

Louisiana's Natural & Scenic Rivers

OVERVIEW

THE LOUISIANA NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM is one of the nation's largest, oldest, most diverse and unique state river protection initiatives. It currently includes 52 streams, rivers, bayous, stream complexes and segments thereof, totaling over 1,700 miles in length. Additions or deletions to the Scenic River System are made by the Louisiana Legislature.

The system was proposed in the late 1960s and adopted in the early 1970s with the Louisiana Natural and Scenic River Act, which outlined requirements for a river to be included. It also established a regulatory program and empowered the Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) to administer the system through regulation and permits.

In 1978, the Legislature created a scenic river task force, mandated to update the Act, set policy and establish regulations for full implementation, and oversee planning for system management by the LDWF.

SENSITIVE ACTIVITIES

The following activities are prohibited, require a permit, or are exempted adjacent to or within 100 feet of the low-water mark of a state scenic stream:

Prohibited activities — Certain activities which drastically alter the natural and scenic qualities of streams in the system are *prohibited* by the State of Louisiana.

- Channelization
- Channel realignment
- Clearing and snagging
- Impoundments
- Commercial clearcutting within 100 feet of the low-water mark

Scenic River Permit Requirements

Activities requiring permit — Any other activity that may have a direct, significant ecological impact on the river must be permitted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. In addition, four other agencies — the Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, and the Office of State Planning — review permit applications. **Activities which must be permitted**, for example, include, but are not limited to:

- Bridge, pipeline and powerline crossings
- Bulkheads, piers, docks and ramps
- Waste water discharges
- Land development adjacent to the river
- Aerial application of pesticides and fertilizers to fields adjacent to scenic streams.
- Water withdrawals

Contact the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries for permitting information under the Louisiana Natural & Scenic Rivers System.

Activities exempted from regulation by the act — While clearcutting of trees for commercial purposes within 100 feet of the low water mark is prohibited, removal of a portion of the trees is allowed as follows:

- *Selective harvesting* — The selective harvesting of trees for commercial purposes is exempt under the following definition: the removal of trees, either as single scat-

tered individuals or in small groups at relatively short intervals, resulting in openings generally less in width than twice the height of the dominant trees. Repeated indefinitely, selective harvesting ensures the continuous establishment of reproduction, and an uneven aged stand adequate to encourage and maintain stream shading and stream bank integrity.”

- The cutting of trees for the control of disease or insects
- The harvesting of timber for personal use by the person who owns or leases the property

BMPs for Natural & Scenic Rivers

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING PERMIT

- Bridge, pipeline and powerline crossings
- Bulkheads, piers, docks and ramps
- Waste water discharges
- Land development adjacent to the river
- Aerial application of pesticides and fertilizers to fields adjacent to scenic streams.

ACTIVITIES REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF THE LOUISIANA OFFICE OF FORESTRY

- Selective harvest in 100 foot buffer
- Cutting trees for insect and / or disease control
- Harvesting trees for personal use

Permits are not required for harvesting trees adjacent to natural and scenic rivers, as outlined above, provided that *prior notification* is given to the Louisiana Office of Forestry.

Disposal of trees or tree tops into a Scenic River is a violation of both the State Water Pollution Control Act and the Scenic Rivers Act. The riparian landowner is liable for a violation of this nature regardless of who actually placed the trees or tops into the stream.

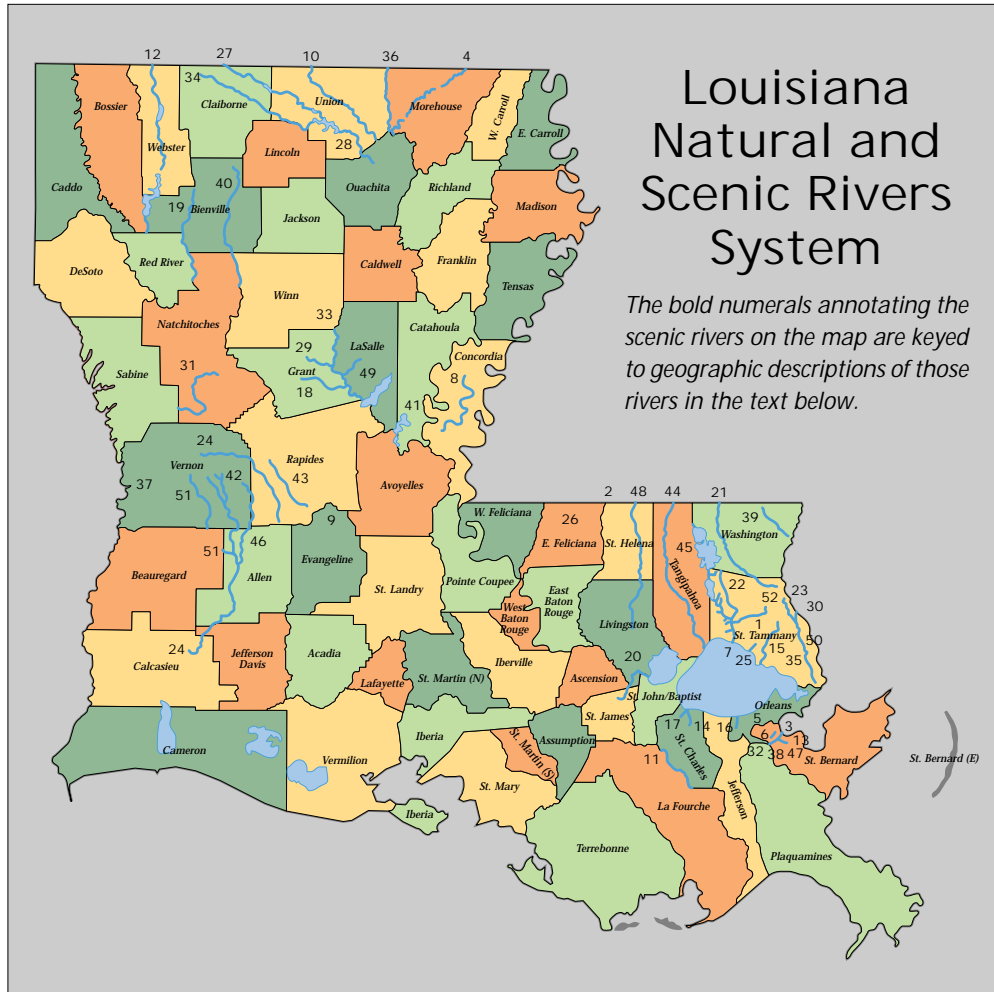
AVOID

PROHIBITED BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

- Channelization
- Channel realignment
- Clearing and snagging
- Impoundments
- Commercial clearcutting of timber within 100 feet of the low-water mark

Louisiana Natural and Scenic Rivers System

The bold numerals annotating the scenic rivers on the map are keyed to geographic descriptions of those rivers in the text below.



- 1. Abita River, St. Tammany** — From its headwaters to its entrance into the Bogue Falaya River.
- 2. Amite River, East Feliciana** — From the Mississippi state line to Louisiana Highway 37.
- 3. Bashman Bayou, St. Bernard** — From its origin to Bayou Dupre.
- 4. Bayou Bartholomew, Morehouse** — From the Louisiana-Arkansas state line to Dead Bayou.
- 5. Bayou Bienvenue, St. Bernard** — From Bayou Villere to Lake Borgne.
- 6. Bayou Chaperon, St. Bernard** — From its point of origin to its end.
- 7. Bayou Chinchuba, St. Tammany** — From the West Causeway approach south to Lake Pontchartrain.
- 8. Bayou Cocodrie, Concordia** — From Wild Cow Bayou to Little Cross Bayou.
- 9. Bayou Cocodrie, Rapides, Evangeline** — From U.S. Highway 167 to the Bayou Boeuf-Cocodrie Diversion Canal.
- 10. Bayou D' Loutre, Ouachita, Union** — From the Louisiana-Arkansas state line to its entrance into the Ouachita River.
- 11. Bayou Des Allemands, LaFourche, St. Charles** — From Lac Des Allemands to Lake Salvador.
- 12. Bayou Dorcheat, Webster** — From the Arkansas state line to its entrance into Lake Bistineau.
- 13. Bayou Dupre, St. Bernard** — From the Lake Borgne Canal to Terre Beau Bayou.
- 14. Bayou La Branche, St. Charles** — From its source to where it drains into Lake Pontchartrain.
- 15. Bayou La Combe, St. Tammany** — From its headwaters to Lake Pontchartrain.
- 16. Bayou St. John, Orleans** — From its point of origin to its entrance into Lake Pontchartrain.
- 17. Bayou Trepagnier, St. Charles** — From Norco to where it joins Bayou La Branche.
- 18. Big Creek, Grant** — From Highway 167 in Grant Parish to its entrance into Little River.

19. **Black Lake Bayou**, *Red River, Winn, Bienville* — From the Webster-Bienville Parish line to Black Lake in Natchitoches Parish.
20. **Blind River**, *St. James, Ascension, Livingston, St. John* — From its origin in St. James Parish to its entrance into Lake Maurepas.
21. **Bogue Chitto River**, *Washington, St. Tammany* — From the Louisiana-Mississippi state line to its entrance into the Pearl River Navigation Canal.
22. **Bogue Falaya River**, *St. Tammany* — The river from its headwaters to Louisiana Highway 437 in St. Tammany Parish.
23. **Bradley Slough (Bayou)**, *St. Tammany* — all of that portion of the slough lying within the boundaries of St. Tammany Parish.
24. **Calcasieu River**, *Vernon, Rapides* — From Louisiana Highway 8 east through Vernon Parish and all of that portion of said river lying within the boundaries of Rapides Parish.
Allen, Jefferson Davis, Calcasieu — From the mouth of the Whiskey Chitto River in Allen Parish, south through Jefferson Davis Parish, and to its intersection with the Ward Eight Park in Calcasieu Parish.
25. **Cane Bayou**, *St. Tammany* — From its headwaters to Lake Pontchartrain.
26. **Comite River**, *East Feliciana, East Baton Rouge* — From the Wilson-Clinton Highway in East Feliciana Parish to the entrance of White Bayou in East Baton Rouge Parish.
27. **Corney Bayou**, *Claiborne, Union* — From the Louisiana-Arkansas state line to Corney Lake and Corney Lake Dam to Lake D'Arbonne.
28. **D'Arbonne Bayou**, *Union, Ouachita* — From the Lake D'Arbonne Dam to its entrance into the Ouachita River.
29. **Fish Creek**, *Grant* — From its origin near Williana to its entrance into Little River.
30. **Holmes Bayou**, *St. Tammany* — All of that portion of the bayou lying within the boundaries of St. Tammany Parish.
31. **Kisatchie Bayou**, *Natchitoches* — From its entrance into Kisatchie National Forest to its entrance into Old River.
32. **Lake Borgne Canal (Violet Canal)**, *St. Bernard* — From the Forty Arpent Canal to Bayou Dupre.
33. **Little River**, *Rapides, Grant, Catahoula, LaSalle* — From the juncture of Dugdemona and Castor Creek to its entrance into Catahoula Lake.
34. **Middle Fork of Bayou D'Arbonne**, *Claiborne, Union* — From its origin near Louisiana Highway 2 Alternate to Lake D'Arbonne.
35. **Morgan River**, *St. Tammany* — From its juncture with the Porters River to its re-entry into the West Pearl River.
36. **Ouachita River**, *Morehouse, Union* — From the north bank of Bayou Bartholomew at its intersection with the Ouachita River to the Arkansas state line.
37. **Pearl Creek**, *Vernon* — From Louisiana Highway 111 to its entrance into Sabine River.
38. **Pirogue Bayou**, *St. Bernard* — From Bayou Dupre to New Canal.
39. **Pushpatapa Creek**, *Washington* — From East Fork and West Fork join near state line to where it breaks up prior to its entrance into the Pearl River.
40. **Saline Bayou**, *Bienville, Winn, Natchitoches* — From its origin near Arcadia Louisiana to Highway 156 in Winn Parish.
41. **Saline Bayou**, *Catahoula, LaSalle* — From Saline Lake to Larto Lake.
42. **Six Mile Creek**, *Allen, Vernon* — Includes the East & West Forks and beginning at the boundary of Fort Polk Military Reservation (Lookout Road) and extending south through Vernon and Allen Parishes to its entrance into Whiskey Chitto Creek.
43. **Spring Creek**, *Rapides* — From Otis to Cocodrie Lake in Rapides Parish.
44. **Tangipahoa River**, *Tangipahoa* — From the Mississippi-Louisiana state line to the I-12 crossing.
45. **Tchefuncte River and its Tributaries**, *Washington, Tangipahoa, St. Tammany* — From origin in Tangipahoa Parish to its juncture with the Bogue Falaya River, and from the Bogue Falaya River to Louisiana Highway 22, excluding any tributaries thereto from the Bogue Falaya south to Louisiana Highway 22.
46. **Ten Mile Creek**, *Rapides, Allen, Vernon* — From the boundary of Fort Polk Military Reservation (Lookout Road) through Vernon Parish and all of that portion of said creek lying within the boundaries of Rapides and Allen Parishes.
47. **Terre Beau Bayou**, *St. Bernard* — From Bayou Dupre to the New Canal.
48. **Tickfaw River**, *St. Helena* — From the Louisiana-Mississippi state line to Louisiana Highway 42.
49. **Trout Creek**, *LaSalle* — From its origin near Highway 8 to its entrance into Little River.
50. **West Pearl River**, *St. Tammany* — From the confluence of Wilson and Bradley Sloughs to its entrance into Lake Borgne.
51. **Whiskey Chitto Creek**, *Vernon* — From the boundary of Fort Polk Military Reservation (Lookout Road) to the Vernon-Beauregard Parish line. *Allen* — From the Beauregard Parish line to its entrance into the Calcasieu River.
52. **Wilson Slough (Bayou)**, *St. Tammany* — All of that portion of the slough lying within the boundaries of St. Tammany Parish.

Louisiana's Natural & Scenic Rivers

NOTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL HARVESTING

**LOUISIANA OFFICE OF FORESTRY (LOF)
NOTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL HARVESTING
ADJACENT TO NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVERS**

A. Date LOF notified _____

B. Name of designated natural or scenic river _____

C. Landowner _____

D. Location:

Parish _____ Section _____

Township _____ Range _____

E. Estimated date operation will begin _____

F. Estimated date operation will end _____

G. Person notifying LOF: 1. Name _____

2. Phone No. _____

H. LOF person receiving notice _____

I. Inspecting forester _____

J. Date inspected _____

K. Retain this form in district office files and send copy to:

Scenic River Coordinator
Department of Wildlife & Fisheries
P. O. Box 98000
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Chief, Forest Management
LA Office of Forestry
P. O. Box 1628
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-1628