

Stop the Attack on Louisiana's Drinking Water

Stop the attacks on America's drinking water. 1 in 3 Americans' drinking water sources are at risk now. That includes the drinking water for 2 in every 5 Louisianans. **The Administration has a strong, commonsense plan to make clean water a priority by protecting the sources that feed the drinking water for more than 117 million Americans, including 1.9 million Louisianans.** If Congress blocks the proposal to protect clean water, at least 38% of Louisiana's streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide will continue to be at risk from pollution and destruction from development, oil and gas production, and other industrial activities. Stopping this proposal imperils 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](#)

- **40% of Louisianans – about 2 out of 5 residents –** get their drinking water from sources that rely on small streams currently vulnerable to pollution.
- **1,163 miles of streams** that feed into Louisiana's drinking water sources are at risk. The Clean Water Rule would clarify protections for 26% of the stream miles in LA's Source Water Protection Areas, including intermittent, ephemeral, and headwater streams.
- **Thousands of acres of wetlands** that provide flood protection, recharge groundwater supplies, filter pollution, and provide essential wildlife habitat are at risk.

Rule Provides More Economic Benefits than Costs

- **This commonsense proposal restores, but does not expand, the historic coverage of the Clean Water Act.** EPA estimates that the proposed rule would provide **\$388 million to \$514 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 in Louisiana.
- **Louisiana's thriving brewing industry relies on clean water.** Louisiana breweries contribute \$460 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, expressed support for 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.

For more information, please visit protectcleanwater.org.