

Notice Co-Signers

Dr. Ronald M. Nowak is a native of Louisiana, who has spent much time there and elsewhere gathering information on the Louisiana black bear. He is a PhD. biologist and has authored 11 books on mammals, mostly with Johns Hopkins University Press, several of which discuss the Louisiana black bear. He was staff mammologist, Office of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, from 1974 to 1987, during which time he did several surveys and reports on the Louisiana black bear and other kinds of bears, as part of his duties. He makes periodic visits to Louisiana, where he attempts to observe and study the Louisiana black bear and its habitat.

Dr. Michael Jordan Caire, MD, is a Louisiana resident who has been actively involved with the Louisiana black bear. A life member of the Black Bear Conservation Coalition, Dr. Caire has received several awards for his work on the Louisiana black bear, including the Louisiana Wildlife Federation Volunteer Conservation Award and the Chevron Conservation Award. Dr. Caire was active with the Tensas Conservancy Coalition, where his work led to the purchase of the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and the adjacent Big Lake WMA, which are the core of the present Louisiana black bear population. Dr. Caire has been mentioned in the Congressional Record citing his work in the establishment of the Tensas NWR and in the protection of the Louisiana black bear.

Harold Schoeffler is a longtime resident of Lafayette, Louisiana with a long history of involvement in efforts to conserve the bear and protect its habitat, including spending decades of time and effort seeking to have the Secretary of the Interior protect the bear under the ESA. In 1987, Schoeffler personally drafted a citizens petition to have the bear listed as a threatened species under the ESA. Schoeffler believes preserving the Atchafalaya Basin is vital to saving the bear because the region is some of the bear's best remaining habitat.

Atchafalaya Basinkeeper (ABK), founded in 2004, is an organization with over 1,100 members that works to preserve and restore the ecosystems of the Atchafalaya Basin for future generations. ABK is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, an international grassroots advocacy organization working to protect watersheds across the globe. The delisting impacts the protections for Louisiana black bears in the Lower Atchafalaya River Basin subpopulation and the ecosystems they depend on, which has repercussions on ecotourism as well as protectionist measures employed in the Basin to ensure the longevity of the species. ABK is concerned about the Basin's ability to serve as viable habitat for the *luteolus*, as well as the decline in overall productivity of the wetlands and ecosystems in the Basin.

The **Louisiana Crawfish Producers Association-West ("LCPA")** is a nonprofit corporation with roughly 500 members, including recreational and commercial fishermen, hunters and recreationists who live, work and recreate in and around the Basin. LCPA's mission is to protect the economic, environmental and cultural interests of the Atchafalaya Basin and its residents and to promote a healthy habitat for the crawfish, fish and other wildlife that the Basin supports. LCPA works to protect and insure public access to waters within the Basin, and to ensure that the state and federal laws and regulations intended to preserve and enhance the Basin's natural resources and wildlife are followed.

The **Sierra Club, and its Delta Chapter**. The mission of the Sierra Club is to explore, enjoy and protect the wild and beautiful places of the Earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate and enlist people to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Delta Chapter is Sierra Club in Louisiana.