



Quin Kinler, Resource Conservationist, Baton Rouge Water Resources Planning Staff  
Quin develops and coordinates coastal wetland conservation projects.

## NRCS' Role in Coastal Wetland Conservation



Michael Trusclair, District Conservationist, Boutte Field Office  
Michael works with individual landowners in coastal areas to develop coastal wetland conservation plans.

Barataria Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project—Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

### Louisiana's Coastal Wetland Losses

Since the 1930's, one million acres of Louisiana's coastal wetlands have been lost to open water. This loss has been primarily attributed to changes in the amount of sediment available to build and maintain our coastal wetlands, construction of

canals in wetland areas, wave erosion, and subsidence. Eighty percent of Louisiana's coastal wetlands are privately owned, and this loss of coastal wetlands has meant that farms, ranches, and communities have disappeared into open water, and lives have been changed forever.

*"We draw the line in the sand."*

Melvin Rodrigue  
NRCS Civil Engineering Technician  
From a Barataria Landbridge construction project.



Coastal wetland areas are so fragile that wave action alone causes large pieces of the shoreline to erode every day.

### Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)

The CWPPRA Task Force is composed of the State of Louisiana and five federal agencies: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, NOAA-National Marine Fisheries Service, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Through CWPPRA, there are currently 189 total projects authorized. Of those 189, NRCS is the federal sponsor for 63. Out of the 88 projects completed to date, NRCS has completed 40 of those valued at \$314,244,487. The total acreage affected by NRCS sponsored projects is 300,519 acres.



Eroding shoreline of Bayou Rigolettes—Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

*"Where I am standing today—may not be here tomorrow."*

Quin Kinler  
Resource Conservationist  
From the banks of Bayou Rigolettes



Melvin Rodrigue, Civil Engineering Technician, Thibodaux Watershed Office  
Melvin inspects construction of coastal wetlands conservation projects.

Since its beginning as the Soil Conservation Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has worked side-by-side with private landowners to stem the loss of Louisiana's coastal wetlands.

Today, NRCS works in a successful collaborative process with four other federal agencies and the State of Louisiana to conserve and protect Louisiana's

coastal wetlands—the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force. CWPPRA has proven to be an exemplary model of success on many levels—interagency coordination, grassroots involvement, speed of project implementation, and project success. NRCS has impacted over 300,000 acres of coastal wetlands through completion of 40 CWPPRA projects.

Today's team of NRCS coastal conservationists have boats for offices. They work with private landowners to identify wetland conservation projects, collaborate with other agencies to design and implement conservation measures, stand watch as projects are constructed, and monitor completed projects. "We draw the line in the sand," said Melvin Rodrigue, NRCS Civil Engineering Technician.

For more information on coastal wetland conservation and CWPPRA, visit: [www.lacoast.gov](http://www.lacoast.gov)



Coastal restoration projects utilize a variety of restoration techniques. One technique is shoreline protection. Eroding shorelines are protected by buttressing the land with rock berms, concrete, vegetative plantings, or by diffusing wave energy in front of the shore using breakwaters and/or fences.

Barataria Landbridge Shoreline Protection Project—Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

## Private Landowners Local, State, and Federal Partners Conservationists