

WHITE LAKE

WETLANDS CONSERVATION AREA

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 2026



Introduction



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WLWCA Map

- Approximately 7 miles south of Gueydan
- Vermilion Parish
- North of White Lake

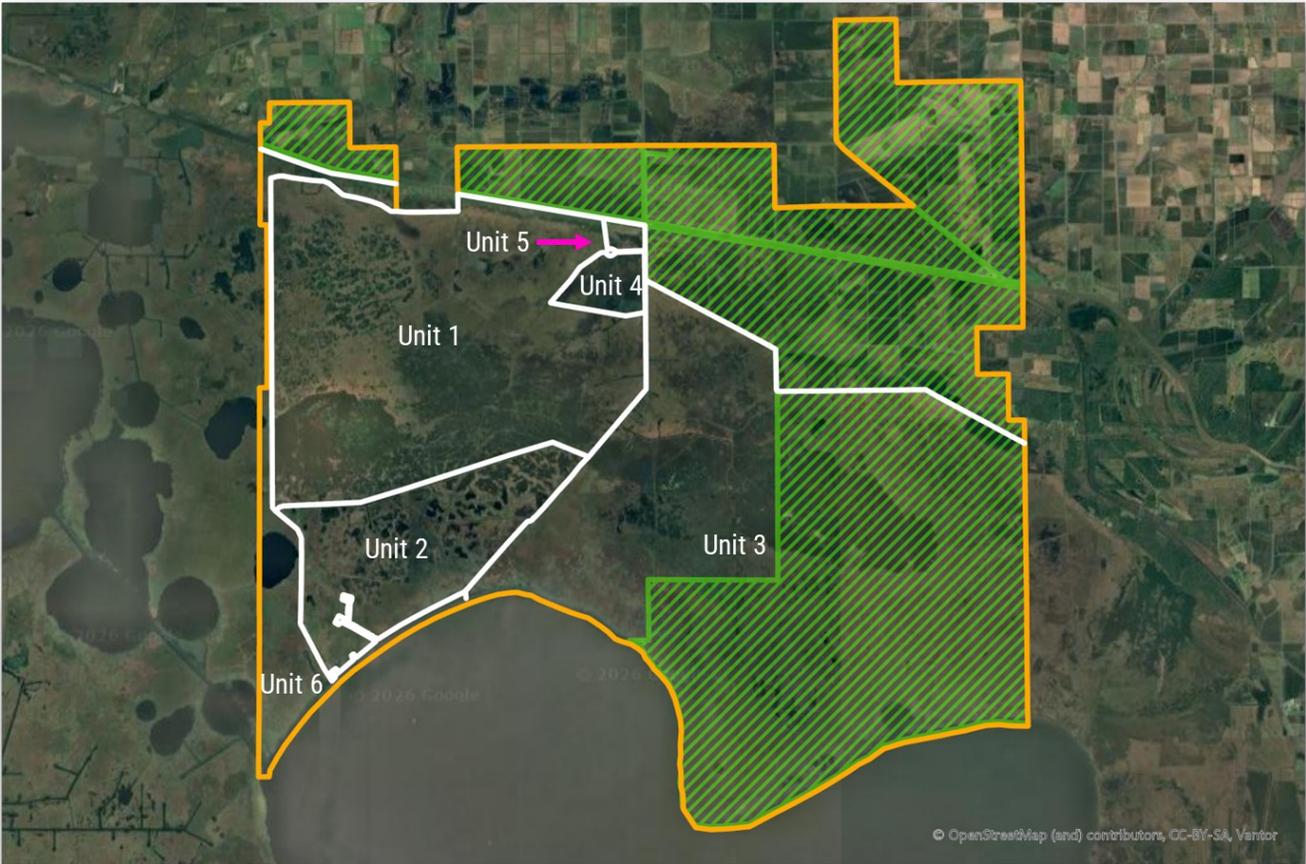


WLWCA Map



- WLWCA
- Management Units
- Leased Lands

0 1 2 Miles

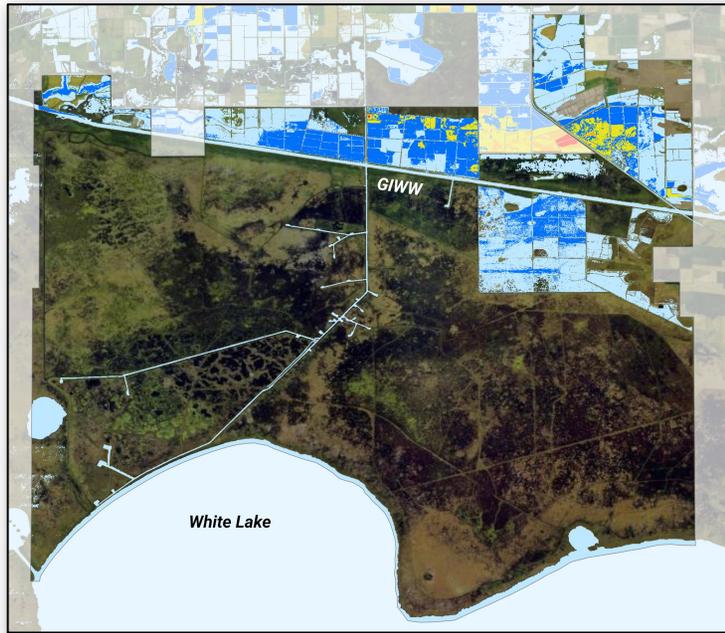


Why does WLWCA Need a Master Plan?

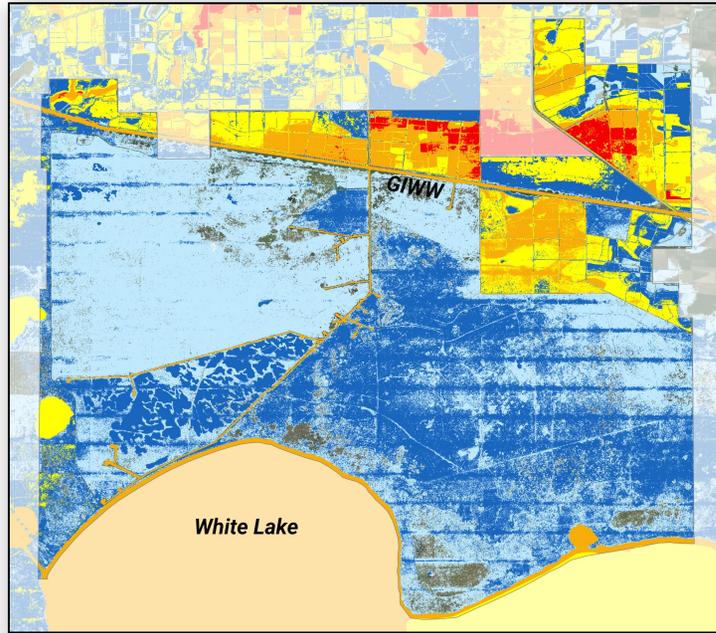
- Erosion of impoundment levees
- Unit 2 “Cadeau” marsh collapse
- More than 20 miles of GIWW shoreline unprotected
- Levee breaches along Unit 2, GIWW, and Florence Canal
- Intensive management of Unit 4 needed for whooping cranes
- Oil & Gas infrastructure creates obstacles to management
- Lodge in need of update and repairs



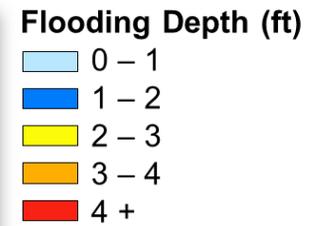
Estimated Flooding Scenarios



Average Conditions



Flooding Conditions



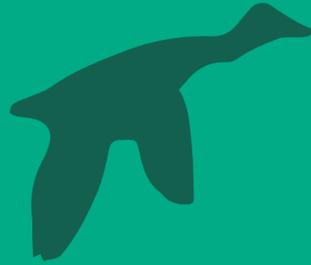
Master Plan Development



Master Plan's purpose is to protect and sustain critical freshwater marsh habitat that supports a wide array of native wildlife and provides a variety of public recreational opportunities.

- Collaborative effort between LDWF and CPRA
- Master Plan finalized Oct. 2025
- Includes priority projects and cost estimates





Timeline of Past Projects

2010-2011

Unit 4 Levee Restoration and Pump Upgrade



- LDWF/DU Partnership
- North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant

2013

GIWW 1.54 Miles of Rock Breakwater Constructed



- Ducks Unlimited
- \$2.1M from NAWCA, LDWF

2022

Unit 1 Water Control Structure Added



- LDWF/DU Partnership
- \$650K from multiple donors

2023

2024

Unit 2 Pump Engine Upgrade



- LDWF
- LA Waterfowl Working Group, \$200K

Unit 2 Levee Breach Repair



- LDWF/DU Cooperative Endeavor Agreement
- Multiple donors, \$533K

Island Building Roofs Replaced

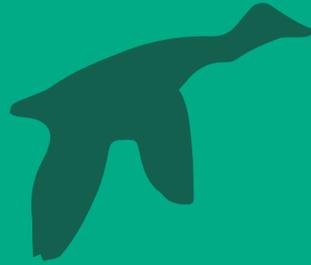


- Office of Facility Planning & Control (FP&C)
- FEMA funds

Guillotine Gate Replaced



- FP&C
- WL Conservation Fund, \$400K



Planning Context

Goals of Master Plan

1. Sustain and manage the high-quality, wetland habitats within the WLWCA
2. Maintain the wildlife associated with these wetlands
3. Preserve the agricultural presence on the leased properties
4. Generate self-sustaining revenue
5. Allow additional controlled public access
6. Host education and outreach opportunities
7. Support biological and ecological research



Outreach and Engagement



- Ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process
- Coordination and alignment with state and local leadership
- Public meeting held on August 19, 2025, with more than 100 attendees



Strategies

Four strategies recommended to achieve WLWCA goals



1. Implement Coastal Restoration Projects
2. Revitalize the Lodge and Island Facilities
3. Develop Revenue Generation Initiatives
4. Establish Partnerships for Long-Term Sustainability

Strategy 1: Implement Coastal Restoration Projects



1. GIWW Shoreline Protection

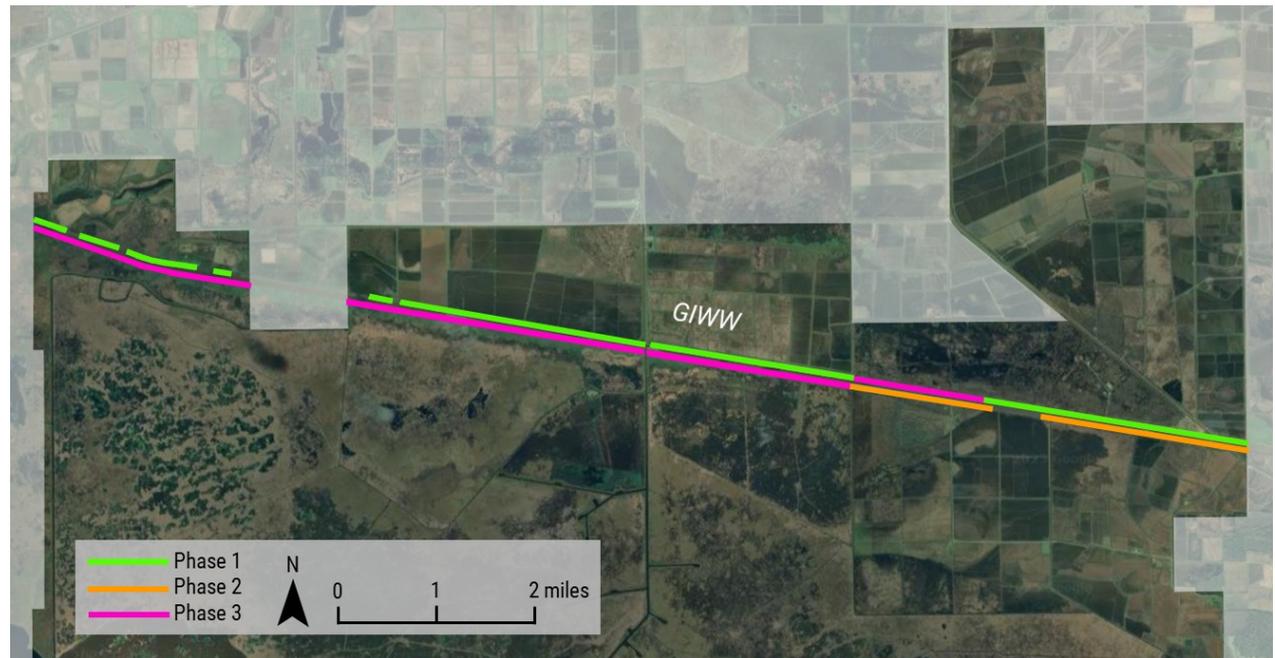
2. Unit 2 Impoundment – Levee Stabilization

3. White Lake North Shoreline Protection

1. Protecting the WLWCA shoreline along the GIWW

- More than 20 miles of rock breakwaters needed along the GIWW to protect the shoreline from erosion
- CPRA has already secured \$30 M in funding for E&D and Construction
- Project Under Way

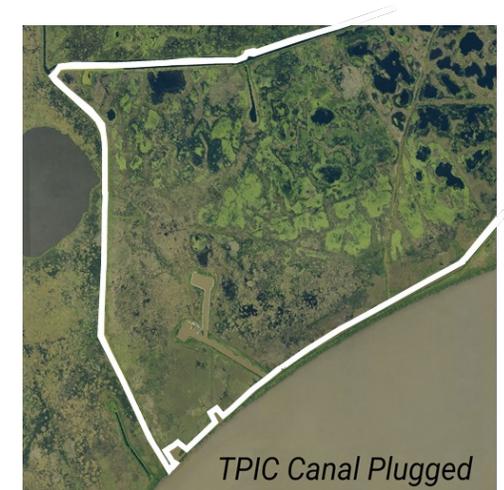
TOTAL COST:
\$120M - \$130M



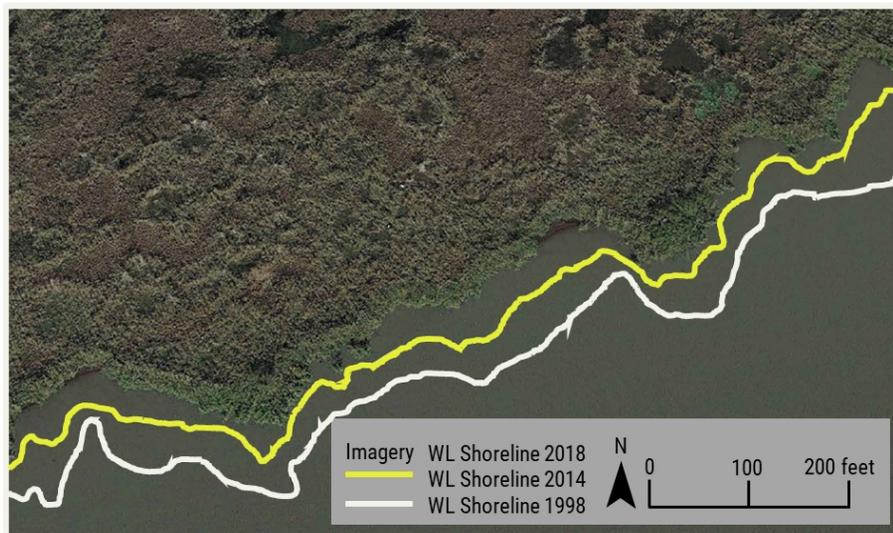
2. Repairing the Levees of Unit 2

- Lift, reinforce, and stabilize Unit 2 levee system to support habitat management
- Mitigate impacts from future tidal and storm surge impacts
- Potential bypass of existing oil/gas infrastructure
- CPRA has already secured funding for E&D
- Project Under Way

TOTAL COST:
\$30M - \$60+M



3. Protecting White Lake's Northern Shoreline



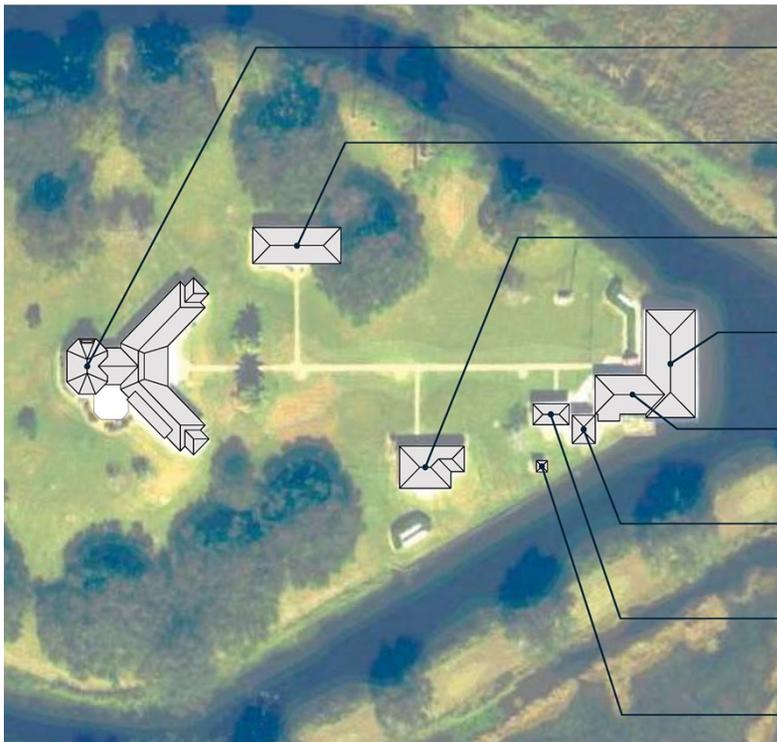
- Seven miles of rock breakwaters along the north shoreline to protect 61,000 acres of marsh from erosion.
- CPRA has already secured funding for E&D
- Project Under Way

TOTAL COST:
\$100M+

Schedule for Upcoming Design and Construction Efforts

PROJECT PHASE	START	FINISH
Project Feature Prioritization	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Final Project Feature Screening and Selection	Q4 2024	Q1 2025
Engineering & Design: GIWW	Q2 2025	Q1 2026
Engineering & Design: Unit 2 Levees	Q2 2025	Q4 2026
Conceptual Design: White Lake Shoreline	Q2 2025	Q2 2026
Bid Phase (GIWW Only)	Q2 2026	
Construction Start (GIWW Only)	Q3 2026	

Strategy 2: Revitalize the Lodge and Island Facilities



The Lodge

Guest Cottage

Staff Quarters

Dock

Boat House

Locker Room

Shed

Pergola

Strategy 2: Revitalize the Lodge and Island Facilities

- Originally constructed in the 1950s
- Maintained over the years
- Revitalization will allow the facilities to:
 - Meet the goals of the WLWCA
 - Fully realize their potential as revenue-generating assets
 - Serve as a powerful platform to showcase the WLWCA
- Only private dollars will be used to fund this effort



Strategy 2: Revitalize the Lodge and Island Facilities



A Revitalized lodge that provides:

- More Space for More People
- Conference / Meeting Rooms
- Modern Amenities
- A True Louisiana Experience!



Strategy 3: Develop Revenue Generation Initiatives

Increase Waterfowl Hunting:

- Guided Waterfowl Hunts

Offer the Louisiana Experience:

- Corporate events (i.e. meetings and retreats)



Strategy 4: Establish Partnerships for Long-Term Sustainability

- Governance transitioned from the White Lake Property Advisory Board to LDWF in 2016
- A new governance structure/partnership is needed to allow for private investment and increased revenue generation.
- Several governance structures as possible mechanisms are being investigated.

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View the WLWCA Master Plan:

<https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/page/white-lake-wetlands-conservation-area>

