

# CWPPRA

## The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act

*Restoring Coastal Louisiana Since 1990*







## Understanding CWPPRA

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, (CWPPRA, pronounced kwip-ruh), otherwise known as the Breaux Act, is federal legislation enacted in 1990 to fund the design and construction of coastal wetlands restoration projects. The legislation (Public Law 101-646, Title III CWPPRA) was approved by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by former President George H. W. Bush.

Since its inception, over 230 coastal restoration or protection projects have been authorized, benefiting approximately 100,000 acres. These restoration projects provide for the long-term conservation of wetlands and dependent fish and wildlife populations with cost-effective approaches to creating, restoring, protecting, or enhancing coastal wetlands.

For over 30 years, CWPPRA has provided the only joint Federal/State coastal restoration effort with a predictable and recurring funding stream designed to restore the vanishing wetlands of coastal Louisiana.

The CWPPRA program continues to pursue a full slate of coastal restoration activities, and its progress and experience provide the foundation for restoration supported by one-time funding from various other sources. CWPPRA represents a collaborative effort and is managed by a Task Force comprised of five federal agencies and the State of Louisiana.





# CWPPRA Projects Across Louisiana

The CWPPRA program has been building projects across the Louisiana coast since 1991. Projects are designed based on the needs of the area.

Each year projects are brought to the CWPPRA Task Force by the public, local municipalities, state agencies, and federal partners. Members of the public actively participate in the generation of project ideas and guide the decision making process. Parishes work with local residents to prioritize projects for design funding.

Since CWPPRA's inception, projects along the coast of Louisiana have been instrumental in preserving and restoring critical habitat. CWPPRA has inspired a vision for the future of Louisiana's coast.

CWPPRA continues to provide leadership on the development of innovative, on-the-ground projects that restore valuable wetlands and help protect Louisiana's coastal communities. Valuable lessons are learned as each new CWPPRA project is built.

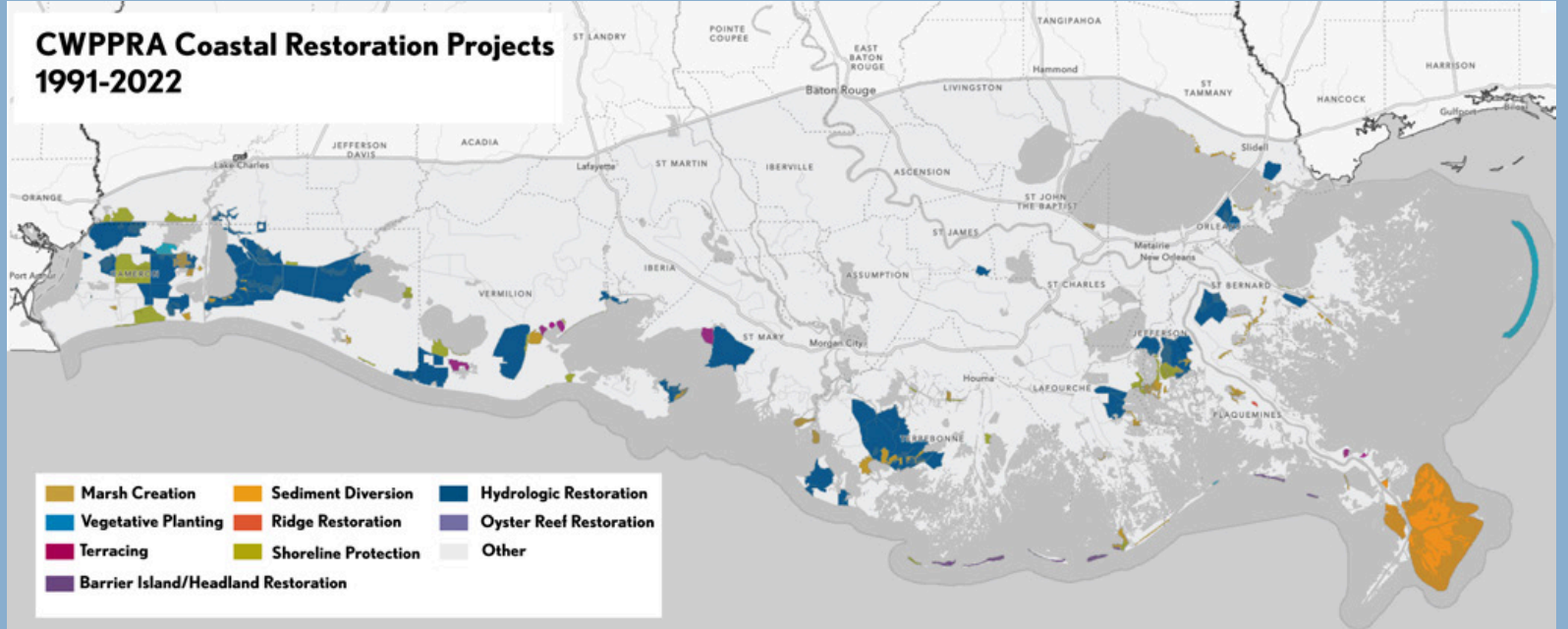
# Restoration Types

CWPPRA project managers, scientists, and engineers use a variety of techniques to protect, enhance, create, or restore wetlands.

These techniques include:

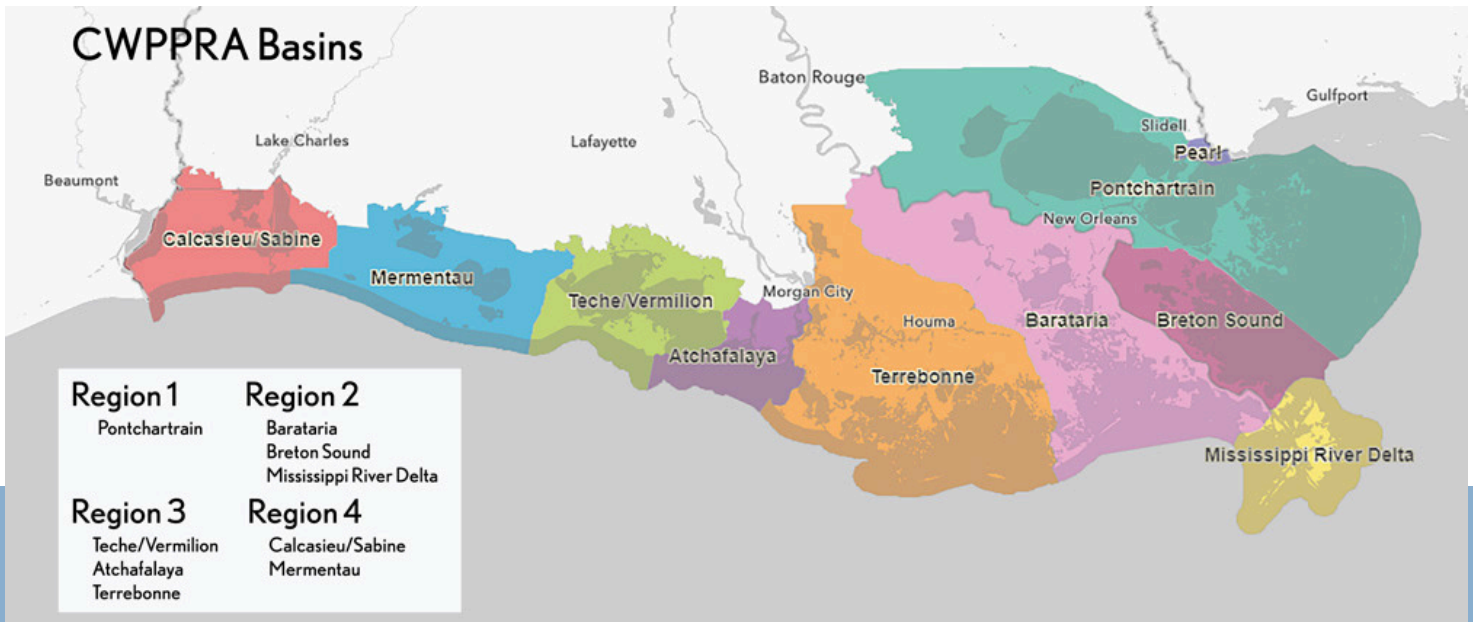


*Each restoration project may use one or more techniques to repair critical wetlands.*



# CWPPRA Project Selection

CWPPRA has an annual project selection cycle called the Priority Project List or PPL. Anyone can suggest a project for PPL funding consideration at Regional Planning Team (RPT) meetings across Louisiana's CWPPRA basins, which are separated into four different regions.



CWPPRA federal managing agencies, state, and coastal parish representatives vote electronically to narrow down projects presented at the RPT meetings to 20 individual projects.

The CWPPRA Technical Committee will then vote to narrow down the project list to 10 in the spring. In the summer, agency sponsors coordinate visits to project sites and draft Wetland Value Assessments (WVAs) to determine impact of projects.

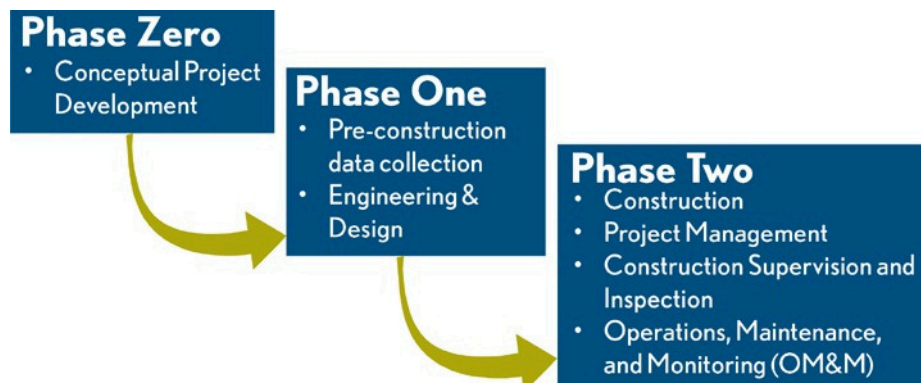
In the winter the Technical Committee will recommend four projects to the CWPPRA Task Force to approve for the final PPL. Public comment is encouraged and accepted throughout the PPL project selection process.

## CWPPRA Project Construction

CWPPRA projects are constructed within 5-7 years from initiating engineering and design.

At construction completion, projects provide benefits which meet local and state restoration planning goals.

CWPPRA projects are built in a series of phases that include:





## Strengths and Success

CWPPRA addresses the urgent need for on-the-ground coastal restoration projects that protect critically impaired wetlands in Louisiana. The program has over 30 years of experience in coastal restoration, acting as the State's only consistent Federal restoration funding authority. Upon completion, projects provide benefits which meet local and state restoration planning goals.

The CWPPRA project selection process serves as the foundation for the development of restoration science and identification of project needs. Unselected projects developed within the CWPPRA program can become the platform for other restoration funding programs. In addition, CWPPRA has initiated and supports the State's only coastwide monitoring program to evaluate the efficacy of restoration projects on an ecosystem scale.

## Innovation

The CWPPRA program breeds innovation and collaboration. Restoration projects developed within CWPPRA include a variety of techniques for different habitats that are strategically located to minimize cost and maximize benefits. Projects work synergistically with local projects built by local governments and/or landowners.

CWPPRA's demonstration projects encourage innovation and unique ideas by testing new restoration strategies and investigating new materials on a smaller scale. The project selection process allows for the development of new ideas that may be tested on a small scale, and if found to be successful, used on a much larger scale. Projects that are not selected in the PPL process can then be used by the State and other restoration programs. With project design complete by CWPPRA, other entities have a jump start on meeting their restoration goals while conserving limited financial resources.



## Interagency Model

A key principle of the CWPPRA program is the partnerships between federal agencies, the state of Louisiana, and coastal parishes. Louisiana parishes identify areas of critical need with residents for incorporation into project concepts. This increases public support and buy-in of projects funded through the program.

Multiple agencies address requirements and mandates simultaneously, thus capitalizing upon the specialized design and project management resources of each of the five federal agencies to speed project implementation. The interagency model ensures that multiple perspectives and priorities are brought to the table to develop diverse projects with broad support.

In addition, researchers representing multiple universities and areas of discipline provide scientific support and review of projects throughout the selection process. This allows the CWPPRA program to provide strong science that is shared publicly.

From nominating projects, prioritizing projects, and building projects, CWPPRA works as a unified team with a common goal of restoring Louisiana's coastal wetlands.



**CWPPRA is the only program where five federal agencies and the State of Louisiana work together on a coastal restoration mission with a common goal.**





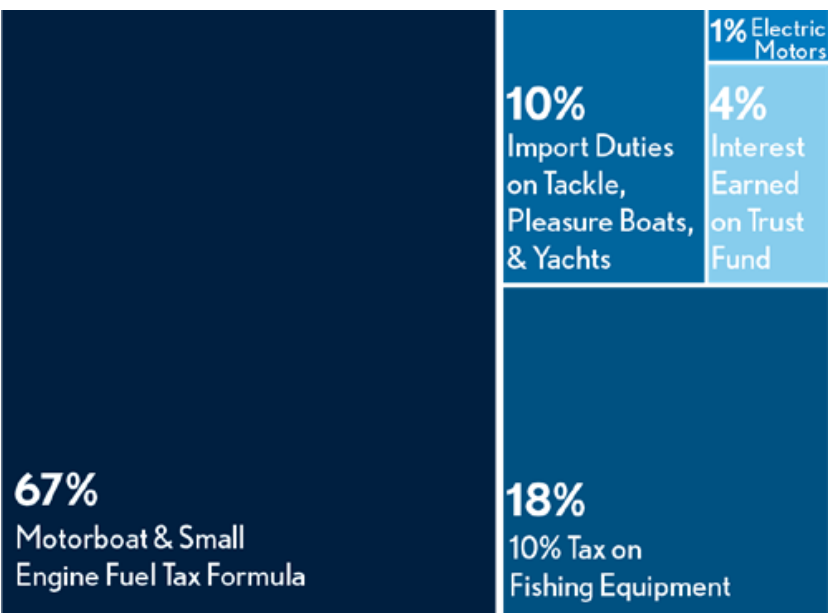
# CWPPRA Budget Requirements and Funding Dynamics

Funding for CWPPRA comes from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Safety Trust Fund, which is supported by various fuel taxes and taxes collected on a variety of sport fishing related goods.

Because the State of Louisiana has a federally approved wetland conservation plan, it pays a 15 percent cost-share. The Federal government pays 85 percent of project costs.

CWPPRA has operated on an annual budget that has ranged from approximately \$30-\$99M per year. While CWPPRA can't address all of the needs of Louisiana's wetlands, it provides a layer of needed protection on a modest budget.

## Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund - Revenue



*Different revenue streams into the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund by percentage.*

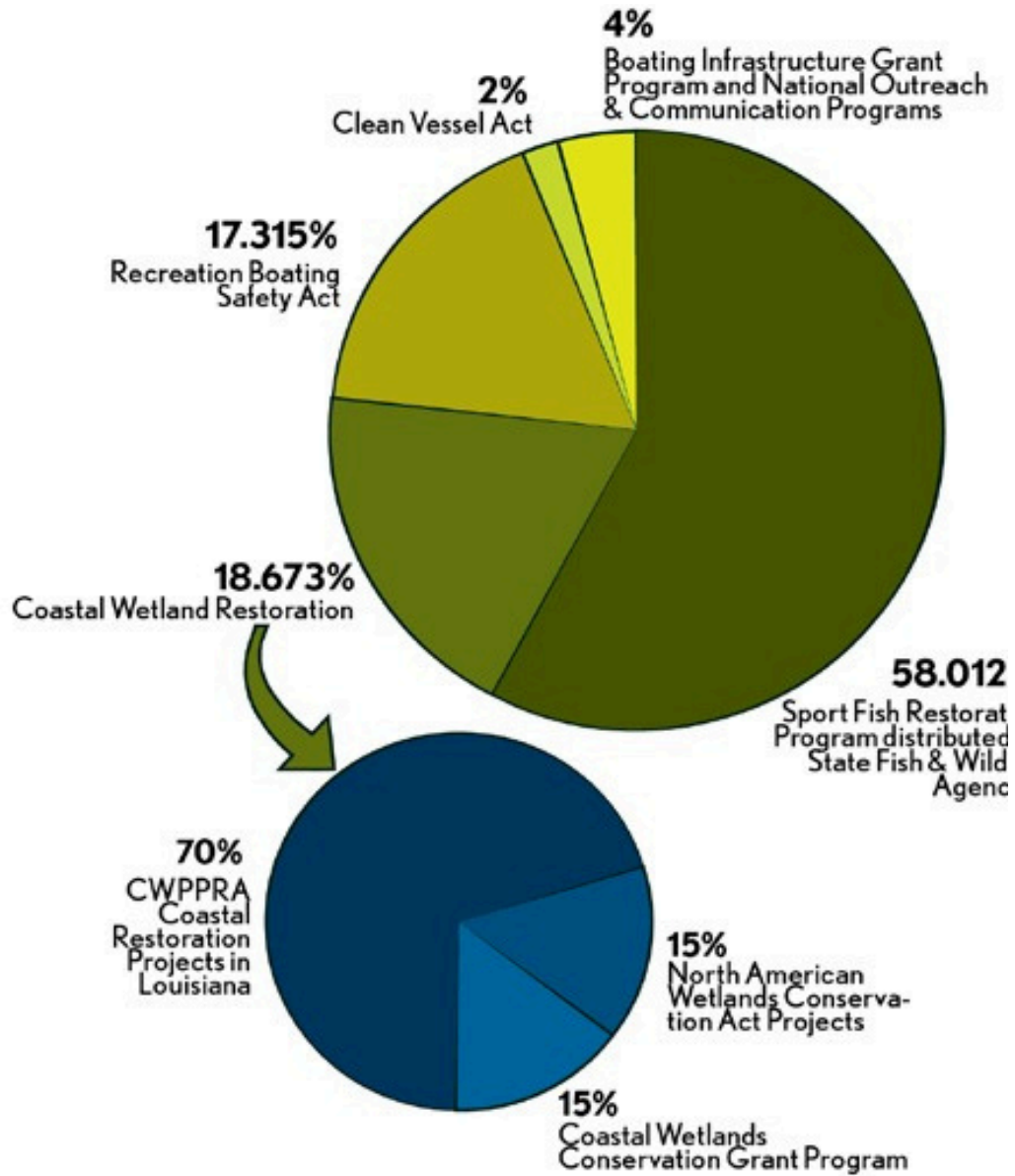


CWPPRA prioritizes restoration based on need, benefits, and budget. CWPPRA projects that cannot be funded for construction are “shovel-ready” for other restoration programs. If a project cannot be implemented economically or will not provide anticipated benefits, it can be deauthorized and the funds can be returned to the CWPPRA program and used for another project.





# Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund - Expenditures



*Distribution of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (green pie chart) and distribution of Coastal Wetland Restoration funds (blue pie chart).*





## CWPPRA and the Public

### *Value of the Wetlands*

CWPPRA was signed into law because Congress recognized Louisiana's wetlands are unique and vital ecological assets that are of value to the nation and worth saving.

Wetlands protect a rich cultural heritage and one-of-a-kind sportsman's paradise while also acting as a buffer against hurricanes and storms.

Wetlands act as flood control devices, holding excess floodwaters during high rainfall, as well as replenish aquifers and purify water by filtering out pollutants and absorbing nutrients. Wetlands in Louisiana also protect infrastructure that supports energy production and ports for shipping. The restoration of wetland habitats supports commercial fisheries that help feed the nation.

### *Project Recommendations and Public Comment*

The public is a key partner in the CWPPRA program. Individuals, parish governments, local businesses, nonprofits, and federal and state agencies are welcome to present project ideas for CWPPRA funding consideration.

Throughout the project selection process, the public is encouraged to attend CWPPRA public meetings and voice public comments on coastal restoration and protection projects. These comments provide local insight to federal and state agencies as they vote on projects to fund.



### *CWPPRA Public Outreach*

As written in the Act, CWPPRA is required to fund public outreach efforts that educate and engage the public on the severity of Louisiana's land loss crisis, the value of coastal wetlands, and the need for wetland restoration.

The CWPPRA Public Outreach Program, made up of members of each of the federal and state managing agencies, along with a small staff, work to create educational outreach materials, formal and informal wetland focused curriculum, and engaging activities at public events.

The Public Outreach Program also works to translate the science behind coastal restoration efforts for public understanding through the creation of project factsheets, website development, and social media.







**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

CWPPRA Public Outreach Office

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