

## Annual Priority Project List (PPL) Selection

Each year in January, a new PPL selection process begins with solicitation to the CWPPRA agencies, public, parish governments or other institutions to nominate projects. Project nominations are proposed at Regional Planning Team (RPT) meetings in which background technical information is provided to the public.



The “nominee projects” are screened by the CWPPRA workgroups and a set of “candidate projects” are chosen by the Technical Committee for more detailed evaluation. The Task Force pre-determines the number of candidate projects to be selected for evaluation for each PPL cycle. A wetland value assessment (WVA) is conducted on each candidate project to predict the new habitat benefit over the 20 year project life.

Preliminary cost estimates are also generated for all candidate projects. Due to insufficient funding to construct all projects, in recent years, a prioritization scoring system has been developed to aid in the selection of projects. This scoring emphasizes cost effectiveness, sustainability, compatibility with regional restoration planning and other factors.

The results of the detailed evaluations, prioritization and cost estimates are presented at the PPL Public Comment meeting in November. The public is allowed to comment on the project evaluations and their project preferences before the Task Force makes a final selection of projects. The final Task Force selection occurs in January, completing the PPL selection cycle. The selected projects are assigned a lead Federal agency which has primary project management responsibility of the project through construction. An annual report is generated for each PPL cycle detailing the nominated projects, the evaluation of candidate projects, and the final selected PPL projects.

Since the implementation of a cash flow authorization process, selected PPL projects are only authorized for Phase I (design) funding. Phase I funding authorization typically occurs at the January Task Force meeting. Once a project completes Phase I, Phase II (construction) funding must be requested from the Task Force and much of the evaluation is redone using additional information gained since original analysis. Phase II funding is typically requested and approved at the January Task Force meeting.