Baton Rouge — A new comprehensive development of nature and recreation areas will allow the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to purchase Atchafalaya River Basin land on behalf of the state.

The law authorizes the purchase of Atchafalaya land south of U.S. Highway 190 in Madison, Tensas, Franklin, Concordia and Catahoula parishes “for the comprehensive development of nature and recreation areas.” However, the law also authorizes Wildlife and Fisheries to sell any part or all of the land they buy in the Basin, “provided the sale price is not less than the price paid by the department.”

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries now has the authority to “purchase land from willing sellers in the Atchafalaya River Basin south of U.S. 190, between the east and west Atchafalaya Protection Levees, and north of Morgan City, . . . subject to approval by the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget.”

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