

Amendment (1)
Louisiana's "Assessment of Needs"

In 2010, Louisiana amended its existing Forest Legacy "Assessment of Needs" by adding 2 new Forest Legacy Areas (FLAs) to the existing Legacy Area in the state. These new areas will be called the Northwestern Louisiana Forest Legacy Area and the CENLA Forest Legacy Area. The original AON for Louisiana has only one Legacy area in the southeastern corner of the state and this has restricted us in finding suitable tracts of land for consideration into the Forest Legacy Program. Additionally, this has hindered Louisiana from protecting, other important and significant natural resources within the state.

Our state Forest Stewardship Committee has met and reviewed the new areas, and it was unanimously agreed that these areas should be added to the program. The addition of these new areas will allow us to expand our opportunities for land acquisitions through the Forest Legacy Program and to better meet the state's goals in protecting and maintaining important tracts of land preventing forest fragmentation, wildlife habitat, and water resources.

Four criteria were used in determining the eligibility of these new Legacy areas. They are large contiguous blocks of productive forest land, watershed protection, wildlife habitat protection, and degree of threat from development. These are the same criteria as outlined in Louisiana's AON. Below are descriptions, maps, and the GIS data for each new area.

Central Louisiana Forest Legacy Area

CENLA

The CENLA Forest Legacy area is located in the west gulf coastal plain of Louisiana. It encompasses 2,100,000 acres and is encompassed within four parishes. The city of Alexandria and surrounding areas have seen extensive growth over the last five years due to hurricane Katrina and many forested areas are in danger of development and fragmentation.

Some of the best remaining longleaf pine habitats in the Southeast are to be found in the Louisiana portion of the West Gulf Coastal plain. This ecoregion supports many rare species of plants and animals, some found nowhere else. Perhaps the most distinctive rare animal in this ecoregion is the state endemic Louisiana Pearlshell mussel, a threatened species found only in a few small sandy streams in central Louisiana. The best known rare animal in the region is the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, which reaches its greatest abundance in longleaf pine regions throughout the southeast. Additionally, globally-rare animals associated with longleaf pine, include Bachman's Sparrow, Louisiana pine snake, and Kisatchie salamander.

The longleaf pine ecosystem is of conservation concern due to excessive habitat loss and the fact that an abundance of species occur exclusively or predominately in these habitats. Long separated from their eastern counterparts by the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain, longleaf pine habitats of west Louisiana and east Texas are significantly different in species composition from eastern example of longleaf pine habitats.

The Red River watershed runs through this area and is the main source of water for Alexandria and surrounding communities. Long term protection of this watershed and surrounding forests is a top priority for the long term protection of Louisiana's citizens and wildlife.

Based on these and other factors, this area is considered a valuable asset to Louisiana and is a prime area for the Louisiana's Forest Legacy Program.

Northwest Louisiana Forest Legacy (FLA)

This area includes all of three parishes: Caddo, Bossier, and Webster. The selection was based on the same criteria as the “Florida Parishes” Legacy Area.

This area has traditionally been forested and encompasses approximately 1,550,000 acres. However, these forested areas are being threatened by the rapid growth of the Shreveport/Bossier metropolitan areas.

The area consists of softwood and hardwood species with numerous water bodies including lakes, rivers, and streams. This area is comprised within the “Upper West Gulf Coastal Plain” ecoregion and is composed of three general soil types including the Pleistocene Terraces, Holocene Alluvium, and the Paleocene/Eocene.

The Louisiana Natural Heritage program estimates that less than 10% of the original shortleaf pine/hardwood forest remains today. Shortleaf pine habitats were greatly influenced by periodic fire. Due to fragmentation of landscape, change in land use and active fire suppression, many sites that were formerly open woodlands with a rich understory and ground layer have undergone significant changes in plant species composition and have often become closed-canopy forests lacking many of the plant species that require a high degree of exposure to sunlight.

Four distinct prairie types are known in this region, including morse clay calcareous prairie, which is considered globally endangered. Unusual upland forest include calcareous forest and western xeric sandhill woodland, the latter considered globally threatened. Thirty species of plants found in this region are considered globally rare, threatened or endangered; ten are found nowhere else in Louisiana. Some of the rare plants include slender blazing

star, Texas trillium, Louisiana bluestar, yellow ladies, slipper orchid, Arkansas oak, and scarlet catchfly.

Twenty-four species of animals found in this region are considered globally rare, threatened or endangered: six are found nowhere else in Louisiana. Some of the rare animals include the pink mucket mussel, several Schoolhouse Springs insect, bluehead shiner, western sand darter, interior least tern, red-cockaded woodpecker, and Bachman's sparrow.

Based on these factors and others, this area is considered a valuable asset to Louisiana and is a prime area for the Forest Legacy Program.

Louisiana Legacy Areas

Legend

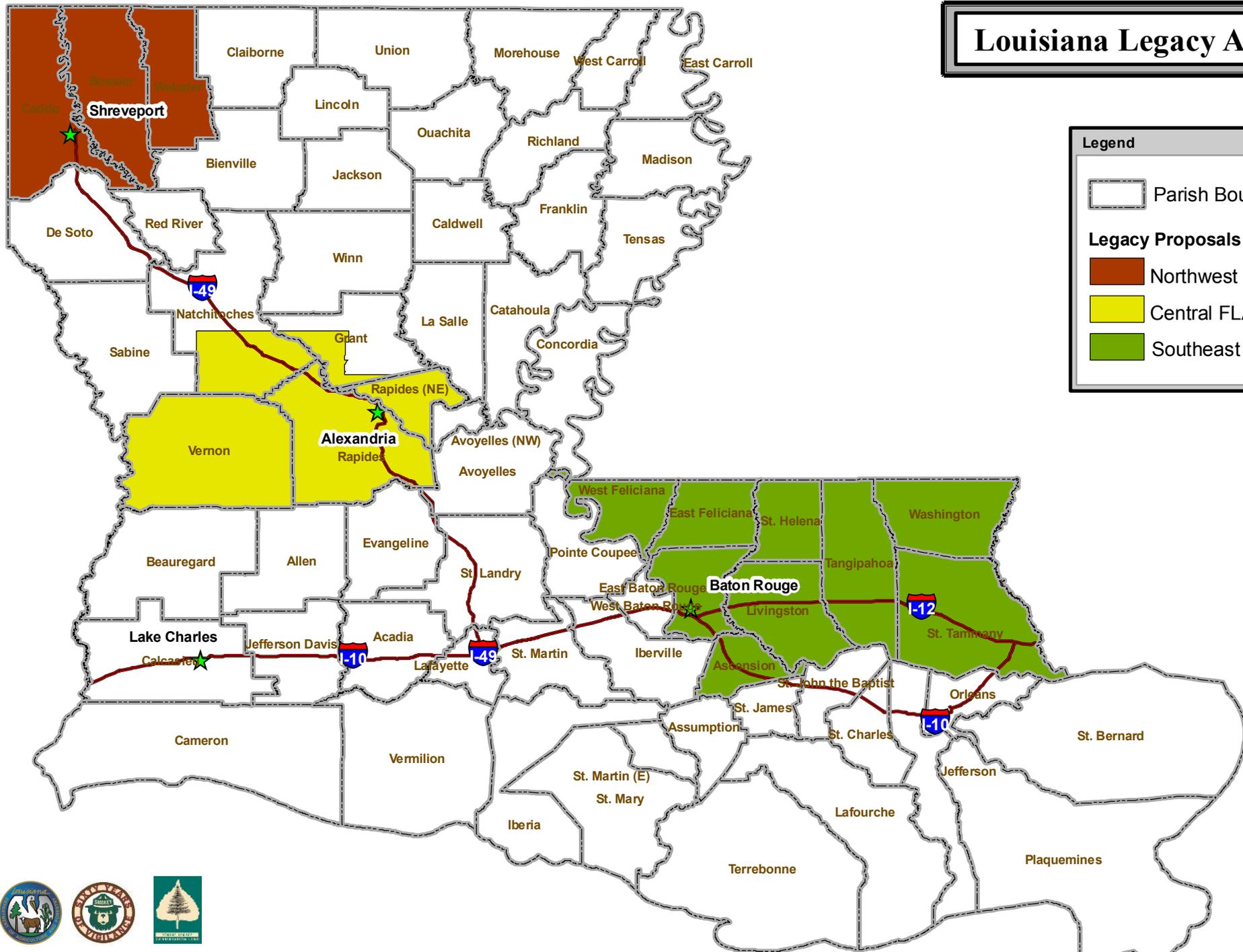
 Parish Boundary

Legacy Proposals

 Northwest FLA

 Central FLA

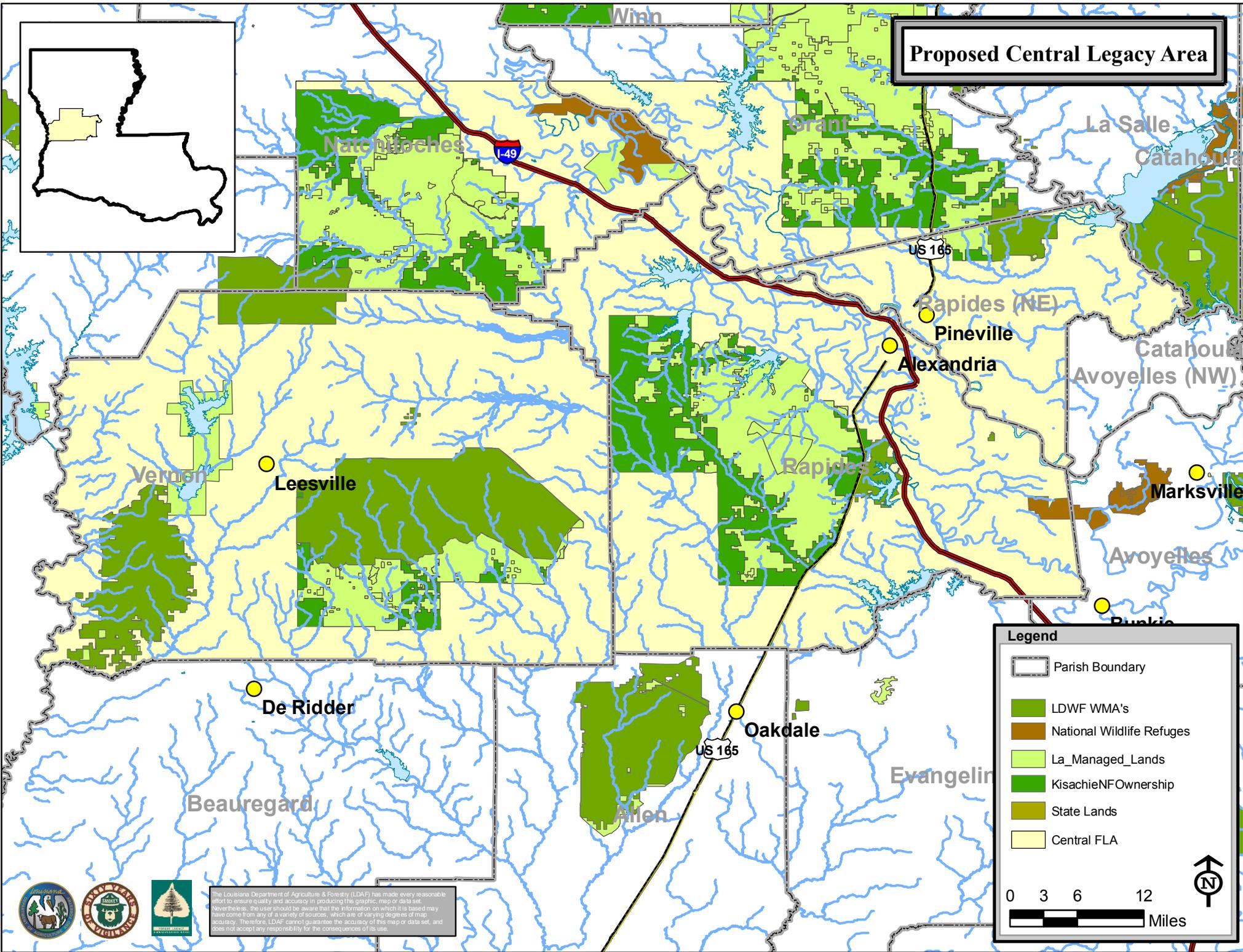
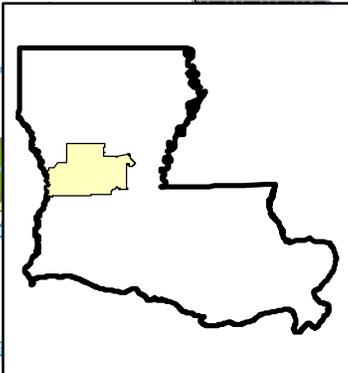
 Southeast FLA



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Proposed Central Legacy Area



Legend

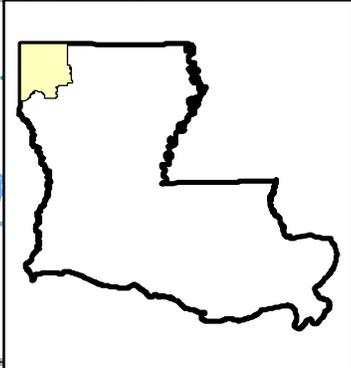
- Parish Boundary
- LDWF WMA's
- National Wildlife Refuges
- La_Managed_Lands
- KisachieNFOwnership
- State Lands
- Central FLA

0 3 6 12 Miles

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Proposed NW Legacy Area



Legend

- Parish Boundary
- LDWF WMA's
- National Wildlife Refuges
- La_Managed_Lands
- KisachieNFOwnership
- State Lands
- Northwest FLA

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

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