would be even better here, because there is so much better fishing here. I think some men, who go alone, would be much more inclined to spend that time taking the family if there was a place set up to fill both needs. I just think it is a once in a lifetime opportunity for the state to do whatever it can to ensure that we have a beach to visit for years to come. It's bad enough, you have to pay an arm and a leg to launch a boat just about anywhere in SE LA. If it goes to a private owner, the chance may be lost forever and if not, will surely come at a higher price.

I really would like to see the state buy the property and not an individual because we need to maintain some primitive property and not go to commercial.

Elmer's Island has been my beach of choice for surf fishing for the past 40 years, with my buddies and family. I would hate to see it vanish. It is probably the last place a working man can escape the stress of the city, fish, camp and enjoy the outdoors for a low price.

If the state does not purchase the land, I would be interested in a group purchase of the land by Louisiana residents. I have many coworkers who share my thoughts and would be interested in a one time fee so that our children and grandchildren would have access to the island.

Please do not let this valuable natural resource fall into the hands of the public sector. It would be a disaster for all the people of Louisiana

TEXAS HAS OPEN BEACH ACCESS. LOUISIANA NEEDS MORE PLACES FOR PEOPLE WITHOUT BOATS TO (SURF) FISH.

I enjoyed Elmers island since I was a child. It is a great surfe fishing place and good place to take the family. The state should make it like the park at grand isle and add a boat launch /marina with access to the gulf.

The purchase of Elmers Island by the state is important to posterity and I am sure the citizens of Louisiana would be happy to pay on a fee/day basis to support this purchase.

I CERTAINLY THINK THE STATE SHOULD PURCHASE ELMER'S ISLAND. IT IS A WONDERFUL PLACE WITH UNLIMITED POTENTIAL. WE WOULD REALLY DROP THE BALL IF WE DON'T JUMP IN AND PURCHASE THIS PROPERTY. LET'S DO IT (QUICK)"

I like to surf fish and the kids like to swim or play on the beach while I am surf fishing.

I would love to see Elmers opened as a state park. I think that it would be a big boost for the state, given the popularity of the Grand Isle area in the recent past. Tell the Gov. to get on the ball with this or I'll let him know the next time I see on the water. ""This Would Be A GOOD THING""

The state should not pass up the opportunity to buy Elmer's Island. The upside is too great.

I don't think we should commercialize any thing else in grand isle. it should be left alone for anybody to use, not just people with money.

I have a camp in Terrebonne Parish. The amount I listed as spending for lodging is an estimate based on the cost per day of the lease and a three day trip.

Thanks for helping with this purchase.

WE CAMP IN MISSISSIPPI ALOT (WAVELAND) DUE TO THE FACT THERE ARE NO NICE CAMPGROUNDS NEAR COASTAL LA. LIFETIME HOLDER OF LA HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE WOULD SAVE MONEY BY STAYING LA.

The state of Louisiana should purchase Elmers Island and make it available for public use.

leave it just like it was!! If it ain't broke dont fix it!!

"pPURCHASE A STATE PASS TO THE iSLAND, STATE SELL LIVE BAIT, WATER, SEND RESULTS
"

In addition to purchasing for fishing interests, the state should also look to developing Elmer's for birding interests, and eco-tourism. Planting of trees for roosting migratory wildlife, for example. Also, the state should set a no-motorized zone within the boundaries of Elmers so paddlers could have a safe place to boat.

I have owned a camp on Grand Isle for 20+ years so I have seen it get very crowded. it would be nice for an area close by to give even more people the oppertunity to enjoy. with so little public accessable beach or fishing areas in Louisiana it is hard for some people spend time fishing, or crabing with their families unless they own a camp or know someone.

I grew up fishing and crabbing in the Elmer's Island surf. My wife and I spent many enjoyable with two sons and many family members enjoying this stretch of beach. With the closing of most of Fourchon Beach and the small surf fishing area at the G.I. State Park if this area is not saved this would be a shame for the people of LA. We can give the New Orleans Saints millions of dollars every time they ask, so why can't we find the money for something truly important to the people of LA.

I would like to see it open up to the public with maybe certain areas for private use such as charter services and camps for private use

I believe that the property should go to whomever is willing to pay the current owner the best market price for the property. If the government is willing to top any private sector bids then by all means I would love to see another state park down in this area. The one state park on the end of Grand Isle is not nearly big enough or in a good location to receive the maximum amount of traffic from the public due to location.

I think that the island could be utilized similar to Grand Isle Park and this would give people a choice of very similar areas. I would not like to see developers do to Elmer's Island what has been done in Alabama and Florida.

We are losing natural areas at a tremendous rate. Other states have recognized the value of ecotourism and now it is Louisiana's turn to preserve habitat for the native animals and plants. We need areas with LIMITED human access. Areas that are set aside not for the fishers or the hunters but for nature lovers. Places where the wildlife can feed and reproduce without ATVs driving over their nests. Let's turn Elmer's

Island into such a place where the only man made structures are photography blinds and walking trails. We are witnessing the total destruction of wetland habitat in the Fourchon area. Let's not let this happen on Elmer's Island."

I would like to see island stay as natural as possible.

Of all the taxpayers money wasted every year. why not use some to give people a place to bring there kids a place to enjoy a clean lifelong activity with family and nature, to keep them out of trouble and also help them care for our environment, theirs, and their childrens

This property has been the site of many wonderful outdoor trips, starting in the 1960s. The state would be a fool not to secure it, no matter what the cost. Remember Sportsman Paradise on the license plate?

I would like to see part of Elmer's Island kept in a primitive state for bird watching etc, another part possibly camper hook ups etc, then I would like to see the remainder sold as a commercial marina and sell lots for houses, condos and motels. This would provide for the best of both worlds and I might even be interested in buying a lot there and making it my Primary recreational site.

I would love to see Louisiana buy Elmer's Island for all to use wisely.

I would not like to see Elmer's Island become another Grand Island. Keep it primitive. If an rv campsite is made available, locate it near the entrance of Elmer's Island. Far enough from the beach area as to not interfere with the surf's natural beauty.

I have visited this island as a child and would like my children to experience the same fun as I have.

I would love to see Elmer's island open again. I make about 50 to 60 trips to our marshlands stopping anywhere from golden meadow all the way to Grand Isle. I love fishing with a passion. but most of all I

like to be among nature. Unfortunately I am a college student so I can't afford to pay a lot on a day trip to Elmer's Island when I visit. Thank you and I hope Elmer's Island can be reopened soon.

I feel that the purchase of Elmer's Island would greatly benefit the state as well as the public. It could provide people with yet another excellent coastal location to visit and enjoy our natural resources.

My husband and I enjoyed going to Elmer's Island for years. To me this is the best place in LA to fish and have fun.

Before Elmer's Island was closed my husband and I used to go nearly every other weekend. Later, we went to Fourchon, but access has been closed and I'm not particularly fond of toting camping gear AND HIKING. The beach at Grand Isle is okay, but too crowded (especially with people more intent on playing rather than surf fishing - nothing against playing, of course). I have lost interest in going now. . . I really miss Elmer's!

I believe that Elmer's Island should be reopened to the public, with or without an entrance fee. Doing so would encourage more people to visit more frequently to this area of coastal LA. After all, I would love to have my first visit to Elmer's Island...

We went there for about \$5 per person per day and camped and fished all weekend and I would like to bring my grand children to show them the peace that we enjoy and the family time we make together and the joy of fishing.

Depending on what private company buys it and what they do with it, I may rather see the land sold to a private firm.

I really enjoy surf fishing on Elmer's Island. I love the access by vehicle. It was very unfortunate when the public lost access because of the misfortune of the owners. I would very much love to visit there again soon!!

As a child growing-up during the 50's & 60's, I have many fond memories of my Dad taking our family to Elmer's Island for an early morning surf-fishing trip, then mid-morning crabbing in the surf combined with swimming & beach-combing in a very primitive setting... We would make the trip from Thibodaux and almost always come home with an ice-chest full of "specs" and at least two hampers of crabs. It was always with much joy that we visited Elmer's Island. I think that it would be a very wise move on our State's part to do all in its power to obtain Elmer's Island and not miss this opportunity to preserve this "Coastal Treasure".....

PLEASE DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THIS PLACE UP AND RUNNING AGAIN!!!!!!!

ELMER'S ISLAND SHOULD NOT BE DENIED TO THE PUBLIC.

I think this is a great idea if it's not bombarded with so many regulations that it's not worth the effort. That area of the state offers much more than Elmer's Island. Right now I can access the beach area by boat. But it would be a great addition to the activities of that area.

I would like to see this area open to the public, but think that those using it should help pay for the maintenance. We have so few areas that are available to us it would be a shame to lose it, or have it become a "playland for a few that can afford the expected high price of a developed community.

I loved fishing at Elmer's Island with my dad when I was a kid. I learned a lot about the outdoors while surf fishing with him. I hope to be able to take my son when he is old enough.

DO IT! DO NOT WAIT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Should the state purchase the island I would like to see them build it out to a Bayou Segnett type of facility. We really need bathrooms and other creature comforts.

I have really missed fishing at Elmer's Island. My wife and I enjoyed our fishing trip there. I believe the state should purchase it for recreational use.

Please open Elmer's island so I can go fishing like I used to.

WE NEED TO PRESERVE THE STATES COASTAL LANDS. MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF OUT OF STATE INVESTORS COMING IN AND TAKING ADVANTAGE OF OUR LANDS AND DEVELOPING THEM. THIS IS SPORTSMAN PARADISE, NOT THE ORANGE STATE.

STATE NEEDS MORE COASTAL CAMP GROUNDS.

La. must buy Elmer's Island to stop the continuous land grabs by the wealthy few. In addition, this way the state can maintain it as a natural shoreline because if not, it will be condos and timeshare arrangements.

I would like to be able to drive on the beach just like we used to do. If they do put camping spaces I hope they put them away from the beach front and if they build cabins I hope they will be more reasonable rates than other cabins or camp rentals and also a nice fishing pier for the handicapped to enjoy.

Hope that Governor Foster cares as much for this piece of wonder land as he does the saints.

It would be great if Elmer's Island would be purchased and maintained by the state. Use some of the gambling money to purchase and maintain the island.

No housing developments of any kind on Elmer's please!!!

To be taken seriously and be able to save what marsh, barrier islands, etc... that remain the state needs to purchase as much of this land as possible. This justifies the state and federal governments to want to save and rebuild our coast on behalf of the public and not private landowners. Look at Florida!

Grand Isle and Elmer's Island are surf fishermen's paradise. And Grand Isle is also excellent for bird watching in the spring and fall. If you don't believe me ask Governor Foster who I saw having a good time watching the migratory birds during the middle of April.

I believe Elmer's Island is a part of Louisiana and should be made into at least a semi-primitive state park, for all future Louisianans to enjoy.

I have visited Fourchon Beach and Elmer's Island nearly all of my life. Fourchon has already been restricted, I would enjoy taking my family to the beach and think the state has an obligation to open the state's beaches to the public.

I'm happy I will not be around 50 years from now because there will simply be too many people on this planet. Fact is, there are too many of us already, and it just gets worse every day. It's hard now to find a place where someone else does not have his elbow in your ribs already. Overfishing to depletion of the stocks, beaches so crowded you can't stretch out. No shells on the beach after 7 AM. We need more public beach space now. That and a rule like the Chinese - a 1 child limit!

It seems like we lose everything to corporate greed. The state should find a way to keep Elmer's Island for the tax payers.

I grew up fishing and playing on Elmer's Island. I'd would hate to see it become some private island for a few rich people. i would love to see as little as possible changed with the island.

Whether bought by state or private individual, I would like to see it remain as an area of non-urban development. No homes,camps,stores,malls,etc.

I wish we as citizens of LA could do something to keep this resource out of the hands of the RICH who want develop it commercially

I would like to see Elmer's Island be purchased by the state and either maintained as is (just maintaining a clean road), or cleaned up and made into a state park like the Grand Isle State Park with campsites and paved roads to the beach.

I visited, camped, fished this area since my parents brought me down as a child.. what a wonderful area.. rich in all coastal habitat.. We should put together what ever it takes to preserve this area for future generations as well as the barrier aspect of louisiana coastal protection.

"

LOUISIANA WILL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO BUY APP. SIX MILES OF BEACH AGAIN."

I am completely for Elmer's Island becoming public once again however not at the cost of it becoming a dump Island should be purchased as a state park with camping and camper facilities and restrooms and bathhouses.

I support state purchase of any land that helps to passdown and preserve the outdoors heritage and limit the development or destruction of natural resource. I support usage or access fees to maintain or preserve coastal beaches.

This is one of the best coastal fishing spots in South Louisiana. I think it would be a great thing if the State would purchase this land and make a state park with it.

Are there any heirs? if so, the heirs should have complete say concerning the disposition of the property.

Louisiana owned Elmer's Island and Grande Isle could be a major vacation destination with a little improvement in accomodations. We must do this now. My family and friends love Grande Isle.

I THINK CLOSING FOUCHON BEACH WAS CRAP, THIS NEEDS TO BE A WILDLIFE MANGAMENT AREA PRIMITIVE.. MAYBE UPGRADE ROADS BUT NOTHING ELSE , I THINK A FEE SHOUD BE CHARGED TO KEEP LOCAL RIFRAFT OUT , JUST KNOW THEY DON'T TAKE CARE OF THE ENVORIMENT

This is a once in a lifetime oppurtunity for a region that has been ravaged by oil producers who couldn't care less.... let's have them(texaco, exxon etc) flip the bill. it's peanuts and they have trashed our coast for decades, just a thought. mike

I feel that the state would be making a grave mistake if they didn't purchase Elmer's Island. It should be made into a state park and be available for people to visit and fish. I don't think it should have development on it except towards the front of the property.

I have missed fishing at Elmer's Island. I would be estatic if the state would buy Elmer's Island and run it like the Grande Isle State Park, and inforce the garbage ordinance to ensure that our coastal lands would be litter free. I think that everyone would love to have access to the beach once again.

SHORTEN THE SURVEY

I think it would be great for the State to purchase Elmers. It is a great place to fish and with a little improvement could be a great attraction for the state and a good source of income.

I would be nice if La. could buy Elmers Island and turn it into a state park. The park on Grand Isle is a nice place to visit as are the other state parks I have been to. The people of La. need places where they can enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing, camping etc. Develop it to meet the needs and comforts of the people, but keep it free of commercial development and let it remain the beautiful wetlands it is now.

I think its a bad thing that the state has allowed fourchon beach to be blocked off. it was a great place for us simple folk to crab and fish

I think dune and chenier building should be the primary goal of the state for Elmer's Island. Prevent driving on the beach. Primitive is best. Thanks.

I have enjoyed many great days and nights fishing and crabbing on Elmer's island. I think this piece of marsh is one worth preserving and needs to be publically owned and operated. State Park status would be great!"

Please put Elmer's Island in the State ownership as a public access area. It would make a great state park. What a waste of such a great place to be developed into a beach front condo area like they have done in Florida. Please put the great area under State ownership. Thanks

Please open elmers island to the public it is the best fishing spot around that area

It would be a great loss to the state if this property is lost to a private owner. We visit other state parks in La. and really enjoy the areas because of the good maintenance and reasonable prices for everything. This is a real treasure I have been going there most of my life and that is a few years now. My kids really enjoyed the area as they grew up also. Lets spend some taxes on something worth while for a change.

This is a no-brainer. Given the limited public access to La. beaches, purchase of the island should be a priority in terms of providing La. citizens with recreational resources.

I love to fish Fourchon Beach and Elmer's Island by surf as well as a boat. In the last few years both islands have been taken from the public's access by surf and road. If the state were to purchase or gain access the money raised could be used to help fund coastal erosion projects as well as conservation for Louisiana's fisheries. I really do miss being able to drive and fish the beach.

I love to gig for flounder and the spots available to do so is extremely limited as far as accessibility without a boat.

Some of the questions are not complete. the state needs to take over the island to ensure that it remains open to the public

Good Luck

BUY ELMERS NOW.

If developed properly, I would definitely use Elmer's Island for one of my fishing and camping destinations. My hope's are that the state will buy it and develop it into a state park. Louisiana has some very nice state parks and this location would be no exception.

I believe that Elmer's Island would be a large asset to the state as a state recreational area.

It's a shame that in a state with so much coastal environment, a person has a hard time finding a place to enjoy it. We don't have enough access and at 99% of the places you need a boat and can not get on land because it's private. We spend untold amounts saving private land Fourchon Beach and can not use it. Thanks for the opportunity to speak.

I believe that it would be a tragedy if the developers got a hold on Elmer's island. There are very few treasures left and Elmer's island is one. The developers are already cutting down all the trees to build a strip mall. As if there are not enough of them. The few green areas we have left need to be protected. Especially for those of us fishermen that do not own boats. There are not many places accessible like Elmer's Island. The state needs to do something right. Buy this piece of property and make it open to the public once again. Once it is developed it's lost forever.

I've heard many stories of Elmer's Island and have spent a fair amount of time in Grand Isle. We would like to visit as frequently as possible and have opportunities in addition to Grand Isle State Park. I'm for preservation and public use of as much wilderness and coastal areas as the State can afford.

Elmer's Island is a unique location unlike any other in the state. Allowing camping and surf fishing or public boat ramp would be beneficial to outdoor enthusiasts from all over the country and particularly the state. Having clean bathrooms and camper hook-ups would allow travelers from around the country to enjoy (and help pay for) this beautiful and scenic location. Losing this to commercial development would be a shame. I camped with my future wife on that island years ago - it will always have a place in my heart.

I THINK THAT THE STATE SHOULD ALSO CONSIDER PURCHASING FOURCHON BEACH. SINCE THOSE RAT BASTARDS CLOSED 2/3S OF THE BEACH. WHEN YOU GO OUT THERE NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE DAYTONA BEACH. THERE ARE PEOPLE EVERYWHERE! I WOULDN'T MIND PAYING FOR ACCESS TO EITHER ELMER'S ISLAND OR FOURCHON BEACH. AS LONG AS ACCESS IS AVAILABLE. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED ON ANY PROGRESS MADE ON EITHER OF THESE NATURAL RESOURCES WE SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO. SINCERELY, CONCERNED SPORTSMAN.

We love going to beach at Fourchon but it makes me sick at the mentality of the people who go there. They have no problem leaving all the day[s] garbage, bottles or the new thing, burning wooden pallets leaving the nails and staples for me to drive on. Let them try that in Gulf Shores or Daytona. Rigid enforcement will tickle me to death.

I find Elmer's Island is a great place to bring kids. I have done some crabbing there and it was great.

I really hope that Elmer's Island will be opened to the public. I've always found it to be a beautiful place. I have many memories of Elmer's Island that I will always cherish. I hope to be able to make more memories there in the future with my own kids.

With all of the money the state spends on public hunting land, I think it would be a tragedy to not purchase this land for future generations to enjoy coastal fishing in our state.

If private concerns get control of Elmer's Island, it would take away one of the best recreational areas available to the general public. Not everyone can afford to have their own beachfront area. Only the higher income people would have a place to enjoy the outdoors. It is time the Legislative representatives do their job for the common people.

If you were to allow overnight camping or lodging, have a designated area close to the main highway. Keep it as far as possible from the beach and the rest of the island. Have curfew hours say no later than 9:00 p.m.

No drug or alcoholic parties or wild sex parties.

Have security guards to enforce the rules with removal and penalties for violators.

I would prefer Elmer's Island open to the public.

I grew up fishing and camping at Elmer's Island and would very much like to continue going there with my children. I think the state purchasing the property could be beneficial to both the public and the state. The public would regain access to the property and, if managed properly, it could be a lucrative investment for the state. I don't think anyone would object to paying \$5 or so to access the property if some improvements are made. I would suggest nothing more than a bathhouse/bathrooms like there are at G.I. State Park. Given the number of people who visit the Grand Isle area, I don't think it would be very difficult for the state to recoup its investment. I know the Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries is having budget problems. This could be a way to improve that situation (at least in the long term).

Don't put trailer trash on Elmer's Island, don't spend any taxpayer dollars on it. If someone wants to buy it and exclude the "general public," then so be it. It is not within the scope or job description of government to provide "welfare fishing" for anyone.

I WAS ASKED HOW MUCH TO PAY AND THAT IS A REALLY HARD QUESTION BECAUSE MY FAMILY USUALLY PAYS FOR A MOTEL ROOM WHICH COST MONEY ALREADY, NOT TO MENTION THE SUPPLIES WE BUY, FOOD, GAS AND LIVE BAIT. BUT IF WE HAD TO I AM SURE WE WOULD PAY A SMALL FEE TO GO THERE, WE HAVE BEFORE BUT NOT MUCH THOUGH BECAUSE WE STILL CAN GO DOWN AWAYS TO FOUCHON AND SURF FISH THERE FOR FREE. WE HAVE BEEN GOING THERE FOR YEARS AND IT IS A SHAME THAT IT IS GONE, I HAVE FOND MEMORIES FROM A CHILD.

Elmers Island would be the best public property the state would own and the public would get the most use out of it.

I cant seem to gleam any importance from this survey.

I learned to saltwater fish at Elmer's Island. I want to bring my wife and son there to camp for the weekends. There just isn't any place like Elmers. I miss it and hope for many folks who can't afford boats that this works out to be a state owned park.

We need more public beaches like FL and TX Also more Fishing peirs

I THINK THERE IS TOO MUCH PRIVATE INDUSTRY, IN THE BETTER FISHING AREAS OF THE STATE. FOR THE PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW SOMEONE OR HAVE POLICITICAL FREINDS OR LOTS OF MONEY ITS HARD TO FIND GOOD FSHING AREA;S FOR FAMILY ORIENTED ACTIVITIES. LET THE BIG DOLLAR PEOPLE GO SOMEWHERE ELSE. WE NEED TO HAVE ELMER'S ISLAND FOR ALL TO ENJOY FOR YEARS TO COME.

I dont now if the state has the resources to preserve and maintain Elmers. I think a private non industrial development my be the best use.

"The question is not how far will we travel, or how often will we go. The question is will it be there for us when we get there?"

Life is filled with too many disappointments, our leisure time should meet all of our expectations. Don't humor me with political bickering. Be responsible to the people that pay your wages. Give them this last little speck of the Sportsman's Paradise.

Question 22 makes no sense the way it is asked. I would not pay a dime if all I can do is birdwatch and swim. I would pay a sizable amount for the right to fish and camp, I am assuming some type of "membership". If you are asking if I will donate money for the state to buy it, the answer is NO!

During high school we visited Elmers Island often for surfing and fishing. Haven't been there in years but fish from a boat there all the time.

if the island was owned by the state and made into a camp ground with full hook ups for camper i would visit all the time.

DON'T SCREW THIS ONE UP LOUISIANA,BUY IT NOW.....

Buy it an opportunity like this will never happen again

A CLEAN PLACETO GO AND ENJOY ALL OF GODS WORKS IS ALL i want. not drunks ,loud music, trash broken glass natural not man made but GOD MADE
THANKS GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE

You need to open up elmer's island again when we would go fishing there you did not have to bring a boat or drive no where the fish are there you need to do something i and many other people have alot of memorizes there

It would be very nice to see the state purchase Elmers Island and fix it up.It's a paradise for outdoorsman an families to fish,camp,birdwatch,crab an walk an play on the beach.Elmers Island has been missed by many people who used the island for outdoor activities.Yes it would take alot of money to repair the Island,but it would be worth it.

I hope that Elmers Island will remain open as it is with access for the public and unrestricted for pets. This is the only place we know of where our dogs can run freely on the beach.

Hope this helps to make it become public property, but if it does, it should be run by a state agency such as State Parks or LDWF (but not under the current adminisrtation for LDWF).

I would like to know the coastal erosion history of Elmer's Island. If erosion has been prominent, then erosion protection methods should be considered.

I find that this island is one of the best I have found for surf fishing The price has to be reasonable to enter so more people could enjoy. If the road to the beach is unpaved it needs to be kept in good condition.

Would really like to see the state pickup the property, i've enjoyed many good times out there and would like to bring my kids. ages 8, 11, 11,

G.I.State Park and the beach at Fourchon or the only other beaches that I consider close enough to visit.Next choice Florida. G.I. St.Pk beach was not in good shape the last time I looked. Half of Fourchon is blocked off. I believe if Elmer's Island were open to the public it would be a big boost for the local economy, also.

My fishing poles want to go to Elmer's island.

Fishing the surf off the island has always been productive. There are a lot of people that need a place to go for the day where the family can come with them and people can fish from the land. Not everyone owns a boat, nor wants a boat. Also, finding a place off the land to fish is much, much harder than

years past, because of all the development and privatization. This was a great spot for the family and to catch some fish.

Please help to maintain the natural environment of Elmers Island whether it becomes private or public property.

I used to visit Elmer's island as a kid. We had a great time fishing and catching crabs and enjoying the beach. I would hate to see it become unavailable for future generations. There aren't many decent beaches in Louisiana, and Elmer's island is a good beach and a great place to camp and fish.

I bought a boat almost a year ago and do not surf fish much anymore, but I know a lot of people who do surf fish. They spend a decent amount of money going fishing to our coast. The more coastal land and water that is available to the public the more money people will spend going to these different places. "my dad wants a bar with nite club/with free food , beer and a boat lunch the name of the club name it (the minight fish)"

As a university student the time I have available to spend outdoors is somewhat limited, and a favorite activity of mine is fishing Elmer's Island which I have been doing with my family all of my life. With the help from the state, I will also be able to enjoy it with my own children.

"That is a beautiful stretch of an uncrowded beach in fact I believe it is about the only one. This must be saved by the state for future generations in its natural state not as another Miami Beach PLEASE"

Buy it and they will come!

I appreciate having a location as this available and think it is an even greater asset for those that do not have a boat. My second activity is to take my children wake boarding and this is not nor should it be an option for Elmers Island.

Just hope the state buys Elmer's it is one of the last places to surf fish

I think they should open Elmer's Island just like the state park..the state park gets crowded and it would be nice to have another place to go.

Louisiana needs to buy the island, we enjoy our surf fishing

I would love to see the state purchase this area and maintain it similar to other state campgrounds I have visited. This has always been a great place to go fish and crab. I have only visited Elmers Island one time, but found it to be a very fun place.

My father started bringing me to Elmer's island when I was a small child and I continued to go for many years. I would love to see it restored to what it once was so I could take my children and grandchildren. I'm sure if developed correctly, the Elmer's Island beach could generate business and produce income for many people in that area.

With all the money wasted these days, I think this would be money well spent. Preserving this island is infinitely more important than letting it get developed, and changed forever. There are very few places like this in the state. Let's preserve it.

There is no place like Elmers Island when you wanted to drive on the beach to get away you could drive to the end and no one else would bother you. I think the state should purchase it and manage it charging to enter because I know it will cost to maintain it. LOUISIANA NEEDS THIS LAND TO BELONG TO THE PUBLIC.

I AM CONCERNED THAT THIS IS A WASTE OF OUR TIME GIVEN WHAT A BACKWARD STATE WE LIVE IN AND HOW IMPOSSIBLE IT SEEMS FOR OUR POLITICIANS TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING OF LASTING MERRIT. THEY RECENTLY SPENT OVER A MILLION DOLLARS TO PUT A TUNNEL FOR THE ST TAMMANY TRACE UNDER HWY 190 IN MANDEVILLE; YET THE DAILY USEAGE OF ELMERS ISLAND WOULD BE MANY TIMES THE ABOVE AND YET I PREDICT THEY WILL FAIL TO ACT AND WILL LOSE ONE OF THE BEST RESOURCES CURRENTLY ON THE MARKET. THE CLOSURE OF ELMERS ISLAND HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED THE ECONOMY OF THAT AREA. IN LIGHT OF THE NUMBER OF INSTANCES WHERE MY STATE OF LOUISIANA HAS COME TO THE AID OF THOSE LESS DESERVING, IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO NOT JUST THE LOCAL ECONOMY,BUT TO THOSE WHO FLOCK TO THE ISLAND TO ENJOY SOME OF OUR FINEST NATURAL RESOURCES.

Before the state invests money at Elmer's Island something should be done to stop the eroding coastline on the barrier islands. I have a beachfront home on Grand Island and I see the loss of beachfront property everyday. What helped most was when the Corps replenished the beach in 1994-95. Too bad they couldn't continue."

When I was coming up, my parents took us to Grand Isle regularly. Elmers Island was always a part of the trip. I learned from my father how to surf fish there and some of the biggest Redfish have come from the pass between the 2 islands. It would be a great shame to lose this area to private concerns, there just is not enough free beach area left for the public.

Would like to see elmer's island put back to the public trust for posterity to enjoy the oportunity to catch fish and camp and enjoy the great outdoors of louisiana and the gulf coast

THE STATE OF LOUISIANA NEEDS TO STEP UP AND HELP PRESERVE SOME OF THE TREASURES OF THIS STATE SO THAT RESIDENTS AND TOURISTS WILL HAVE SOMETHING TO ENJOY BESIDES NEW ORLEANS PARTYING. LA. COASTAL AND MARSH FISHING IS UNSURPASSED BY MANY, MANY OTHER STATES IN THE U.S.

My dad brought me camping and fishing when I was young. I would like to do the same for my childern and grand children one day.

I would like to see Elmers Island become a State Park. We don't have enough costal access in this state and Elmers Islane would add enjoyment for all ages.

Elmer's Island has the best wade fishing anywhere in the state. Places for people who fish from shore is growing sparser all the time. PLEASE don't take access to Elmer's Island away from the people of the state.

A 1200 foot fishing peir in to the Gulf, like the one in Pensacola,Fl would be nice. either on Elmer or Grand Isle.

I do not believe that the state should purchase this property unless they intend on properly maintaining and policing it. Fourchon Beach is an eyesore because of all the trash that is left by the visitors. I fish all the time out of a boat off of Elmer's island and since it has been closed the beaches look pretty good. The Grand Isle state park is nice but I don't think it is properly maintained either.

IT'S TIME FOR THE STATE TO SAVE SOMETHING THAT IS WORTH SAVING. PUT OUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK FOR THE BETTER OF THE PEOPLE NOT SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. ELMER'S ISLAND IS WORTH EVERY PENNY WE PAY FOR IT.

ACCESS TO ELMERS ISLE SHOULD BE DONE AS SOON AS POSIBLE SINCE WE OR BEING BLOCKED OF ACCESS TO A COAST LINE THAT IS ALREADY PUBLIC PROPERTY. WE HAVE ALREADY LOST ACCESS TO MOST OF FOURCHON BECAUSE OF ITS LAND OWNER BLOCKING

OUR ACCESS AND I THINK THE STATE SHOULD ALSO SEE TO IT THAT THE PILLINGS ON THE BEACH HERE ARE REMOVED.

I have fished and visited Elmer's Island many times and I hate to see it go. I recently took some friends fishing at Grand Isle and I showed them Elmer's Island from the water and told them stories about staying there. It would have been nice to show them.
Thanks for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

"PLEASE BUY THIS PROPERTY AND DON'T LET ANOTHER SITE IN LOUISIANA GET TURNED INTO PRIVATE PROPERTY. WE ALREADY HAVE LIMITED ACCESS IN THIS STATE PLEASE DON'T MAKE A MISTAKE THIS LARGE AND MISS THIS CHANCE TO IMPROVE THE STATE."

I think the state should purchase Elmer's Island and that they should not seek public funds to support this. There is enough money in LA to purchase this Island and maintain it similar to the State Park on Grand Isle.

I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IT SO THAT WE COULD STILL DRIVE ALONG THE BEACH INSTEAD OF HAVING TO WALK. THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT!!!!!!!!!!!!

We loved visiting Elmer's Island because they were not to many people. I would say that is the most important thing. But, i did not like how people had no respect for the land and threw trash everywhere. So, both of these things are important.

We visit Grand Isle annually for fishing purposes. We used to sometimes fish the beach at Elmer's Island, and we'd fish from a boat off of the beach . I live 3 hours away, and can't enjoy it as much as I'd like, but I think it would be a tragedy, and a great loss for this state to let the island be purchased by private interest groups who want to develop it. I want to know that it is there if we choose to go. Even though I live 3 hours away, there aren't many fishermen I know here in Loranger who haven't fished Elmer's Island. I am in favor of the state's purchasing Elmer's Island, and leaving it basically unchanged.

We have been to Elmer's Island several times annually and have always enjoyed our time on the island. We fished and played with the children and had picnics on the beach. We enjoyed the easy access to the beach (drive on) and the natural setting.

Keep it primitive. please

It would be a shame to lose the public use of this treasure.

If the State took over Elmer's Island they will take a beautiful, rustic piece of nature and turn it into a sideshow. They will have all their ridiculous rules so they can arrogantly control people like school children. If it's run like Grand Isle State park, all the beauty of enjoying the site will be lost. All serious campers and fisherman avoid State Parks. They suck.

I like how Grand Isle State Park is run. I believe this would be a good direction for Elmers Island. It doesnt have as many improvements in the beginning, just as well maintained would be fine. If it is used for nothing moore than a preserve it would be better than being developed. Thanks for your concern. I WOULD BE HAPPY TO VOLUNTEER WITH ANY PROJECTS TO RESTORE OR IMPROVE HABITAT ON ELMERS ISLAND. THANKS AGAIN. CALVIN TYNES 225-683-3714

I feel that the state should purchase elmers island and the public should only have to pay a minimal entry and use fee. I think is would be rediclous for us to have to donate a one time fee just to save it, give me a break. Dont we pay enough.

Having a family camp in Grand Isle for all of my life, I have had the oppurtunity to see the many uses Elmer's Island has provided for sportsmen/women/and kids. I would love to see nothing more than the

state purchasing the land and allowing our future generations the opportunity to fish and camp as I had as a kid.

I would like Elmer's Island to stay as is. I can drive on the beach without having to unload everything out of my vehicle for beach activity. Although it would also be nice to have some restrooms and water available for health purposes. I am not opposed to rules that would prevent people from destroying the beach with carelessness.

I sure as hell hope that Elmer's can be saved.

Regardless of ownership of Elmers Island, I will continue to access it via boat and fish the area. However, I do think it important that sites such as this be available for folks not as fortunate as myself who enjoy activities associated with these areas and for their children and grandchildren to have some great memories about these activities. This island is a very unique area in Louisiana - none other will ever replace it and be able to offer what it offers. An important point to consider for future ownership is that the owner (state or private) have the technical ability and resources to maintain safety of visitors if open to the public and to prevent loss of the island. Once Elmers Island is gone, the GOM will have successfully taken another step northward and La. will have lost an irreplaceable bit of unique real estate and the natural resources it offers. I am not sure that the state will step forward and assume the financial burden that this asset would present. The state already utilizes most of the sales tax monies on my fishing expenditures for the general fund and not for the activities and resources that generated the income. When issues develop about funding wildlife and fisheries, our leaders want to heavily tax some of the users of the resources even though the entire state enjoys both the direct and peripheral income these resources provide. If the sales taxes generated by those of us who hunt and fish were applied to programs associated with these endeavors, funding would not be a problem. These are just some brief thoughts about some very complex issues - Elmers Island included - that I feel very strongly about.

I think it would be a good idea for the State to purchase Elmers Island for public use.

This would be a great use of Tax dollars.

Please buy it.

I have been a resident of Grand Isle until recently. Access to this property has never been denied to me, and I could not imagine what it would be like to not have it.

Public fishing from land is hard to find for some folks with families this would be a good trip & outing for people without boats. Thank you for the survey I hope it helps in the state making the right decision for the people of south Louisiana.

Grew up going to Grand Isle as a child as my family owned one of the oldest built camps on the Island, back in the days when you could only access Grand Isle by boat out of New Orleans. Our coastline is a beautiful place with numerous activities available for all ages. The State of Louisiana needs to jump on this and purchase the site so to preserve for future generations.

I have enjoyed trips to Elmers for many years, especially before I owned a boat. Family and friends would gather up and go out to Elmers to fish and crab. Because so much of our coast and marsh area is being blocked by private companies, I think it is very important the State make every effort to purchase the area.

All natural resources should be of primary concern of the dept of natural resources even if the state has to ask for tax deductible gifts to purchase, manage, and preserve the use for all its citizens to enjoy the beauty God has blessed us with here in Louisiana.

Elmers Island is some of the best surf fishing around it needs to be open for public enjoyment. My dad took me there when I was little i want to be able to take my children someday.

I think it would be great for the state to own it. Keeping it relatively undeveloped would maintain its ecological integrity.

I am originally from Zachary but now live in Arkansas. The distance keeps me from visiting more often. It would be a shame to lose this valuable portion of the great Louisiana coast line to a private developer.

I think that Elmer's Island should be purchased by the State of Louisiana because we need to conserve the few places that are open to the public. I also would like to see it kept as primitive as possible with rest room and waste disposal on site. We need places like this so that everyone in Louisiana regardless of their economic standing has a place that they can go and take their family's and children to just as our parents and grandparents before them did.

I believe the problem with Elmer's Island is lawyers. I was a child when my parents and grandparents told me beware of the undertow and rip tide so now some drunk or drug fueled butthead gets him or herself killed because their impaired family gets a lawyer to sue. I'm sure the reason Elmer's Island is closed is because of the high cost of liability insurance.

State does not need to buy this for the use of a few people

I would spend several weekends summer through fall camping and fishing in the south Lafourche area if there was a place to camp.

Every law that is passed only serves to further erode our freedom. In this instance, it behooves everyone in La. to promote the preservation of this wonderful island. Even though it would likely be improved with public funds and open access to more people, it is far better to do this than to let a private operation eliminate it for only a chosen few.

WE USE THE ISLAND FOR CRABING AND MISS DOING THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO PUT THIS IN OUR LIST

Elmers Island was always an enjoyable place to go, it would be a shame if the state did not do something to ensure that its use would not remain open to the public.

ELMER'S ISLAND NEEDS HELP (IRROSSION). IF THE STATE PURCHASES THE ISLAND WILL FUNDS BE AVAILABLE TO SAVE IT ? IF A PRIVATE GROUP PURCHASES THE ISLAND, THEN THEY WILL SAVE IT!

I would like to retire in South Louisiana so I could fish the marsh as often as I wanted.

I Hope The State Does The Right Thing And Does Not Drop The Ball On This ONE. If they Can Help THE Saints They Can Purchase This Property.

I have enjoyed many hours on Elmer's Island Fishing and Crabbing. It would be a shame to lose it.

Elmer Island would make a great State Park and would be more of a resource than White Lake or the N.O. Saints.

I've been going to Elmer's Island for years now and have always truly enjoyed being able to drive up onto the beach, fish, enjoy..... It is truly a wonderful resource that should be acquired by the state and left, pretty much as it is in terms of its use, but, protected for future generations in terms of erosion, development etc. The fishing and atmosphere there are marvelous and it would be a shame if the state let it get away!

Without Elmers Island, & Fourchon Beach severely restricted, it has forced me to drastically curtail my visits to this area of the coast. I was just married on May 30th & we decided to spend our honeymoon at Cigar's on Grand Isle. It was very enjoyable & my new wife loves to fish but, she is originally from West Virginia & I was unable to show her the wonderful things Elmers Island & Fourchon Beach had to offer. Don't get me wrong, Grand Isle is beautiful but, there is so much more to this area than just Grand Isle! Please, somebody do something about all of this before we lose access to these areas forever!!!!!!

ELMER'S ISLAND SHOULD BE RUN LIKE A MANAGEMENT AREA

I have visited this island with friends for many years and also knew Jay Elmer personally.. I think it is a shame that the island is not open to the public like it used to be. I have caught a lot of shrimp crabs and fish on the island.

We mainly frequent grand isle, but we do fish elmers island on occasion. Having said this, it is critically important to maintain any natural resource and to keep it available to the public. Public fishing and hunting are becoming increasingly harder and harder to come by.

"We hated to see Elmers Island close down. It is one place we always caught fish. Even if fish were biting no where else we could go to Elmers Island and catch something. I hope it does open back up to the public. We would visit it everytime we go camping in Grande Island."

It would be a shame to let such a prominent site for anyone who enjoys the outdoors to be privatized. Elmer's Island is/was a place enjoyed by many residents and tourists who would not mind paying a fee to enjoy part of the Louisiana coastline that has so much to offer for recreation.

Elmers Island should always be open to the public.

I strongly believe that Elmer's Island should be opened to the public. This is a super fishery and excellent place to take a family or buddies camping. The state of LA has lost a precious attraction since shutting Elmers Island off from the public. I do believe that the island should be monitored by state officials to insure public safety and that the property should be maintained to provide a high level of cleanliness. Roads need to be paved to allow for tourists travel with cars and light vehicles, and RV hook ups could bring tourists down that are willing to spend money in local restaurants and bait and tackle stores. The longer folks stay on the island the longer they keep their money in Louisiana. Once again I feel strongly about this area being opened to the public, but if it is trashed out and not kept up properly, it is better off staying shut off to the public.

I would like to see it privately developed with a portion of it dedicated as a state park with a primitive camping area. I think this survey is misleading in that it suggests that if the land is privately developed, the public may not be able to visit. Everyone has access to the beaches, regardless of who owns the land.

The area from Elmer's island to Fourchon has a growing population of Roseate Spoonbills - on our last trip this year we saw 25 in one spot. These are rare birds that should be protected.

My grandparents owned a camp on Elmer's Island and I have spent a large part of my life there. My Aunt now owns the camp and rents it out. I don't go there very much anymore since my grandparents passing, but I dearly miss it. I feel sorry for the thousands of people that visited the Island every summer. I think it would be great for the State to buy it. This would be a smart buy for the state, but I do not believe it is worth 6 million dollars. I believe the state could get it for a lot less. The story that private parties are offering that much is unbelievable. Jay Elemer tried to sell it for years at a much lower price, with no takers. The area is wetlands and any owner would have a very hard time getting permits to develop it. Also there is a lot of maintenance required to keep the road open, because it is just sand that easily washes away. The road was already cut before Bill (storm), there may not be much road left now.

This survey is very important to me as I have enjoyed visiting this area in the past. However the format is stupid and it takes way too long to use even for someone like myself that would like to see Elmers Island owned by the state. The coast is underdeveloped as it is and the lose of one more area make me sad to know the best fishing on earth is un accessable in so many ways.

My brothernlaw fairmy owns the camp next to Dr Elmers camp ive been going their for many yrs camping on the beach an surf fishing even with haveing a boat i love camping on the beach wakeing up to the surf an fishing the trout on that island i hope the gov gets it so i can bring my grand children to that magical place.

I have enjoyed the fishing opportunities available at Elmers Island in the past and am extremely upset that this opportunity is no longer available to the public. This is a valuable resource La. has to residents of this state as well as visitors to the area and large amounts of revenues are lost because there are not many land fishing areas available to people who do not have ready access to a boat. Toursim dollars is the primary resource we have to maintain this state and just think of the amount that is being lost because Elmers Island is not available.

Go ahead & spend my tax dollars & buy the damn place, Gee whiz, this ain't rocket science guys. What the hell happened to the money that was collected for the extra license fee that was going to help the commerical fisherman out when the nets were taken out of the water, this was a lot of money that was collected & should have earned a lot of interest? Put a toll up for people who go over the Leeville Bridge, a buck a head, one way only. Or add a dollar to my fishing license to get this over with, I am tired of your whining about what do we do, just do it!

I think the state should purchase ELMER'S ISLAND so that people who don't have a boat or can not afford one could have a place to fish, go camping, bird watching, or go watch the sun set. I also think it would be a great place for people to just go there just to relax and get away from it all.

The main reason Elmer's Island was so special was that it was the last of the drive on beaches open to the public. The fees charged by the previous owners were extremely reasonable, however, I would not have minded paying more if the previous owners used the money towards trash pick-up and road maintenance. I suggest that designated camping slots be assigned and each slot be equipped with garbage cans and some type of cement pad for tents with attached tie downs for tents. The beach sand does not hold tent stakes very well which result in tents being blown away during heavy afternoon thunderstorms. The tents end up on the marsh side of the island which adds to the trash buildup. Those individuals who are planning on camping overnight could "reserve" a camping slot beforehand and pay a higher fee than those just planning on using the island for the day for fishing. It would also be nice to have a developed boat launch on the far end (i.e. the end farthest away from Grand Isle). There is a pond back there with a primitive boat launch already. This pond would just need to be deepened and crushed limestone added to the launch. It would only be big enough for boats up to 20' and they would have to be shallow running boats (i.e boats that can run in as little as 12" of water only). The roads on the island could not handle bigger boats, plus, these could be launched at Grand Isle if needed.

Restrooms are the only improvements really needed. We liked the way it was.

I would like to have (well managed) public access to the Island, and I would use it on occasion. A public boat launch would also be very good!

If there were cabins or camper hook ups, I would go to Elmer's Island several times per year. Of all the things our government waste money on, I can not believe that a good expense like this is even up for debate!

I would like to see Elmers Island kept open to the public.
I thing the state should jump on this opportunity and any others like it that come along....SPORTSMAN'S PARADISE. That's what it says on my lisenace plate!!!!

I would really like to see Elmer's Island open for public use as opposed to private property.

Please try to keep Elmers Island for public use.

Make elmers island a state park with full camper hookups and cabins just like other state parks in Louisiana

There are very few places for people to go without their own boat or place. I did this survey on behalf of all the people who are less fortunate than I am. I have my own camps and boats, plenty of friends as well with the same. We need to hold onto any natural resources we can so they are there in the future for generations to come. Do what you can to hold onto this in the primitive/semi-primitive state it is. Thank you

My first memories of catching speckled trout, redfish, and flounder are on Elmer's Island. I remember we camped there right on the beach, got up at daylight and started fishing. Fish were abundant, all the way from the point at Caminada Pass to the cut at thunder bayou, I remember chasing birds to fish under which were chasing schools of shrimp. It would be a tragedy to turn this piece of land that means so much to so many over to a private company that would develop it for financial gain and close the beach off permanently (ie..Fourchon Beach) It would also be just as bad to purchase it with state money and then let it get bogged down in the legislature because of the environmental PAC's that would attempt to get the state to close it down. Buy it, keep the roads up, keep the beach clean, watch for nesting areas and sea turtles, but for God' sake do not let this piece of History that has introduced so many to the joys of coastal fishing don't let it be forever a slave to the dollar. Just open it and leave it alone. Thanks

Used to go to the island all the time growing up. Would like to go back W/my family.

"I have enjoyed many trips to Elmers with lots of good friends ,We've had great times and have missed them for awhile now. I only hope Y'all do what is right for the public and not your bank accounts for once.

This Island means alot to many people that don't have ways or means of fishing the bays or off shore. All I can ask for is for someone to make the right choice in this matter for the public and not corporate greed."

I do believe that elmers island is a vital part of louisiana's coastal fishing shore line and should be preserved so that my children ,my grandchildren and all of our children can enjoy a part of Louisiana that we have enjoyed for all these years.

REMEMBER ONCE YOU GIVE IT UP YOU NEVER GET IT BACK.

Since the closure of elmers island i have had more of a chance to visit and have not been able to access elmers island. it was a favorite fishing/camping for me and my father and I would like to share it with my kids in the future. I would hate to see such a beautiful place be wasted on private use.

Buy the damn beach!

we need to do something to fix the coastal erosion on Grand Isle before we spend any money on anything else. I just about spent my whole summers in and around Grand isle, for many years, and have friends and family who have camps on the island. To me this is our most important piece of barrier island we have left, lets compare it to Biloxi beach.

I believe the out doorsmen of Louisiana deserve Elmers island. The fishing here has been very good through out my life, and I hope to be able to fish there on a regular basis, as I once was able to.

If the state is capable of maintaining the resource then I have no objection to it doing so. I also do not see a problem if the island is developed by private company if it is open for use of services, IE hotel, restaurant, launch etc. If it will be closed off to only a chosen few for campsites then hopefully the state will take over the land. I do not see development as a negative thing. If someone wants wilderness, have them ride by boat 10 minutes north of the island. Go to the Alabama coast and see what development has done there, thousands of people from LA, FL and the rest of the south go there for vacation. Hopefully somewhere in LA there will be a place that I can take my family for vacation on the water. As of now there is no place. rob3499@aol.com

"The biggest concern I have is that of erosion of the island as it can cause problems with access by vehicle. Getting stuck on the sand road has been a problem in the past. A big plus would be to keep the island primitive, but protect it from erosion in order to maintain accessibility by vehicles for purposes of camping.

As a past scoutmaster, I have taken many scouts to the island for camping and fishing. It is a great place to escape into the wilderness without the commercial development you find at Grand Isle."

I DON'T SEE HOW THE STATE CAN LET THIS AREA PASS US UP BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED AMOUNT BEECH IN OUR STATE. THIS AREA WHEN IT WAS OPEN WAS USED MORE THAN ANY OF OUR STATE PARKS. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO NOT HAVE THIS AREA FOR OUR STATE'S HARD WORKING PEOPLE TO ENJOY.

Louisiana has already lost most of the places that our fathers and grandfathers enjoyed in their youth. It would be nice to save as much as possible for future generations.

I would like to see it purchased by the state due to the extremely rich fishing ground. If it was privately owned, at anytime, the public could have access to the island taken away, like some parts of Port Fourchon. Do not develop it so much that you have people from around the United States camping out and ruining the island. Keep it for the local people like me who fish down there. The reason I never fished on Elmer's island I thought it was privately owned, and did not want to break any laws like trespassing. Take a look at the state park on Grand Isle and use some kind of comparison when deciding what to do about Elmer's island.

IT WOULD BE NICE TO DEVELOP FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT WITH CAMPS, WATER ACCESS, MARINA (IE Pirates cove or Fourchon with individual lots and camps to be sold) I would buy a lot or two to build my camp on) A big private gated community with wildlife roads beach house for the community, have dues and be able to build your own camp with water access.

I live in Mississippi and love fishing in LA. I think we could come to a better agreement on the cost of fishing, I do not fish in LA's fresh waters and should not have to pay to do they pay for salt?

we need to purchase this for our kids!!!

If the State purchases Elmer's, I hope that the littering law is strictly enforced. Have not been to Fourchon lately, but the last time was disgusting. Also, would be willing to make a one time donation towards the purchase of Elmer's

I think that it could become a state park with all the rules and regulations that state parks have

Elmer's Island is a precious gem that needs to be preserved for generations to come. Let either the state or Nature Conservancy acquire it for protection and "suitable" development. As one of the many Mississippians that frequent Louisiana for the fishing, food and hospitality, I would gladly contribute to this acquisition for preserving a "gem" coastal property.

Please encourage the state to do all it takes to purchase the property and keep it in the public domain. Don't ruin the Island with development!

Elmers Island would be a fantastic addition to the Louisiana State Parks system; one that my family and I would love to be able to continue to enjoy for the rest of our lives

Buy it!

It has been difficult to go to Grand Isle knowing you can not go to Elmers Isle. We have always enjoyed the Isle and hope and pray someone can bring that special place back into our lives. If I could ever win the powerball lottery -- I know what the first thing I'd do! Good luck to the project.

Elmers Island needs to be saved for the public. What better way to introduce young people to a wonderful world of fishing, camping and companionship.

I think the Island would benefit the area if it was available for sites such as Grand Isle. I visited the state park on Grand Isle and signs everywhere as if to do this don't do that I didn't like it.

I feel that the preservation of the Louisiana Coast is the most important thing we can do for our children.

Elmers Island should be kept the fishing sanctuary it is! FINES FOR LITTERING SHOULD BE SERIOUS AND ENFORCED! LITTERING IN LA. IS TERRIBLE! Over development should not be done, however paved roads, and showers would not be bad if kept up. Personally if I would have won the powerball, I would have tried to buy it myself, but I don't think that is going to happen! Have a nice day. Let's do it right. Probably as natural as possible.

I own a camp in Grand Isle. I visit the camp at least once a month. I normally stay two nights. I would fish Elmers Island every month if I were able to.

I moved to New Orleans about 2 years ago. I soon discovered Grande Isle. I often asked people where was the best place to go, and many told me Elmer's Isle, but it was closed, I was so disappointed. In the summer and fall I travel to Grande Isle as much as possible, everytime I pass I look to see if Elmer's Isle is open.

Elmers Island should be bought by the state to preserve the few islands we have left. Once Louisiana runs out of land, people will then think to save these valuable pieces of land, but it will be too late. Buying the land from the family will help insure that we protect our coastal land. There is enough development in Venice, Grande Isle, Cocodrie, etc... this island should be left primitive, but if it takes a developer to put in bulk heads, resorts, planting grass and palm trees to save the island, then I'll support that idea. There needs to be money put back into our land if we want it around for years to come.

This area would be a nice addition to the recreational development of the coastal areas of Louisiana. I would like to see it open free for public use.

I see an area more planned than Grand Isle. A beach, some food and supply stores, facilities for boats and perhaps a dock, parking, perhaps some real estate development. However, upscale residential-like a gated community. The ratio of residential, commercial and public should follow a plan."

As a native of Lake Charles, LA and having grown up in Slidell and Baton Rouge for college... I am quite fond of the memories that I had with friends fishing on Elmer's Island. Some of the best memories were because of how great it was to drive onto an area that was so primitive and natural. My family still owns property on the Calcasieu River and I really enjoy being in a primitive situation with great fishing and wildlife nearby.

If the state can purchase it and keep it like it has always been that's great. However I know the shore is washing away faster than the state could spend the money to install rock jetties to protect the beach. There are places where we use to drive on the sand that is now gone. Just this weekend we could see the surf and beach from our front porch where as several years back we could never see it even with glasses.

If private enterprise spends the money they are talking about they will protect the beach and land versus the state paying for the property and then having it wash away. I'm in favor of the state owning it but can they really afford the upkeep and maintenance it will require after buying it.

Let me know how the state will maintain this?

It would be ashamed to allow this resource to be used for yet another condo project. I have only visited Elmers Island once, but I have heard stories from friends and families for years. I had planned a second visit and made it all the way there only to find the gate locked.

Tell the developers if they would like to build then they should find a way to reclaim some land and help stop erosion, then maybe there would be some extra."

Louisiana should buy Elmers Island

Elmer's Island is a beautiful natural resource. I believe it would be a great addition to our state park system. I drive through Mississippi and Florida and see that the public beaches are almost non-existent. I am fortunate to have access to a boat etc. for fishing and recreation but many of our states residents do not and a park such as this would allow our residents and tourists access to one of our states greatest attractions - our coastal marsh and the gulf.

Please open Elmers Island to the public! it really is a wonderful place to spend a good time.

The State has spent huge amounts of money on professional sports, Saints & Hornets. The Governor said that every dollar spent on them would return \$5-10. Where is that \$5-10 ??? It would be a shame if the State did not purchase Elmer's Island. Everyone cannot afford a camp, boat, etc. It is so beautiful and needs to belong to the public without much change.

I would like to see boat launch, campsite, hotels, cabins, stores, restaurants, THE WHOLE NINE YARDS!!!! A coastal fishing village. Grand Isle is too packed in and needs more room ...

I don't believe the state should own anything that would be beneficial to the residents of that state, gov't owns too much already

My wife and I were saddened last year when we drove to Elmer's Island not realizing it was closed until we got to the entrance. We have no boat so this is the only location we know of to surf fish and pitch a tent on the beach. We've got some good memories of the island, including meeting old "Doc" Elmer years ago on the Western end of the island. We would certainly love to see the state purchase it and reopen it exactly like it was or with few changes. Thank you for your efforts in this connection and for making this survey available to us.

Elmer's Island needs to be acquired by the state to ensure that future generations have the opportunity to have access to one of the few natural beaches in Louisiana.

God Bless American

Elmers Island should be purchased by the state or federal government to assure long term access and protection to this unique area. This place as well as all Louisiana coastal areas should be protected at most any cost. I would not be opposed to it being made a National Seashore and Campground like Fort Picken at Pensacola Beach, Florida.

I HAVE A CAMP IN FUCHON

More public open spaces (minimally developed) are needed for current use and future generations. Preference should be given to LA residents if charges are imposed, but all should have access to what I consider one of the major reasons for living in LA, namely recreation opportunities for all.

Would like to visit Elmers Island if it becomes a state park. Have been to Grand Isle and it was too noisy. We camped in a tent on the beach Between the generators for the RV's and the boats off shore we did not sleep at all the last time we were at Grand Isle State Park. We will never camp at that state park again.

Question 22 is open ended and ambiguous. You do not state as to who is to pay this. This survey is designed to fail with that question.

I would like to be able to fly to and land at Elmer's Island. I would like to see the now closed grass air strip reopened to general aviation. This field would not change the character of the island, nor endanger any wildlife. My trips to the island by air would be shared by friends with the purpose of dining nearby. Perhaps, overnight stays by fishermen would add to the economic impact on the island. For me, Elmer's Island was a strategic fishing point, being that it had access to caminada pass(read bull redfish) and good surf fishing. I miss it. It is one of the reasons I bought a kayak to improve my mobility about the Grande Island area proper.

We are a family of 6 and it is hard to be able to afford a place to take the kids where they can run play fish and swim for more than 3 or more days .

Our family really misses access to the area. we also miss the access to the eastern fourchon beaches. this is land that should be available to all.

More and more is being taken from those of us that dont have a boat. we are running out of easy access places to drive on the beach where all of our equipment is right there with us. First it was Fourchon Beach (east) that is closed. We cant help but wonder when the big poles will block off the west side. we can fish the beach on Grand Isle itself but we are on one side of the ""levee"" and our truck and other equipment is on the other side, out of view for security.

The states spend a whole lot more for public usage on other projects . If Elmers Island were a state ""park"" , that would draw a whole lot more people to the area, which would bring in money movement and jobs for the area people.

It would be a good investment to invest in Elmers Island future for local and out of state tourist. Its amazing the amount of people that have never heard the joy of ""string music"" from hooking into a big redfish or a ray that will make you think you hooked a submarine. Invite these people down to enjoy the rush of catching the ""big one"" from a place that has the best beach fishing and great access without getting stuck which happens often at Fourchon Beach. Grand Isle itself could easily be THE PLACE TO VISIT.

Bottom line to all this; letting louisiana expand its popular resource, and \$\$\$\$ coming in.

I would hate to see the Island sold to private owners and the general public not be able to fish it.

My answer to development is a little misleading. I included Welcome Center in my answers only because a physical presence may make people think twice about not properly disposing of their trash. Also daily trash collection and adequate disposal facilities are most important.

Elmer's Island is a beautiful place to camp. I would like to see the State purchase this property. There needs to be some way to control the current and undertow that flow around the island.

I would like to see the state develop the island as a state park. Mostly so there is a clean place to fish. I like Fourchon beach also, but it's so filthy I just don't like taking my children there where they can see how people treat the beaches in LA.

I think it would be very nice to be able to use Elmers Island, but it must be supervised. I would not mind paying for a camping spot on the beach where we could fish and camp out, but would need bathrooms and showers. I hope we can get this done. Thanks for this survey.

I would like to see Elmer's Island left in a natural state, and open to the public for fishing, hiking, and camping. I enjoy camping at Grand Island State Park and would not want to pay more just to stay at Elmer's. I would, however like the choice.

Please save elmers island it should not be privately developed. we don't need more up scale condo's & beach home's we do need quiet natural places to bring our families

Always loved to go to elmers island, we miss it always had a great time there with no problems.

"THANK YOU, VERY MUCH for this VERY Important, VITAL work you are doing. Maybe Bob Marshall, Times-Pic could do a Sunday Special Article and Frank Davis could also provide some media coverage to 'get the word out' on the need to protect and SAVE another Vital one of Our disappearing Louisiana Natural Beauty and Resources. Thanks, Again. God Bless You and God Bless America....esp Louisiana"

Elmer's Island is a great natural resource. It should be made available to the public and improved. It would have great economic impact on Grand Isle (tourism) and Fourchon (merchants and services) areas.

I think they should let the owners of Elmers island be left alone. They've probably been there for a long time. I know I'd like my privacy too if I were living there for a long time like them. I think they should declare it if they wanted to give up the land.

We have a camp in Grand Isle, but I also own a pop-up camper that I enjoy using at the State Park and Elmer's, or my tents even.

I WOULD LIVE NO WHERE ELSE BUT LOUISIANA COAST

I have fished all over the United States and we have the best fishing here in Louisiana. We need to buy this property if at all possible

I think that the state should purchase the Island. I think that the island would be a very profitable investment for the state. I can remember going to the island and paying \$6.00 per person and there would be at least 400 to 600 people on the island.

This project should not become a White Lake situation where it becomes a lottery or political buddy system for its use. It should be available to all who wish to visit regardless of their interest!

Every time we go to Port Fouchon beach to fish we check to see if anything has ever been done to open Elmer's Island. It is our first choice fishing spot and we keep hoping that it will open to the public again.

As an avid shore/beach fisherman the main thing that strikes me is how cluttered with garbage and refuse (cleaned fish just dumped, beer bottles, etc..) EVERY public fishing area is in Louisiana. People just refuse to clean up after themselves. This leads me, in a way, to feel that the average Joe doesn't deserve a special place set aside for him if he can't keep it clean. Then on the other hand should those of us who clean up after ourselves be penalized for the ignorance and apathy of others. This is one of the main reasons i go to Florida alot (along with the Pompano in the surf). At least the majority of people clean up after themselves. I would hope that if Elmers is acquired by public interests someone

would do something to make sure it stays clean and pristine and keep out those who can't clean up after themselves!!!

If the price is over 200,000 pass on it.

This would be one of the most important moves the state has ever made. This would let the entire country know La is serious about its future.

Please save this place. It was wonderful visiting when I was a child, and I have been unable to bring my children there except by boat, and it is ok along the beach itself, but you can not get close to the grass because of the mosquitoes. I wish that my children could have some of the memories that I have of the island one day..... Also, we did notice that the island is eroding very quickly, and if something is not done, soon, we may not have a Grand Isle at all. If the state would invest a little money in this community, I feel that their money would be returned to them in trifolds !!!!!

It would be a tragedy for this area to be bought by an outside interest and developed as we already lose coastal habitat at an alarming rate. This is a jewel with incredible biodiversity and deserves the State of Louisiana's protection so that it can be enjoyed by all.

I have a camp on Cominada Bay, With a 150 ft. pier with lights. My wife and I make the trip just about every weekend.

"IT WOULD BE SO PROGRESSIVE TO KEEP ELMERS ISLAND ACCESSABLE TO THE PUBLIC, MY KIDS, THEIR KIDS, THE PUBLIC, KEEP IT WILD, AFTER ALL THAT IS WHAT IS SO ATTRACTIVE TO MANY OF US, THANKS FOR LISTENING
"

Even though I don't go to Elmer's island often, I think there is a need for this type of public property for those who don't have access to the outdoors by boat.

Fishing the beaches of Elmer's Island is the best fishing experience in Louisiana. A development would destroy that.

I know road and upkeep would be expensive but coastal beaches are scarce in La. The state has park now but primitive, We have rv and would love to see a good road and sites w/ hook-up close to beach. Possibly a membership time share could work.

As a child I spent many summer days on Elmer's Island fishing with my Father and Grandfather. We have owned a camp north of Hwy 1 across from Elmer's Island since the early '80's. It was disheartening when the property was closed. I am eager to be able to access the island again, to spend time with my children on the island and to have my father spend time with his grandchildren as my Dad and grandfather did with me.

My wife and I used to go there with her family all the time. In fact, we first started dating just down the road at the state park. I have a lot of memories of Grande Isle along with Elmer's Isle. I remember a few times where we would run down to Elmer's in the evening, spend all night fishing, take a few naps here and there in the back of my pickup and leave the next day. I just made some more memories this past weekend when I drove my boat from Lafitte to Elmer's Isle taking my oldest son of 5 yrs and my neighbor. Elmer's Isle is a beautiful place and should be shared with the public. It's a place where family and friends can get together and just have a good time. Hate to see it go commercial.

I own a camp near the entrance to Elmer's Island and feel that private developement would ruin the area for most of the camp owners.

I would truly love for the state to buy elmers island. so that future generations can enjoy this natural resource. come on louisiana do the right thing for once.