

Stop the Attack on the Clean Water Rule

Protect Louisiana's Drinking Water

The Clean Water Rule was recently finalized by the Obama administration after years of planning, 400 stakeholder meetings, and more than a million public comments. It safeguards our water and restores protections to the drinking water sources for 1 in 3 Americans. This includes the drinking water for 2 in every 5 Louisiana residents. **The Clean Water Rule is a strong, commonsense policy that makes clean water a priority throughout the nation.** If Congress blocks the Clean Water Rule, at least 38% of Louisiana's stream miles and millions of acres of wetlands nationwide will again be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Blocking this rule would imperil drinking water sources, as well as the small businesses and communities that rely on clean water.

Harrell Lake near Union Parish, LA



Credit: flinchlake2000 on flickr

- **Over 40% of Louisianans** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams that are protected by the Clean Water Rule.
- **Protections were restored to 1,163 miles of streams** that feed into Louisiana's drinking water sources.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are safeguarded.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **The Clean Water Rule restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the rule will provide at least \$339 million and up to \$572 million annually in benefits to the public, including reducing flooding, filtering pollution, providing wildlife habitat, supporting hunting and fishing, and recharging groundwater.
- **Protecting small streams and wetlands supports fish and wildlife and Louisiana's vibrant recreational industry.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that in 2011, \$2.2 billion was spent on wildlife recreation in Louisiana, including \$807 million on fishing, and more than 1.7 million people participated in these recreational activities throughout the state.
- **Louisiana's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Louisiana breweries contribute \$462 million to our economy every year and support more than 3,800 jobs.

Louisiana Clean Water Rule Supporters

- **More than 3,100 Louisianans, out of more than 800,000 Americans, support the rule.**
- Groups like the Louisiana Environmental Action Network, Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, Mossville Environmental Action Now, and National Religion Partnership support protections for clean water.
- Louisiana joined 34 other states in 2006 to urge the Supreme Court to uphold strong federal clean water protections and in 2003 the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries submitted comments opposing Bush administration efforts to roll back protections for small streams and wetlands.
- Recent polling shows that 79% of Americans want Congress to let EPA implement the Rule.

For more information please visit www.protectcleanwater.org