



LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE

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NOAA RESTORE Science Program Awards Grant to Team of Louisiana Researchers

*Louisiana project team to study cost-benefit framework for watershed
management within the state*

BATON ROUGE, La. - A collective of Louisiana researchers were one of 20 teams across the country to be awarded a grant as a part of the NOAA RESTORE Science Program, the organization announced on Tuesday, Sept. 14. The funding goes towards a study to help develop a cost-benefit framework for watershed management in the state.

A total of \$2.3 million in grant awards was distributed to the 20 teams. A group led by lead investigator and Louisiana Watershed Initiative (LWI) coordinator for Region 7 Rachelle Sanderson was awarded \$115,482 for the project study that begins this month and runs until August 2022.

“The NOAA RESTORE Science Program aims to fund research that reduces the uncertainty around the management of natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico region,” said Julien Lartigue, director of the Science Program. “The team of resource managers and researchers that Ms. Sanderson has assembled will develop a cost-benefit approach that will inform the selection of watershed management projects within Region 7 in Louisiana as the state takes a comprehensive and coordinated approach to reducing flood risk. The team submitted a competitive proposal, and we are looking forward to working with them on this award.”

Along with Sanderson, the team represents both the professional and academic realms, including Thomas Douthat and Jerrod Penn from the LSU College of the Coast & Environment and the LSU Agricultural Center, respectively, Brady Skaggs and Ridgely Meyers from Pontchartrain Conservancy, as well as

Louisiana's Office of Community Development and Department of Environmental Quality.

The project was proposed to assist with helping inform future project selection within the scope of the LWI, and reduce uncertainties during LWI project selection. The team will also identify data, resources, and other information that may inform the integration of this cost-benefit tool into management.

The team aims to organize a series of planning workshops with natural resource managers and other stakeholders to inform watershed management. Research and development and implementation plans will be composed from workshop discussions, coinciding with the third round of watershed projects that could be up for selection in 2026.

For more information on Region 7 of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, visit www.crpcla.org.

About Louisiana Watershed Initiative

Gov. John Bel Edwards established the Council on Watershed Management in 2018, which serves as the coordinated, inter-agency organization at the state level for watershed-based flood risk reduction. The Louisiana Watershed Initiative serves as the Council's programmatic arm under which all related efforts operate. Visit watershed.la.gov for more information.

About the LSU College of the Coast & Environment

With a coastal legacy dating back three-quarters of a century, LSU's College of the Coast & Environment (CC&E) is at the forefront of today's most pressing coastal and environmental issues. The college equips graduates with the multidisciplinary tools needed to address real-world coastal and environmental challenges. Our global research leads to a better understanding of the causes and impacts (unanticipated, forecasted, and actual) of these challenges and advances restoration strategies. Visit lsu.edu/cce for more.