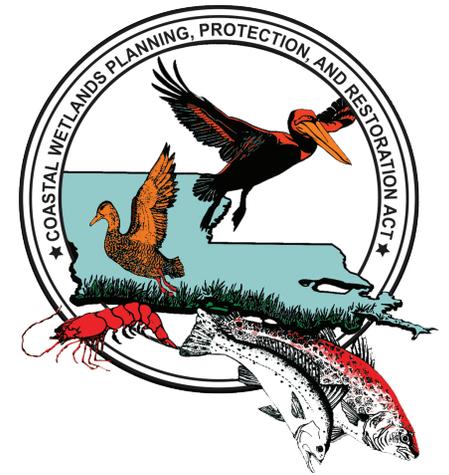




# Understanding CWPPRA

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act

Managing  
Agencies:



# Understanding CWPPRA

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act







# Table of Contents

What is CWPPRA?	1
Managing Agencies of CWPPRA	2
CWPPRA Project Map	3
CWPPRA Project Selection	5
CWPPRA Project Construction	6
Restoration Types	8
Strengths and Successes of CWPPRA	9
CWPPRA as an Innovator	10
CWPPRA's Interagency Model	11
Meeting CWPPRA's Budget	12
CWPPRA Funding Dynamics	13
Protecting Louisiana's Wetlands	15
It Just Makes Cents	16
Get Involved	17

**For more information visit [www.LaCoast.gov](http://www.LaCoast.gov)**



# CWPPRA

What is CWPPRA...

The Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act, (CWPPRA, pronounced kwīp-rŭ), is federal legislation enacted in 1990 to fund the design and construction of coastal wetlands restoration projects. Since its inception, 210 coastal restoration or protection projects have been authorized, benefiting approximately 100,000 acres.

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 (Legislative History - Appendix 1). 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 25 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.

# Managing Agencies for CWPPRA

U.S. Department of the Army - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 6

U.S. Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service

U.S. Department of Commerce - NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

State of Louisiana - Governor's Office

The Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is the local cost-share partner that matches 15% of CWPPRA's federal funding.



# CWPPRA Projects across Louisiana

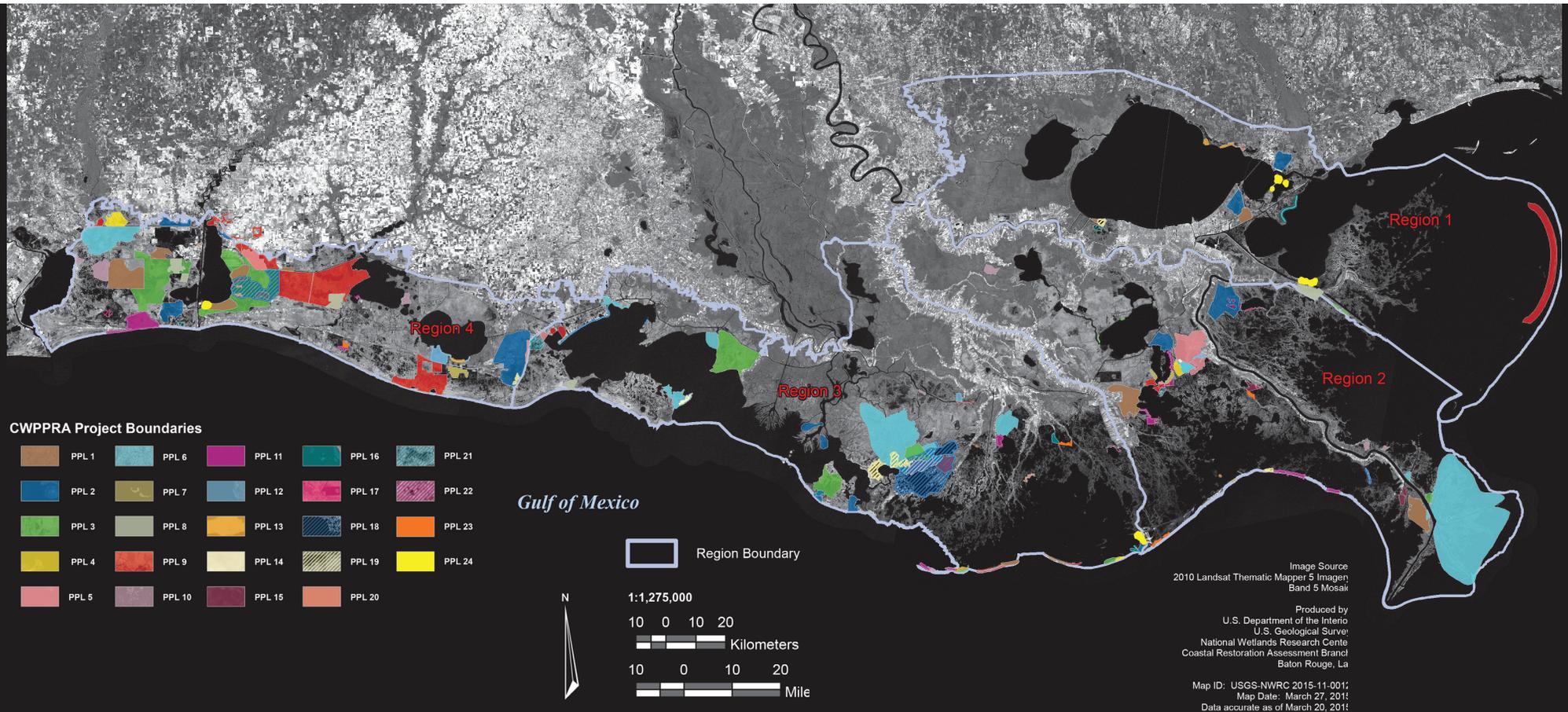
The CWPPRA program has been building projects across the Louisiana coast since 1991. Projects are designed based on the needs of the area.

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.

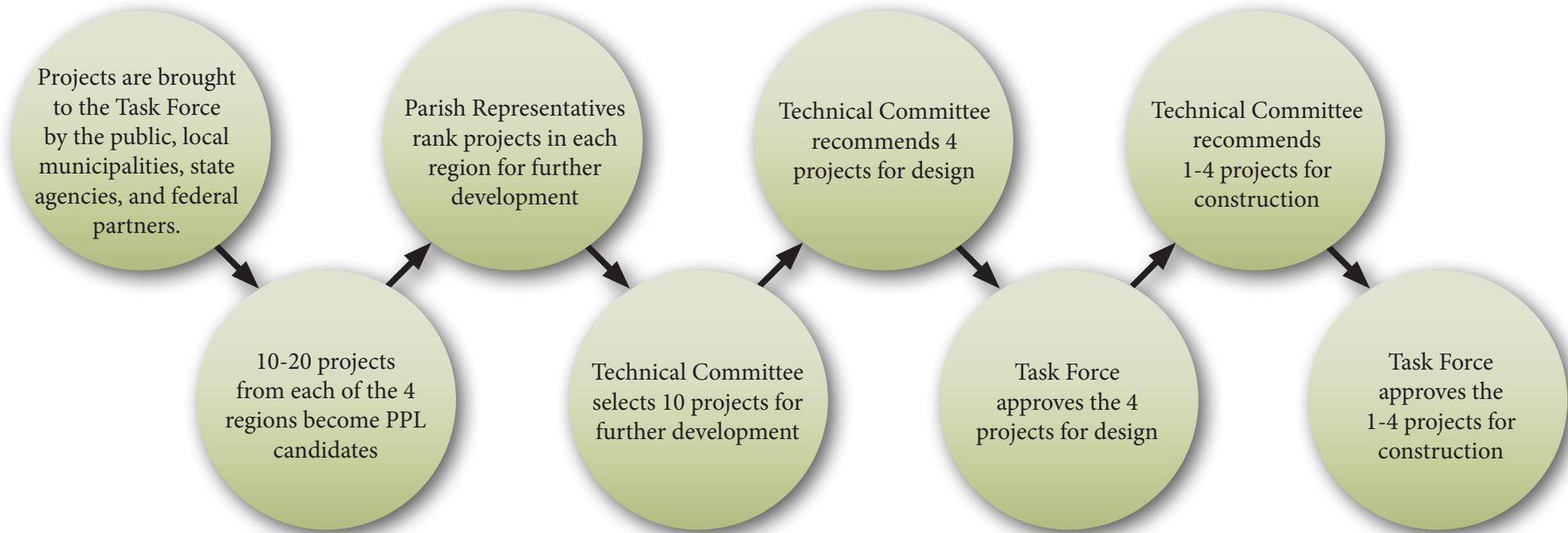
CWPPRA continues to provide leadership on the development of innovative, on-the-ground projects that restore valuable wetlands and help protect Louisiana's coastal communities.

Valuable lessons are learned as each new CWPPRA project is built.





# CWPPRA Project Selection



CWPPRA projects are brought to the Task Force by the public, local municipalities, state agencies, and federal partners. Generally, the planning process includes the nomination of a project, followed by development and evaluation of proposed projects based on the engineering, environmental improvements, and economics. Nominated projects become part of the annual Priority Project List (PPL) candidate projects.

The Priority Project List is refined following the evaluation of candidate projects. Federal Sponsors provide cost estimates and proposed project features for each project to a Planning and

Evaluation Subcommittee prior to project ranking. Once the preliminary evaluations are completed projects are ranked by the Technical Committee at an open meeting where the public is invited to make comments. Following the Technical Committee's meeting, the Task Force meets to finalize the approved projects each year, in January.

CWPPRA serves as the foundation for the development of restoration science and identification of project needs that have become the platform for other restoration funding programs.

# 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:

**phase  
zero**

Conceptual project development

**phase  
one**

Pre-construction data collection

Engineering & Design

**phase  
two**

Construction

Project Management

Construction Supervision and Inspection

OM&M or Operations, Maintenance, and Monitoring



After 25 Years

**210 Projects Authorized**

**Approximately 100,000 benefitted acres**



# Restoration Types

CWPPRA project managers, scientists, and engineers use a variety of techniques to protect, enhance, create, or restore wetlands. Each restoration project may use one or more techniques to repair critical wetlands. These techniques include:

- Freshwater & Sediment Diversion
- Dredged Material/Marsh Creation
- Shoreline Protection
- Terracing
- Hydrologic Restoration
- Barrier Island Restoration
- Vegetative Planting



# Strengths and Successes of CWPPRA

## What are the strengths and the successes of CWPPRA?

- ▶ Addresses the urgent need for on-the-ground coastal restoration in Louisiana
- ▶ Constructs coastal restoration projects that protect critically impaired wetland areas
- ▶ To date, has constructed 102 projects with a total of 155 active projects that will protect and restore approximately 100,000 acres of land
- ▶ Has 25 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
- ▶ Initiated and supports the State's only coastwide monitoring program to evaluate the efficacy of restoration projects on an ecosystem scale
- ▶ Serves as the foundation for the development of restoration science and identification of project needs that have become the platform for other restoration funding programs



# CWPPRA is Innovative

- ▶ CWPPRA projects work synergistically with local projects built by local governments and/or landowners
- ▶ CWPPRA is an incubator for new ideas that may be tested on a small scale, and if found to be successful, used on a much larger scale
- ▶ CWPPRA serves as a project mill for the State and other restoration programs. It is an incubator for projects that have been adopted and implemented under other authorities such as the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA), the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), or the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). With project design completed by CWPPRA, other entities have a jump start on meeting their restoration goals while conserving limited financial resources
- ▶ CWPPRA Demonstration or “Demo” projects encourage innovation and unique ideas by testing new ideas and investigating new materials on a small scale
- ▶ CWPPRA restoration includes a variety of techniques for different habitats
- ▶ CWPPRA projects are strategically located to minimize cost and maximize benefits



# CWPPRA's Interagency Model and Collaboration with Academia and the Public



- ▶ The only place where five federal agencies and the State of Louisiana work together on a coastal restoration mission with a common goal
- ▶ Parishes identify areas of critical need with local residents for incorporation into project concepts as part of the CWPPRA project development process. 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
- ▶ Academia representing multiple universities and areas of discipline provide scientific support and review of projects throughout the selection process
- ▶ Public comment is encouraged and accepted throughout the project selection process
- ▶ Provides strong science and shares information publicly
- ▶ Nominating projects, prioritizing projects, and building projects as a unified team with a common goal

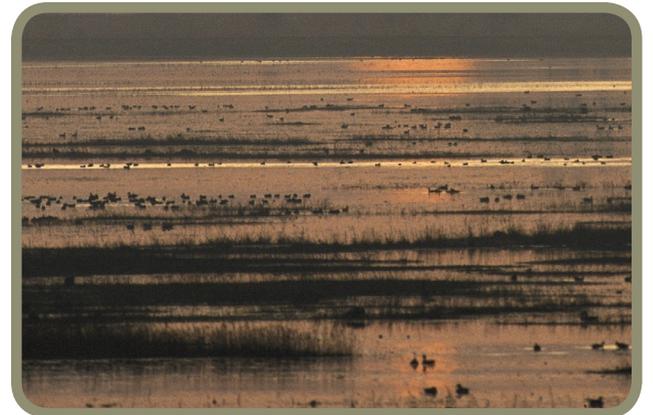


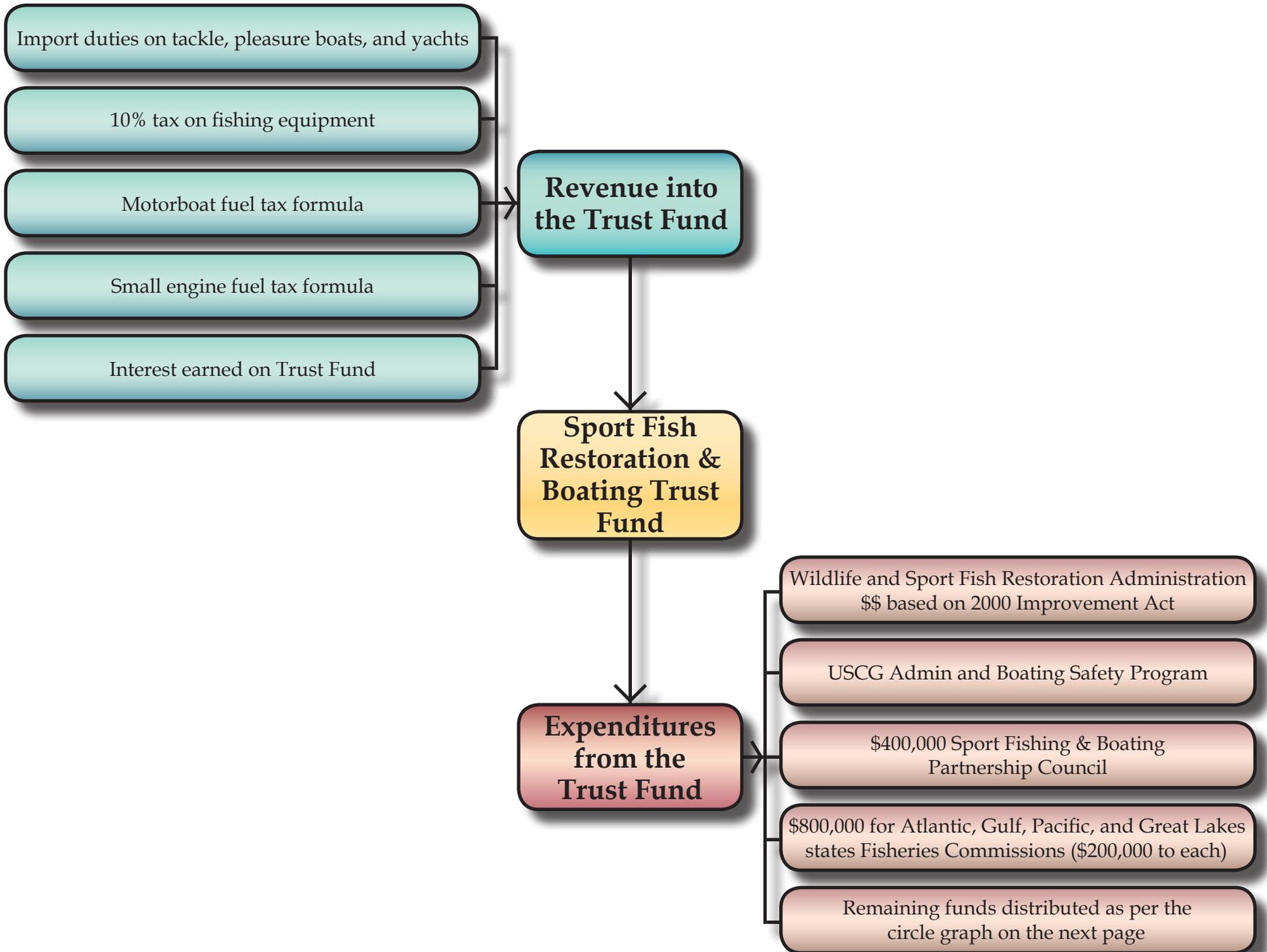
# Meeting CWPPRA's Budget Requirements while Providing Meaningful Restoration

- ▶ CWPPRA has operated on an annual budget that has ranged from approximately \$30M per year to \$80M 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
- ▶ CWPPRA prioritizes restoration based on need, benefits, and budget
- ▶ CWPPRA projects that cannot be funded for construction are "shovel-ready" for other restoration programs

## Checks and Balances

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 in another project.





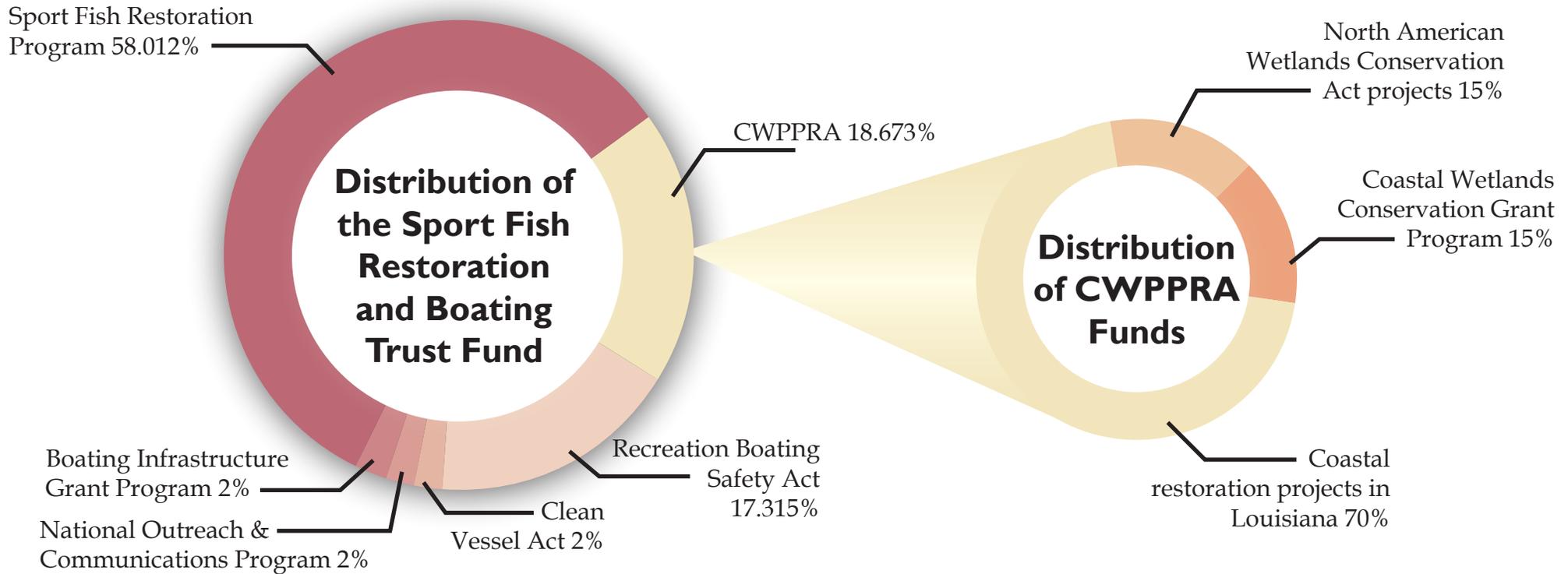
# CWPPRA Funding Dynamics

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. (Note: The funds are collected from each of the items found in the blue boxes at the top of the diagram on the previous page.)

Once the money is collected, a portion of these dollars are set aside for various sport fish restoration and management programmatic entities. What is left is then distributed to a variety of programs, as shown in the circle graph below. As of 2015, CWPPRA receives 18.673 percent of this money, which is divided between coastal restoration projects in Louisiana, the Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, and North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects. Coastal restoration projects in Louisiana receive 70 percent of CWPPRA funds because 70 percent of the country's wetland loss is in Louisiana.

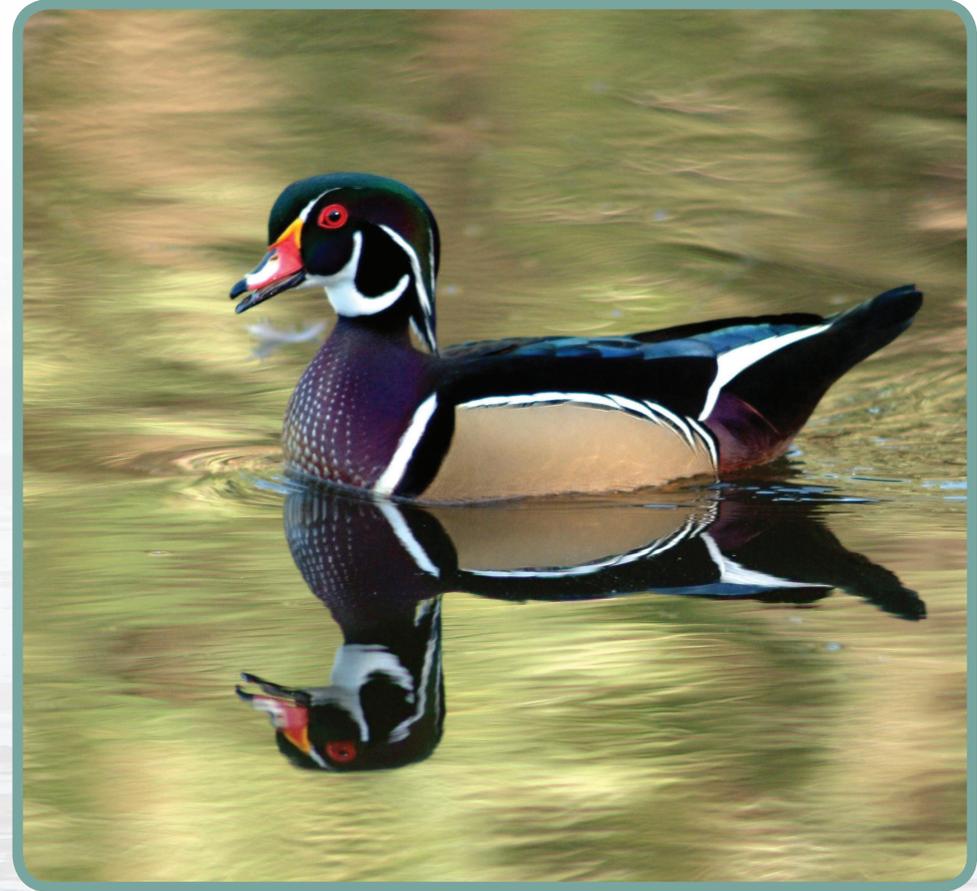
Because the State of Louisiana has a federally approved wetland conservation plan, it pays a 15 percent cost-share. The Federal government pays 85 percent of project costs.

The CWPPRA program has been re-authorized through FY 2019 by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004. Funding for the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund is authorized through 2021 by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015.



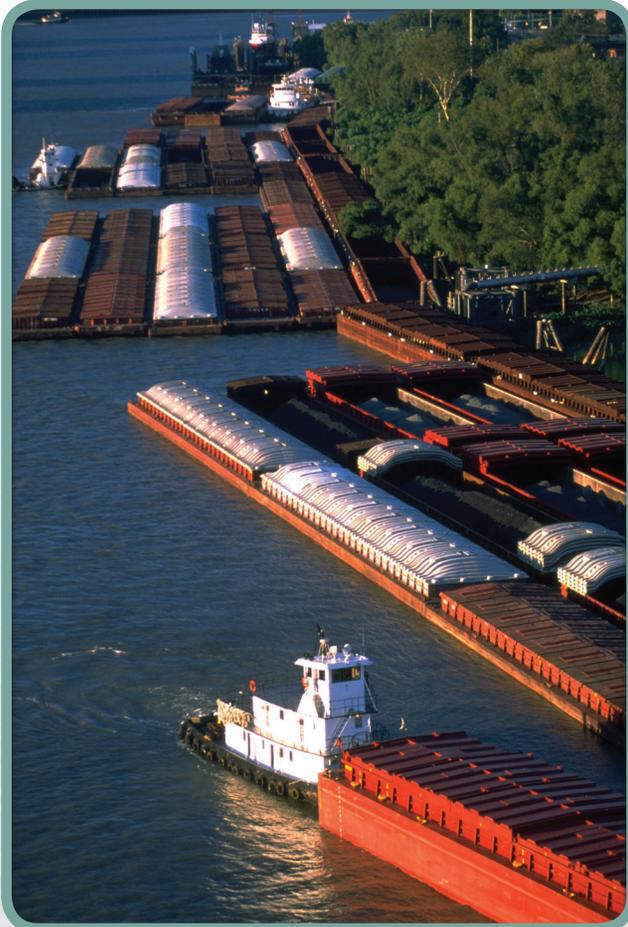
# Protecting America's Wetland

Louisiana's coast is known as America's Wetland. These habitats are unique and vital ecological assets worth saving. CWPPRA has been instrumental in restoring Louisiana's vanishing wetlands. In addition to protecting a rich cultural heritage and one of a kind sportsman's paradise, wetlands act as a buffer against hurricanes and storms. Wetlands act as flood control devices, holding excess floodwaters during high rainfall (much like a sponge). Wetlands replenish aquifers, and they purify water by filtering out pollutants and absorbing nutrients. Approximately 40 percent of the coastal wetlands of the lower 48 States are located in Louisiana.



Unfortunately, this fragile environment is disappearing at an alarming rate. Louisiana has lost up to 40 square miles of marsh per year for several decades – that's 80 percent of the nation's annual coastal wetland loss. To date, Louisiana has already lost a wetland area equivalent to the land area of the state of Delaware. This loss is at an average rate of an acre every hour. If the current rate of loss is not slowed by the year 2040, an additional 800,000 acres of Louisiana's wetlands will disappear, and the shoreline will advance inland as much as 33 miles in some areas.

# It Just Makes Cents



## Protecting America's Wetland Saves National Resources

**Energy:** Including Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) production, Louisiana ranks first in crude oil, second in natural gas production and first in LNG terminal capacity (LDNR 2012).

**Ports:** In 2012, Louisiana's coastal wetlands provided storm protection for ports that carried 504 million tons of waterborne commerce, accounting for nearly 20 percent of all waterborne commerce in the United States. Five of the top fifteen largest ports in the United States are located in Louisiana (USACE 2013).

**Commercial Fishing:** According to the NOAA National Marine Fisheries service, in 2014, Louisiana fishers landed 870.5 million pounds and garnered \$449.2 million in revenue. Louisiana dominated in shellfish and finfish revenues along the Gulf of Mexico. Louisiana is number one in total catch by weight in the lower 48 states (Fisheries of the United States 2014, National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Science and Technology, September 2015 <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/Assets/commercial/fus/fus14/documents/FUS2014.pdf>).

**Don't forget the people:** Over 2.3 million residents – nearly 50 percent of the state's population according to U.S. Census estimates- live in Louisiana's coastal parishes (U.S. Census Bureau 2016).

# How Can I Get Involved?

## Learn More about Coastal Wetlands

### Sign up for WaterMarks

WaterMarks is a magazine published twice a year to help the public better understand the work of CWPPRA. To receive a hard copy of WaterMarks delivered to your home, email your mailing address to [lacoast@nwrccom.cr.usgs.gov](mailto:lacoast@nwrccom.cr.usgs.gov)

### Sign up for Newsflash

CWPPRA would like the public to be aware of what's happening in our coastal community. Newsflash is sent out by email to do just that. To receive Newsflash, send an email from the address you want subscribed to [ListServer@nwrccom.cr.usgs.gov](mailto:ListServer@nwrccom.cr.usgs.gov) with the subject "subscribe cwppra"

## Civic Engagement

### Participate in public meetings

### Write about it

Contact elected officials to voice your opinion about Louisiana's Coastal Restoration Activities

## Individual and Community Engagement

### Make good personal choices

- Save water
- Dispose of household products carefully
- Control run-off from your yard
- Control soil erosion
- Maintain your septic system
- Use car care products wisely
- Contain chemical spills

### Volunteer

Find volunteer opportunities offered by organizations such as BTNEP or CRCL by visiting their websites at [volunteer.btnep.org](http://volunteer.btnep.org) and [crcl.org](http://crcl.org)



