

Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Agencies: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Citation: [16 U.S.C. §§ 3951 et seq.](#)

Enacted as: the “Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act”, on November 29, 1990 as Title III of P.L. 101-646

Summary:

The [Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, \(CWPPRA\)](#) enacted as Title III of Public Law 101-646, is designed to identify, prepare, and fund construction of coastal wetlands restoration projects. The CWPPRA established the [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program](#), through which the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) provides matching grants to states for the acquisition, restoration, management, or enhancement of coastal wetlands. The CWPPRA also establishes a role for the FWS in interagency wetlands restoration and conservation planning in [Louisiana](#).

Typically, between \$13 million and \$17 million in grants are awarded annually to coastal states through a nationwide competitive process. Funding for the program comes from excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat and small engine fuels. States provide 50 percent of the total costs of a project. However, if the state has established and maintains a special fund for acquiring coastal wetlands, other natural areas or open spaces, the federal share can be increased to 75 percent. Territories and Commonwealths are not required to share the costs of projects except for Puerto Rico. Grants awarded under the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program cannot exceed \$1 million for an individual project.

Projects are selected based on ranking factors contained in [Title 50, Part 84 of the Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#). The CWPPRA provides that projects will be given priority if they are:

- Consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan.
- Located in states with dedicated land acquisition programs.
- Located in maritime forests on coastal barrier islands.

Additional ranking factors developed by the FWS include giving credit to projects that provide benefits to threatened and endangered species, promote partnerships, and support conservation and recovery programs. The program will not provide grants to support planning, research, monitoring activities, or construction or repair of structures for recreational purposes.

Source: <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/CoastalGrants/>

Information last updated: September 20, 2012