

STATE OF LOUISIANA
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
BATON ROUGE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EWE 92 - 9

- WHEREAS, Louisiana loses an average of sixty square miles of coastal marshes and ninety square miles of forested wetlands each year; and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana originally had 15.3 million acres of wetlands which have been reduced to 7.8 million acres, (2.8 coastal, 5 forest wetland); and
- WHEREAS, Louisiana contains 25% of all United States wetlands and that wetland loss is recognized both nationally and statewide as a significant crisis which must be addressed; and
- WHEREAS, countless wildlife including migratory waterfowl depend on Louisiana's coastal and forested wetlands for their existence, as well as, the environmental quality of Louisiana's air and water depend on these wetlands; and
- WHEREAS, the recreational and economic importance of both the coastal marshes and the forested wetlands of Louisiana cannot be replaced; and
- WHEREAS, an important component of protection of the most critical wetlands will be direct acquisition by the state; and
- WHEREAS, there is a need to identify funding sources for an active state land acquisition program; and
- WHEREAS, The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is the lead agency of the State of Louisiana for the state's wildlife and habitat protection program.

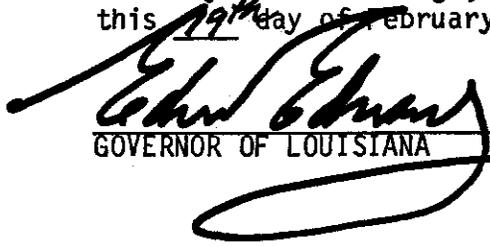
NOW THEREFORE I, EDWIN W. EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct that a Land Acquisition Task Force be established as follows:

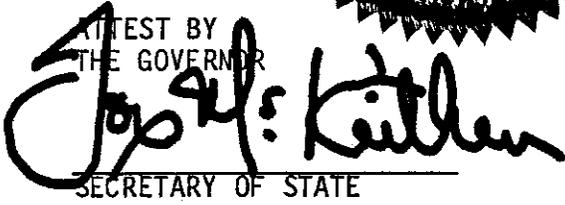
- SECTION 1: The Land Acquisition Task Force shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Director of the Office of State Parks, a representative of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, a representative of the Louisiana Nature Conservancy, the Commissioner of Administration, a representative of the Sierra Club, one State Representative appointed by the Governor, one State Senator appointed by the Governor, two representatives of the Governor's Office, two members of the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission appointed by the Governor, four members at large appointed by the Governor, or any of their designees. The Governor shall appoint the chairman and vice-chairman.
- SECTION 2: The Land Acquisition Task Force shall convene and meet at the instance of the Chairman and shall make an initial report to the Governor by September 1, 1992.
- SECTION 3: The Land Acquisition Task Force shall be charged with responsibility of developing a comprehensive state plan for funding the acquisition of Louisiana's critical natural habitats as identified by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. This comprehensive plan may include any number of

funding mechanisms which would be appropriate in acquiring those critical natural habitats identified by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for conservation of the state's extensive and critical natural resources.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 19th day of February, 1992.


GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY
THE GOVERNOR

SECRETARY OF STATE