

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

Winter 2021



LOUISIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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Since 1940, Louisiana Wildlife Federation has been the voice for Louisiana's wildlife and natural resources.

Principles:

- Conserve Louisiana's natural resources with emphasis on wildlife and their habitat
- Advance sound, scientifically established resource management principles
- Engage outdoor enthusiasts through education and advocacy

This newsletter is printed biannually for members and supporters. Updates on LWF activities and events can be found on our website and social media pages:

-  lawildlifefed.org
-  [LouisianaWildlifeFederation](https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaWildlifeFederation)
-  [@louisianawildlifefederation](https://www.instagram.com/louisianawildlifefederation)
-  [@LaWildlifeFed](https://twitter.com/LaWildlifeFed)

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LWF is an affiliate organization of National Wildlife Federation and together we form a powerful network for wildlife conservation locally and nationally.



LWF Staff

Rebecca Triche, Executive Director
Laura Gros, Office Manager
Stacy Ortego, Outreach Coordinator
Lije Wojohn, Academics Afield Intern

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Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society
Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association
East Ascension Sportsman's League (EASL)
Friends of Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of Grand Isle
Friends of Red River National Wildlife Refuge
Friends of the Atchafalaya
Louisiana Association of Professional Biologists
- La. Chapter of The Wildlife Society
Louisiana Ornithological Society
Pontchartrain Conservancy
New Orleans Power Squadron
Orleans Audubon Society
Rapides Wildlife Association
Shreveport Society for Nature Study Bird Study Group
Toledo Bend Lake Association
Woodlands Conservancy

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

In 2021 LWF affiliates lost some of our most gifted and passionate conservation volunteers. They included men and women, some young and some very old, some trained scientists and some gifted amateur naturalists. Each of these lost members made a difference in our organization's success and have manifested the truth of the oft cited quote from anthropologist Margaret Mead, "Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."



I recently attended the memorial for Nancy Menasco, a member of LWF and affiliates Friends of Red River NWR and the Louisiana Ornithological Society. She is the person who first welcomed me and my students as volunteers at Red River NWR, and it was she who encouraged me to become engaged with the Friends group and with LWF. She did so much to engage the community in education and hands on work, especially youth, women, and other members of groups often underrepresented in the conservation field. Throughout her life and even throughout her long final illness, she continued learning about and advocating for the natural world. We will miss her.

It is evident that every LWF affiliate is made up of such committed people, and LWF staff leverage the commitment of individuals to innovatively address the particular challenges of this time. Their families have often been interested in sustaining the memory of their loved ones with support for new projects and memorials. Their work allows the conservation legacy of former LWF members and leaders like Edgar Veillon to become the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps to foster and mentor the next generation of conservation leaders in Louisiana. The EV-CLC is now entering its fourth year, and that program has helped spark LWF's effort to launch new programs that support university level natural resource management and wildlife management students to become conservationists. Future initiatives will ensure that LWF is supporting a new generation of conservation leaders and sportsmen. ■ - *Zac Burson*

NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"What can I do? How can I help?" I love these questions from students in LWF's Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps. Maybe you want to know too. Opportunities to speak up can often be found on LWF's Take Action page on our website. Decision-makers want to know and, frankly, need to hear from the public about how their resources are being managed. That's how you are the voice of Louisiana's wildlife.



LWF leaders and staff stay focused on providing factual information about the issues LWF members care about. The website provides tools to make it easier to comment in the public process and educate yourself about emerging and ongoing issues. We do our best to provide research, data, and collaboration to inform ourselves and others. Your support contributes greatly to this very essential work.

The young adults in the Conservation Leadership Corps are particularly vested in decisions made now that can impact their future enjoyment of the natural resources we share today. Helping another generation participate in the process of public comment and citizen service to the management of our resources is a continuing legacy for LWF. For many of us, it begins with doing and helping. ■ - *Rebecca Triche*

2022 LWF CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS



LWF ANNOUNCES 2022 CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP CORPS STUDENTS

By Stacy Ortego, LWF Outreach Coordinator

A new year means a new cohort of Louisiana Wildlife Federation's Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC)! The CLC is a leadership development program that provides expert training for future conservation leaders. LWF is excited to dive into a new year with a new cohort of engaged students.

Training will be provided by current and former natural resource professionals in the public, non-profit and private sectors. Students will be presented with real-world issues and experience. This year's focus is on habitat conservation. Through the integration of presentations, case studies, and collaborative activities, students will increase their knowledge of conservation policy and build skills in leadership and advocacy.

Due to safety concerns related to COVID-19, this year's cohort will meet online with the final meeting in April planned in-person at Chicot State Park. Training will take place during one weekend each month in January, February, March, and April 2022.

This year's Conservation Leadership Corps students are:

- James Anderson (Sophomore, LSU, Coastal Environmental Science)
- Afia Boaitey (Freshman, Xavier, Neuroscience)
- Faith Boutte (Junior, Nicholls, Biology)
- Mario Campo (Junior, Southeastern, Biology-Wetlands Ecology)
- Carly Carpenter (Sophomore, LSU, Environmental Management Systems-Policy Analysis)
- Chelsea Coleman (Senior, McNeese, Animal Science)
- Eva Counts (Sophomore, LSU, Biological & Agricultural Engineering)
- Saidee Fonseca (Freshman, LSU, Natural Resource Ecology & Management)
- Mia Foster (Sophomore, LSU, Biology)
- Lily Gleneck (Senior, LSU, Coastal Environmental Science)
- Aaliyah Hameed (Junior, LSU, Marine Biology)
- Madelyn Helm (Sophomore, LSU, Renewable Natural Resources)
- Alexandra Himel (Sophomore, Nicholls, Marine Biology)
- Sahil Inaganti (Junior, Tulane, Environmental Studies, Public Health, & Political Economy)
- Nautica Jones (Senior, UL-Monroe, Biology)
- Katarina Perlsweig (Senior, Loyola, Environmental Science)
- Amanda Ross (Junior, LSU, Chemical Engineering)
- Sarah Sargent (Senior, Northwestern, Biology)
- Thomas Showers (Senior, UL-Monroe, Biology)

Students from colleges and universities across the state were eligible to apply. LWF was thrilled to see the continued growing interest in the program. LWF would like to extend our thanks to faculty and staff that helped share this opportunity with their students.

Of course, this program is not possible without the help and support of our dedicated volunteers and funders. Thank you to our Conservation Education Committee for their help in the selection process and to the Stuller Family Foundation for their continued support in helping fund the program.

Congratulations to the 2022 Conservation Leadership Corps students! ■

TAKE THE CONSERVATION PLEDGE

"I pledge to protect and conserve the natural resources of America. I promise to educate future generations so they may become caretakers of our water, air, land and wildlife."



CONSERVING EARTH: NEW RED RIVER RADIO PROGRAM CO-HOSTED BY REBECCA TRICHE

Conserving Earth is a new monthly radio program on Red River Radio, serving Shreveport/Bossier and Alexandria, northeast Texas and Southwest Arkansas. LWF Executive Director Rebecca Triche is one of three hosts of the program along with Janice Bezanson with Texas Conservation Alliance and Laura-Ashley Overdike with The Caddo Institute. It is broadcast on the third Thursday of each month at 6pm.

In the November 2021 episode of Conserving Earth, Rebecca explores how longleaf pine forest restoration in Kisatchie National Forest also supports restoration of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker population in Louisiana. The show features interviews with US Forest Service's Lisa Lewis, forest supervisor; Jonny Fryar, district ranger; and Jim Caldwell, public affairs officer. Declines in wildlife species are directly related to declines in habitat. Longleaf pine habitat is one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world and relies on management practices using prescribed burning. Information about the history of Louisiana's only national forest, which encompasses 604,000 acres, and how you can access Kisatchie for recreational uses such as camping, hiking, boating, fishing, hunting was also discussed.

Conservation topics so far include paddlefish recovery, flood and river management, and light pollution impacts on migrating birds. You can listen to past episodes at redriverradio.org. ■

LWF URGES CHANGES TO SPOTTED SEATROUT REGS TO RECOVER POPULATION

Louisiana Wildlife Federation (LWF) supports a change to regulations for recreational harvest of spotted seatrout (speckled trout) in Louisiana to address the reported decrease in species population over the past several years.

LWF would support a creel of 15 and a minimum size of 13.5 inches that was labeled “Option II” from among several proposed management options to recover the population in five years. LWF urges the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt this change as the one preferred by the saltwater anglers who responded to surveys in 2020 and in 2021.



While no single option had overwhelming support from those surveyed, Option II was one of two options presented that was more highly rated than the current regulations as asked in the 2021 survey. This is a clear signal that anglers see a need for change to address concerns over declines in speckled trout. Commissioners can review the recovery data from year to year and adjust if needed. For uniformity in enforcement and ease in understanding the new regulation, LWF would support making this change apply for all areas of coastal Louisiana.

In November 2021, staff members with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries reported the results of surveys conducted by email and on their website to solicit feedback from saltwater anglers about their preferences for suggested regulation changes to recover the spotted seatrout population in Louisiana. Multiple options were proposed for changes in creel, minimum size, and/or slots to meet a goal of recovering population numbers within 5 years.



Nearly half of respondents reported that speckled trout fishing has gotten worse in their favorite/regular fishing spots and 90% reported concern about declines in specks. There is recognition among many recreational anglers that management and regulations should address the threat of declining numbers of speckled trout. LWF agrees with making a change.

Reports, surveys, and research can be found at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries website at:

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/spotted-seatROUT>. ■



LOUISIANA OUTDOORS FOREVER is a coalition of conservation groups and natural resource agencies committed to strengthening our statewide investment in water, wildlife, and land.

We are enhancing Louisiana's quality of life for generations to come!

Photo ©Credit: Gary Meyers

SEEKING PERMANENT FUNDING FOR LOUISIANA'S GREATEST HABITAT CONSERVATION NEEDS TO CONSERVE THE LOUISIANA OUTDOORS FOREVER

The Outdoor Conservation Study Group, created in House Concurrent Resolution 55 by the Louisiana Legislature, held its first meeting on October 6, 2021 to begin looking for unique opportunities to strengthen Louisiana's investment in conservation. The introductory meeting featured the appointment of Rep. Jerome Zeringue as chair of the group.

LWF Executive Director, Rebecca Triche, presented to the group along with Ed Penny, Public Policy Director for DU Southern Region detailing successful Louisiana conservation projects with valuable public benefits, the overwhelming support throughout the state for increasing efforts to protect our land, water and wildlife habitat and the importance of collaboration. They also provided examples from what other states are doing similarly.

The 16 member group is eager to begin assessing how Louisiana can better leverage available funding from private, state and federal funds to provide significant dollars for conservation in the state.

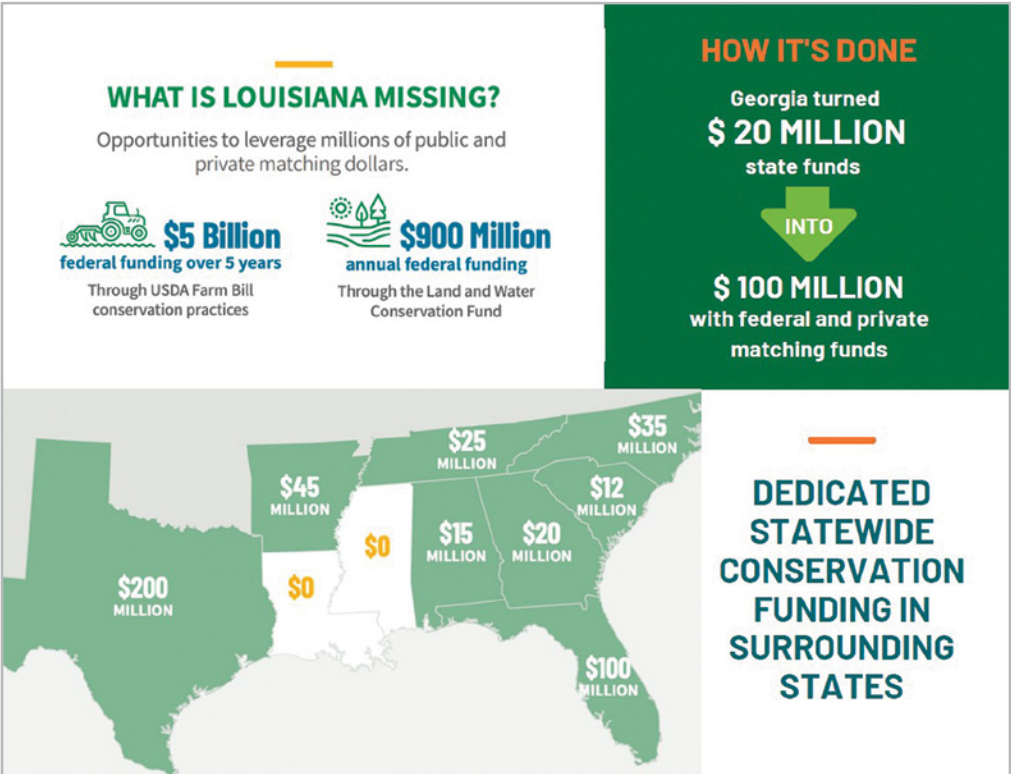
On November 3, the Outdoor Conservation Study Group convened for their second meeting. The conversation centered around potential priorities for Louisiana conservation funding and missed conservation opportunities for the state because of the lack of matching funding. Mark Lance of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation showcased the widespread support in other states, such as 88% of Texans and 83% of Georgians voting to support conservation funding for their state. He also detailed the benefits other states are experiencing due to their financial commitment to conservation.

Presentations from Lisa Creasman of The Nature Conservancy Louisiana, and Ray Herndon of The Conservation Fund, identified funding priorities of surrounding states and provided potential priorities for Louisiana, such as projects that have a public benefit, protect critical lands and support state fisheries. The meeting also included commentary from Study Group members about missed opportunities



to leverage federal dollars like the \$450 million in available funding through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

The Study Group will continue to meet to produce a final report of recommendations for the Louisiana Legislature to pursue. You can watch recordings and read documents at the Louisiana Outdoors Forever website: LouisianaOutdoorsForever.com. ■



CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM ON PAUSE

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the timeline for producing the annual Conservation Achievement Awards and a banquet to celebrate the recipients, LWF's Board of Directors decided to pause the program for another year. LWF hopes to continue the recognition of outstanding conservation work by people, businesses and organizations soon. We appreciate the support and interest in the program. It's an important part of what LWF has done for 50 years and a history of great achievement by Louisianians in the conservation and wise use of the public's resources. Please look for more information about resuming this program later in 2022. ■



Photo credit: Thomas J. Graner

HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS (JULY - DECEMBER 2021)

- In Honor of Charles Williams & Pattie Murray by Steven & Jeffrey Cohen-Williams
- In Honor of Amy and Bryan Hester by Susan Dunbar
- In Honor of Jon Soul by Michelle Everson
- In Honor of Jon Soul by Patrick Parker
- In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Svoboda by Alex Kufeldt
- In Memory of Donnie Roszell by Ryan Altendorf
- In Memory of Donnie Roszell by Allen Wiley
- In Memory of Wilfred McLellan by Christopher Brehm
- In Memory of Robert A. McClure by John McClure

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Since 1940, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation has worked to protect Louisiana's wildlife, habitat, water resources and your right to enjoy this Sportsman's Paradise. Including LWF in your estate planning is one of the most important ways you can protect our abundant natural resources and public access for future generations.

The benefits of planned giving are available at any income level and you don't have to be wealthy to participate.

For more information, call Rebecca Triche at LWF at 225-344-6707 or email rebecca@lawildlifefed.org



BUSINESS ALLIANCE PARTNERS

LWF offers opportunities to strengthen the connection between Louisiana business leaders and our natural resources stewards. Corporate support has been and always will be essential for the promotion and protection of our sportsman's paradise. Quality outdoor opportunities make Louisiana a desirable place to live and work, and adds to our economic well-being. Business Alliance members join other outdoor-oriented citizens who believe in constructive conservation and protection of our states natural resources. We would like to thank them for their support and belief in the mission of LWF.



Photo credit: Thomas J. Graner

Bald Cypress

Essential Federal Credit Union

Pecan

DRAX Biomass

Longleaf Pine

Crescent Midstream

If you own a business or know a business that might be interested in joining our Business Alliance, please contact Rebecca Triche at 225-344-6707 or lwf@lawildlifefed.org. More information found at lawildlifefed.org. ■



YOUR BANK FOR ALL SEASONS

As a member of Louisiana Wildlife Federation, you can become a member of Essential.





Photo credit: Jay Huner

WORKING WETLANDS, A SPECIAL KIND OF WILDLIFE HABITAT

Jay V. Huner, Louisiana Ecrevisse, Boyce, Louisiana

Envision a shallow impoundment working alive with stately pink, white, blue-green, gray, blue, and purple storks, egrets, herons, ibises, and spoonbills. Around their legs, all manner of shorebirds, including black and white Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets with their odd-shaped bills, dodge in and out. Pied-billed Grebes and gallinules can be seen here and there paddling about. Add whistling-ducks to the mix and, depending on the time of year, include teal, shovelers, and pintails. Suddenly birds flush and scatter and a Bald Eagle makes a pass seeking a meal.

I've just described what you can see beginning in June and continuing into September in working wetlands in south-central and southwestern Louisiana as crawfish ponds are being drained. These ponds provide a cornucopia of crawfish, large invertebrates, small fishes including black bullheads, green sunfish, carp, and minnows, tadpoles, and all manner of tiny invertebrates. There is food for all carnivorous and omnivorous water birds in the region.

Any check of Louisiana birding Facebook pages during this time frame will reveal striking images of beautiful water birds foraging in those ponds. Especially impressive are the huge Wood Storks with their outsized bills and equally spectacular are the beautiful pink Roseate Spoonbills with their spoon-shaped bills. Currently, resident Whooping Cranes occasionally appear in the photos. In fact, nesting pairs of the state's resident Whooping Crane flock often nest earlier in the spring in crawfish ponds!

Working wetlands are impoundments used to cultivate commercial crops. In Louisiana, the crops widely cultivated in these areas are rice and crawfish. The two crops are symbiotic and produced in the same impoundments with rice being a warm weather crop and crawfish being a cool weather crop.

Louisiana farmers have raised rice for well over a century but the modern crawfish industry is only about half a century old. Louisiana farmers currently raise about 480,000 acres of rice with about 250,000 acres of crawfish nested therein.

Crawfish can be cultivated in any shallow earthen impoundment. However, it is really convenient to grow them in rice fields because water is readily available from well or surface sources.

Adult brood crawfish are stocked into impoundments in late spring. They burrow into levees by early summer where they reproduce. Vegetation that grows in the impoundment during warm months provides the basis of the food web that feeds the young crawfish. Any vegetation will do but rice provides the best resource for crawfish production.

Rice and crawfish can be grown in the same impoundment from year to year. Rice grain may or may not be harvested. A problem, however, is that neither crop is optimized. In such systems, crawfish are normally not restocked because the crawfish that aren't harvested burrow and provide the next crop. A management problem normally arises in this scenario. Crawfish numbers can become so high that crawfish stunt and are less valuable. Crawfish growth is density dependent. High densities result in small crawfish.

Many farmers have adopted a practice of rotating rice and crawfish crops. Rice is planted in spring. Brood crawfish are stocked after rice is fully flooded. Rice is harvested and the impoundment is reflooded in fall for crawfish. Crawfish are harvested into the following late spring/early summer. Impoundments are drained any time between then and fall and prepared for rice planting the following spring. Crawfish are unable to establish perpetuating populations so densities remain low enough to ensure good commercial sizes and profitable harvests.

I emphasized crawfish pond draining as a time when as many as 70 water bird species can be recorded in the region. The beauty, however, of the rice-crawfish landscape is the presence of water and food resources for all water-oriented vertebrates, not just birds, is present year-round. Lowest water levels/availabilities are recorded in summer months with copious water available in winter months. This simulates the hydrology of the region when it was a landscape of endless prairies and slow-moving bayous.

Water birds are most concentrated when ponds are drained. At other times of year, flocks are generally more widely distributed but can still be found

in good numbers in impoundments where water is especially shallow and near roosting areas. Impressive flocks of waterfowl are often encountered in cold months and spring.

Do water birds cause crawfish production problems? Anecdotal observations suggest that this can be an issue during the harvest season especially when very large wading bird, especially ibis, gull, tern, American Coot, and American White Pelican flocks focus on ponds. The coots aren't generally considered to be crawfish predators but do destroy impoundment vegetation critical to generating successful crawfish crops.

A visit to southern Louisiana's working wetlands will provide visitors with excellent views of many water birds. In addition, the landscape harbors many other resident and migratory bird species including raptors and a potpourri of songbirds. ■



A COMMUNITY GUIDE TO COASTAL RESTORATION

GUIDE OFFERS INSIGHT INTO THE MANY PLAYERS OF COASTAL RESTORATION

The Community Guide to Coastal Restoration, released by the Restore the Mississippi River Delta, is a quick reference guide to help you better understand and navigate the web of entities, decision-makers, and funding sources involved in the restoration of our coast. It is available both online, and as a physical booklet.

Many in Louisiana are familiar with the land loss crisis the state is facing. We often hear of a football field of land being lost every 100 minutes. Such a significant challenge comes with many different solutions, which can quickly become confusing to anyone interested in supporting coastal restoration efforts. This guide serves as a valuable resource to the people wanting to know more about coastal restoration, those already engaged in advocacy efforts, and the decision-makers who represent us.

The guide is available online at mississippiriverdelta.org/handbook. You can also download the guide or request a physical copy on the website. ■



PLANT WITH A PURPOSE: GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE!

By Stacy Ortego, LWF Outreach Coordinator

If you've been wanting to start a wildlife-friendly garden, now is a great time! To help get you started, our friends at National Wildlife Federation now offer native plant collections. You can order bundles that are specifically curated to help Louisiana wildlife – and you can even choose collections specified for part sun or full sun (or a mix of both).

Current collections for Louisiana include:

- Butterfly Buffet (Part Sun/Part Shade), 3-Shrub Collection
- Monarch Munchables (Full Sun), 6- or 12-Plant Collection
- Pollinator Power (Part Shade), 6- or 12-Plant Collection

Grown sustainably just for Louisiana, these plants help bird by supplying insects needed to feed their young. Each collection supports many butterfly species, pollen specialist bees and other important pollinators and wildlife. All plants in these collections bloom across three seasons and return each year. Chemicals are not needed and they require less water once established.

These collections ship mid-March through December 1. Orders placed outside this time frame (pre-orders) will ship after the frost date for your zone. Order at gardenforwildlife.com.

While these collections offer a convenient way for you to get your wildlife garden started, we also need our local garden centers and nurseries to sell more native plants. If you visit your local nursery, be sure to ask about native plants and request more options native to your area.

Once you've set up your garden to provide food, water, cover and places to raise young, be sure to certify your garden as a Certified Wildlife Habitat! Learn more at nwf.org/certify. ■



TULANE RESEARCH SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS OF UTILIZING RIVER DIVERSIONS FOR RESTORATION AND REDUCTION OF BONNET CARRÉ SPILLWAY IMPACTS

By Stacy Ortego, LWF Outreach Coordinator

Promising research out of Tulane University has focused on the opportunity to use diversions to reduce impacts from opening the Bonnet Carré Spillway while also achieving restoration of vital wetlands in Louisiana.

The Bonnet Carré Spillway (BCS) is a flood-control structure for the Lower Mississippi River managed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). When opened, floodwaters make their way to the Gulf of Mexico via Lake Pontchartrain. Recently the BCS has been operated more often than it has been in previous decades. With this flood control, however, comes environmental impacts.

In 2020, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) and Tulane University led a study to examine the utility of three river diversions identified and defined in the State's 2017 Coastal Master Plan —Maurepas, Union, and Ama — to function as auxiliary flood control options with a goal of reducing the magnitude or duration of operating the BCS.

The results of the first phase of the study showed that when the Ama and Union diversions are operated jointly, the amount of water flowing through the BCS was reduced between 57-61% while the number of days opened reduced by 47 days.

The goal of the latest study, Utilizing Upper Diversions in River Water Management, was to develop a model to represent the effects of flooding, sediment transport, water quality effects, and salinity dynamics resulting from the operation of the Bonnet Carré Spillway. This model would serve as a critical predictive tool that can be utilized to answer restoration and flood management questions.

The study confirms what scientists have long believed — that using upper river diversions will reduce the magnitude and duration of spillway openings, which in turn will improve the effects on wildlife, seafood productions, coastal communities and economies.

“The results of this study are very promising,” said Meselhe, a professor in the Tulane Department of River-Coastal and Science Engineering who helped build numerical models used in Louisiana’s 2012 and 2017 Coastal Master Plan. “They show the opportunity to leverage these projects to benefit both Louisiana, through restoration and conservation of vital wetlands, and Mississippi, by limiting the flow of water through the Bonnet Carré Spillway and resulting increases in salinities across the Pontchartrain Basin and the Mississippi Coast.”



“As climate change delivers more water to our region, the results of this study highlight a viable win-win solution for both Louisiana and Mississippi,” said Environmental Defense Fund senior manager and scientist Devyani Kar. “Federal and state leaders have a tremendous opportunity to use projects like the Union and Ama Diversions to restore hundreds of thousands of acres of critical wetlands in Louisiana, while also reducing the impacts of the Bonnet Carré Spillway to our neighbors in Mississippi.”

The Union Diversion would divert freshwater into West Maurepas swamp near Burnside to provide sediment for emergent marsh creation and freshwater and fine sediment to sustain existing wetlands.

The Ama Diversion is a conceptual sediment diversion into Upper Barataria near Ama to provide sediment for emergent marsh creation and freshwater to sustain existing wetlands.

Both the Union and Ama diversion are in the State’s 2017 Coastal Master Plan. The Union Diversion is currently included in the Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority’s Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Plan; in this plan, funding is allocated for the planning phase of the project. The Ama Diversion, however, is still in the conceptual phase (it has not moved to the planning phase yet).

The River Reintroduction into Maurepas Swamp, which is also mentioned in Tulane’s study—is expected to begin construction in 2022. ■

LWF HELD 82ND CONVENTION VIRTUALLY ON AUGUST 21, 2021

LWF held its annual convention virtually in August. In addition to seeing friends and colleagues via our screens, affiliate leaders and board members heard updates from National Wildlife Federation and our affiliate organizations.

President Zac Burson, who “Zoomed” in from Haughton in Bossier Parish, presented this year’s President’s Cup to Charles “CR” Caillouet who joined from Bayou Manchac in Ascension Parish. CR is a past board member of LWF and continues to be active in our leadership. He helped us embrace use of Zoom to transition to virtual meetings over the past 18 months -- not only for board meetings, but supporting our



programming that has moved to a virtual format. In 2020 and 2021 he served as Chair of LWF's Education Committee, which is supporting the Edgar Veillon Conservation Leadership Corps. He made a special presentation to students and assisted all four sessions with valuable technical assistance. He's served on several LWF committees and continues to be active with Friends of the Atchafalaya. We appreciate his continued involvement in conservation and giving his time to LWF.

The following resolutions were adopted and can be found on LWF's website:

Resolution 1: Improving Forest Diversity and Wildlife Habitat Management Outcomes from the Forestry Productivity Program at Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

Summary: LWF encourages the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to promote a reforestation option that includes diversified species mimicking the natural forests that would occur on the particular terrain and soil types where trees were harvested. LWF also urges

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry to limit loblolly replanting to 70% of the expenditures from the Forest Productivity Program and the remainder reserved for mixed or diversified replanting. LWF would like to see more education and outreach for landowners about habitat diversity in forest replanting options that provide multiple benefits including economic.

Resolution 4: Support for the Migratory Bird Protection Act as a Tool for Strengthening the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Summary: LWF supports the Incidental Take Provision in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Resolution 5: Increasing Inadequate State Civil Restitution Penalties for the Shooting of Whooping Cranes in Louisiana

Summary: LWF supports rulemaking by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to raise the State civil restitution penalties for shooting a whooping crane to at least \$85,000 per bird.

Resolution 6: Seeking the Elimination of U.S. Department of Justice's McKittrick Policy

Summary: LWF seeks to have the current Administration issue an Executive Order to eliminate the McKittrick Policy in its entirety. The prospect of increased fines and jail time have been shown to be significant deterrents to future rule breaking but as observed in cases involving Whooping Crane shootings, small penalties have been sought and not maximum fines and penalties. Under the United States Department of Justice's McKittrick Policy, federal prosecutors are directed to request jury instructions with a heightened mens rea or intent requirement in all prosecutions for maximum penalties under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which runs contrary to the plain wording of the ESA as well as the rules promulgated under the authority of same. The McKittrick Policy was not formulated pursuant to statute, rule-making or judicial decision and therefore can be revoked simply by Executive Order. ■

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Mail payment with this completed form to:

Louisiana Wildlife Federation
P.O. Box 65239
Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5239

Or pay online at lawildlifefed.org

Louisiana Wildlife Federation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts. There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature—the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter.”

— Rachel Carson

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