
Office of Legislative Auditor

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Informational Report: Potential Duplication With State Recreational Areas

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About This Informational Report

Louisiana Revised Statute 24:522(C) requires the Louisiana Legislative Auditor (LLA) to evaluate programs and services of state government agencies and identify areas needing improvement. In the last regular session, the legislature formed the Commission on Streamlining Government (Commission), and the LLA has been assigned to assist the Commission. One of the topics the Commission is focusing on is duplication of services provided by two or more programs.

To assist the Commission, we will report on areas of potential duplication by two or more agencies in delivering services. We defined duplication as identical or similar activities performed by more than one agency leading to accomplishment of the same or similar goal. We will issue individual reports addressing different areas of duplication.

To be responsive in a timely manner, we obtained information from state law, budget documents, agency interviews, and other sources. We did not conduct an audit in accordance with all government auditing standards. Though we performed procedures adequate to identify potential duplication, we did not perform sufficient procedures to make definitive conclusions or estimate potential savings, if any, that may result from any action taken by these entities to eliminate such potential duplication.

We identified four agencies that maintain state recreational areas. These agencies are the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), Office of Wildlife; the Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (DCRT), Office of State Parks; the Department of Transportation and Development, Sabine River Authority (SRA); and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF), Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority.

Potential Duplication Among LDWF, DCRT, SRA, and LDAF

Potential duplication exists because all four agencies maintain state recreational areas that provide the same or similar activities and/or facilities. The activities provided at these facilities include camping, fishing, hunting, hiking, bird watching, canoeing, etc. The facilities offered at these areas range from primitive camping sites (an open grassy area) to developed sites (cabins, open areas with facility hookups, bathhouses). In fiscal year 2009, the four agencies spent approximately \$38,335,144 on management, maintenance, and program activities at state recreational areas, of which \$27,055,961 (71% of funds) was state general funds. The four agencies had 521 full-time employees performing work on the 106 recreational areas in fiscal year 2009. Exhibit 1 on page 2 provides more information on recreational areas.

Exhibit 1
Overview of State Recreational Areas
Fiscal Year 2009

State Entity	Number and Type of Recreational Areas	Types of Facilities	Available Activities*	Staff	Total Expenditures
LDWF	58 wildlife management areas	** Some primitive camping areas	Fishing, hunting	81 full-time	\$7,761,762 (\$5,821,322 in federal funds + \$1,940,440 in statutory dedications)
LDAF	1 - Indian Creek Lake and Recreation Area	Developed recreational and primitive camping areas	Hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, picnics	4 full-time	\$657,459 in self-generated funds
SRA	10 recreational sites	Parking areas to developed recreational areas	Hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, picnics, boating	14 full-time	\$764,342 in self-generated funds
DCRT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 state parks • 16 historic sites • 1 preservation area 	Developed recreational areas and historic buildings	Hiking, fishing, camping, various ranger led activities	422 full-time	\$29,151,581 (\$27,055,961 in state general funds + \$492,368 in fees and self-generated funds + \$1,603,252 in statutory dedications)
Total			106 recreational areas	521 full-time	\$38,335,144

* This activity list is not exhaustive. These are just some of the many activities available to visitors at these recreational areas.
 ** LDWF does not provide these primitive camping sites if privately owned facilities (primitive camping sites, cabins) are nearby and available to service the WMA.

Source: Prepared by legislative auditor's staff based on information provided by LDWF, LDAF, SRA, and DCRT.

LDWF

LDWF, Office of Wildlife manages 58 wildlife management areas (WMAs). (See Appendix A for a location map and B for a detailed listing.) According to agency officials, LDWF manages its WMAs in a manner that maximizes wildlife because the primary use of the WMAs is for hunting and fishing. The LDWF provides only primitive camping sites (no electricity or water) at some of its WMAs. The LDWF does not provide these primitive camping sites if privately owned facilities (primitive camping sites, cabins) are nearby and available to service the WMA.

During fiscal year 2009, there were 81 full-time employees associated primarily with the WMA program. LDWF, Office of Wildlife's Wildlife Division expenditures were \$7,761,762 (\$5,821,322 in federal funds + \$1,940,440 in statutory dedications) for fiscal year 2009. According to an agency official, the \$1,940,400 in statutory dedications is self-generated revenue from hunting and fishing licenses.

LDAF

The Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority within LDAF manages one recreational area called the Indian Creek Lake and Recreation Area (Indian Creek). Indian Creek includes a 2,250-acre lake, 100 acres of developed recreation facilities, and a 250-acre primitive camping area. (See Appendix A for a location map.) Indian Creek has no visitor program activities but hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, and other recreational opportunities exist for visitors.

There are four full-time employees. According to an agency official, the personnel responsibilities at Indian Creek are to cut trees, clean up litter/debris, cut grass, and perform other general maintenance tasks. In fiscal year 2009, the expenditures for Indian Creek were \$657,459 funded by self-generated revenue.

SRA

SRA manages 10 recreational type areas of which all are less than 250 acres in size (See Appendix A for a location map and C for a detailed listing). According to an agency official, SRA currently operates four full-service parks (e.g., provide RV parking and cabins). The remaining sites are not full-service sites (e.g., roadside parking areas, ATV trails, a tourist center, a boat ramp). SRA provides only the maintenance of the parks and their related structures and does not provide any visitor programs. However, visitors have hiking, camping, fishing, boating, and other recreational opportunities. DCRT currently manages the state parks north and south of the SRA's recreational areas.

SRA has eight classified and six unclassified full-time employees. SRA spent at least \$764,342 on the four full-service recreational areas in fiscal year 2009. Agency officials could not provide the exact expenditure amount for all of the non full-service areas as maintenance

costs are charged to the overall maintenance activity. SRA recreational areas generated \$643,033 in rentals and sales in fiscal year 2009. According to an agency official, other self-generated revenues funded the remaining \$121,309 (\$643,033 in revenue - \$764,342 in expenses) in expenses.

DCRT

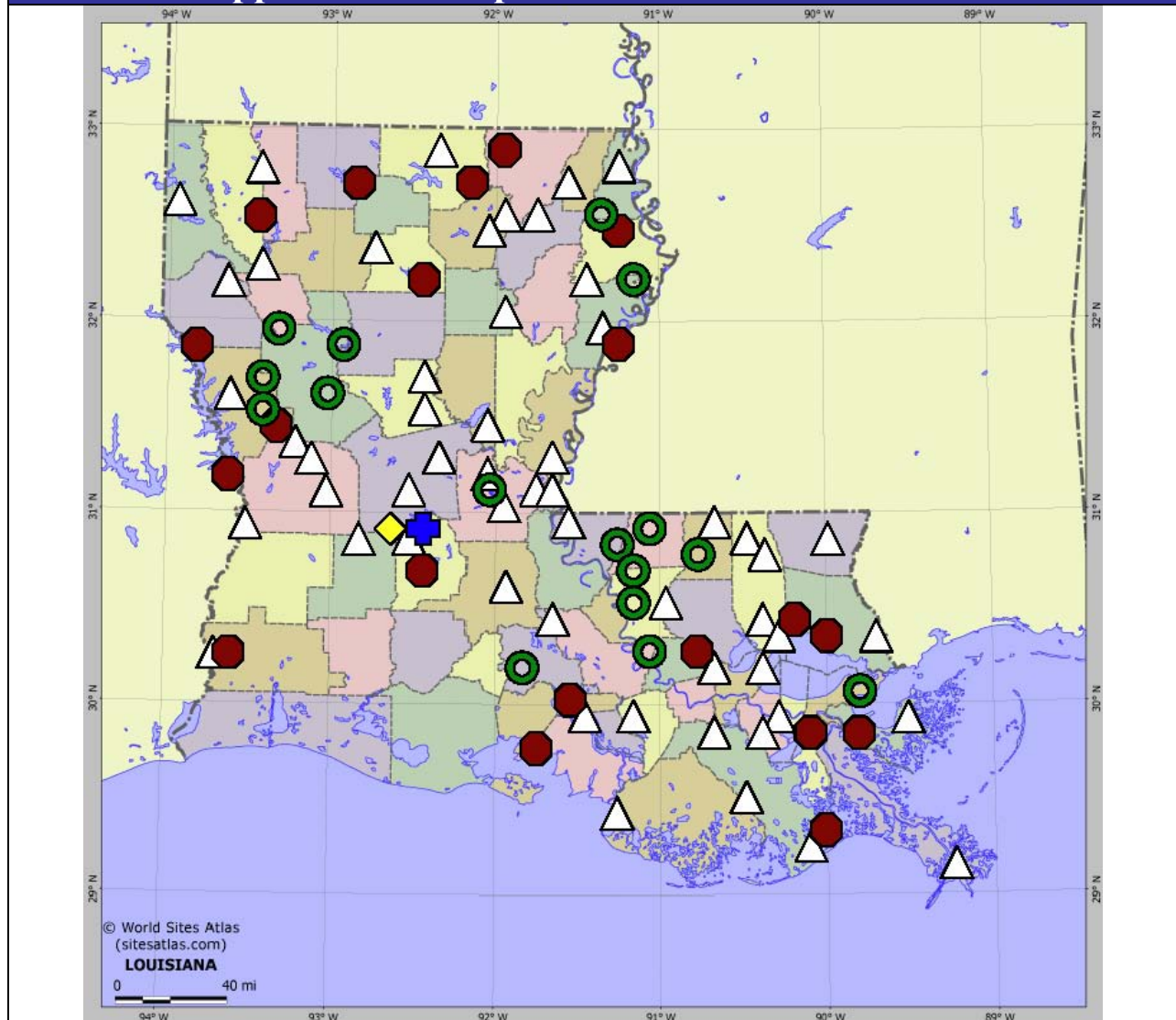
The Office of State Parks within DCRT manages 20 state parks, 16 historic sites, and one preservation area. (See Appendix A for a location map and D for a detailed listing.) DCRT's approach to recreational areas is to provide both facilities and interpretative rangers to lead visitor enrichment programs. DCRT sites also provide hiking, camping, fishing, and other recreational opportunities for visitors. Currently, DCRT has no state parks or historic sites where it just maintains facilities. According to an agency official, DCRT would not take on a recreational area without providing the visitor enrichment programs.

Furthermore, DCRT would not take on additional recreational areas unless it could meet state statutory standards. Louisiana Revised Statute 56:1684 states, "All state parks, except those currently within the system, must adhere to an absolute minimum size standard of two hundred and fifty acres." As noted previously, all campgrounds at SRA sites are less than 250 in acreage.

In addition, all wildlife in the Office of State Parks sites "is under strict protection and must not be hunted, disturbed, destroyed, or removed, except for scientific or management purposes when approved by the assistant secretary." (Louisiana Administrative Code 25:313) In contrast, the LDWF provides hunting and fishing opportunities on WMA lands as required for its federal funding.







The Office of State Parks has 421 classified and one unclassified full-time employees. DCRT spent \$29,151,581 (\$27,055,961 in state general funds + \$492,368 in fees and self-generated funds + \$1,603,252 in statutory dedications) in fiscal year 2009.

Appendix A: Map of State Recreational Areas



Source: Prepared by legislative auditor’s staff. This map is only an approximation of recreational site locations based on information provided by LDWF, LDAF, SRA, and CRT Web sites.

Recreational Map Key

-  - Indian Creek and Alexander State Forest (LDAF)
-  - Wildlife Management Areas (LDWF)
-  - Sabine River Authority Recreational Zone (SRA)
-  - Preservation Area (DCRT)
-  - State Historic Sites (DCRT)
-  - State Parks (DCRT)

Appendix B: Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife Management Areas

LDWF manages 58 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).

1. Acadiana Conservation Corridor WMA
2. Alexander State Forest
3. Atchafalaya Delta WMA
4. Attakapas WMA
5. Barataria Preserve
6. Bayou Macon
7. Bayou Pierre
8. Bens Creek
9. Big Colewa Bayou
10. Big Lake
11. Biloxi WMA
12. Bodcau
13. Boeuf
14. Buckhorn
15. Camp Beauregard
16. Catahoula Lake
17. Clear Creek WMA
18. Dewey Wills
19. Elbow Slough WMA
20. Elm Hall
21. Floy Ward McElroy WMA
22. Fort Polk WMA
23. Grassy Lake
24. Hutchinson Creek WMA
25. Jackson Bienville WMA
26. Joyce WMA
27. Kisatchie National Forest
28. Lake Boeuf WMA
29. Lake Ramsey Savannah WMA
30. Little River WMA
31. Loggy Bayou WMA
32. Manchac
33. Marsh Bayou WMA
34. Maurepas Swamp WMA
35. Ouachita WMA
36. Pass A Loutre
37. Pearl River WMA
38. Peason Ridge WMA
39. Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA
40. Pomme de Terre WMA
41. Red River WMA
42. Russell Sage WMA
43. Sabine Island WMA
44. Sabine WMA
45. Salvador/Timken WMA
46. Sandy Hollow WMA
47. Sherburne/Atchafalaya NWR/Bayou des Ourses
48. Sicily Island Hills WMA
49. Soda Lake WMA
50. Spring Bayou WMA
51. Tangipahoa Parish School Board
52. Thistlethwaite WMA
53. Three Rivers WMA
54. Tunica Hills WMA
55. Union WMA
56. Walnut Hill WMA
57. West Bay WMA
58. Wisner WMA

Source: LDWF's Web site.

Appendix C: Sabine River Authority Recreational and Infrastructure Sites

SRA manages four full-service sites.

1. Cypress Bend (Full Service)
2. Oak Ridge (Full Service)
3. Pleasure Point (Full Service)
4. San Miguel (Full Service)

SRA manages four no-charge recreational sites.

1. San Patricio (Roadside - No Charge)
2. Clyde's Crossing (Roadside - No Charge)
3. Converse Bay (No Charge Park)
4. Cow Bayou (ATV Trails - No Charge Park)

SRA manages two other types of recreational facilities.

1. Blue Lake Boat Launch (No Charge)
2. Pendleton (No Charge Park and includes the SRA Tourist Center)

Source: SRA personnel and Web site.

Appendix D: Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism State Parks, Historic Sites, and Preservation Areas

The Office of State Parks manages 20 state parks.

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| 1. Bayou Segnette State Park | 11. Lake Bruin State Park |
| 2. Chemin-A-Haut State Park | 12. Lake Claiborne State Park |
| 3. Chicot State Park | 13. Lake D'Arbonne State Park |
| 4. Cypremort Point State Park | 14. Lake Fausse Pointe State Park |
| 5. Fairview-Riverside State Park | 15. North Toledo Bend State Park |
| 6. Fontainebleau State Park | 16. Poverty Point Reservoir State Park |
| 7. Grand Isle State Park | 17. Sam Houston Jones State Park |
| 8. Hodges Gardens State Park | 18. South Toledo Bend State Park |
| 9. Jimmie Davis State Park | 19. St. Bernard State Park |
| 10. Lake Bistineau State Park | 20. Tickfaw State Park |

The Office of State Parks manages 16 state historic sites.

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|---|---|
| 1. Audubon State Historic Site | 9. Mansfield State Historic Site |
| 2. Centenary State Historic Site | 10. Marksville State Historic Site |
| 3. Fort Jesup State Historic Site | 11. Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site |
| 4. Fort Pike State Historic Site | 12. Port Hudson State Historic Site |
| 5. Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site | 13. Poverty Point State Historic Site |
| 6. Locust Grove State Historic Site | 14. Rebel State Historic Site |
| 7. Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site | 15. Rosedown Plantation State Historic Site |
| 8. Los Adaes State Historic Site | 16. Winter Quarters State Historic Site |

The Office of State Parks manages one preservation area.

1. Louisiana State Arboretum

Source: DCRT's Web site.

FOR QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS INFORMATIONAL REPORT,
CONTACT MIKE BATTLE, PERFORMANCE AUDIT MANAGER,
AT (225) 339-3800.
A copy of this report is available at our Web site www.lla.la.gov.

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