



# Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

### Jon Scott

Program Director, Southern Forests  
Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley  
Restoration Fund  
jonathan.scott@nfwf.org  
202-595-2609

### Zachary Bernstein

Program Coordinator  
Southern Region  
Zachary.Bernstein@nfwf.org  
202-595-2433

## PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- International Paper
- Walton Family Foundation
- Arbor Day Foundation

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

1133 15th Street, NW  
Suite 1000  
Washington, D.C., 20005  
202-857-0166



Pileated woodpecker

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Paper, Walton Family Foundation, and the Arbor Day Foundation announced a fourth round of funding for the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund. Eight new and one continuing bottomland hardwood forest, wetland, and aquatic habitat restoration grants totaling \$3.3 million were awarded. The nine awards announced generated \$2.8 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$6.1 million.

NFWF launched the LMAV Restoration Fund in 2017 to benefit wildlife and improve water quality within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. The fund invests in on-the-ground projects that restore, enhance and maintain bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands.

*(continued)*



Prothonotary warbler

#### **Demonstration of Restoration and Monitoring Techniques for Bottomland Hardwood Habitats (AR, MS)**

Grantee: Mississippi State University

Grant Amount: ..... \$355,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$355,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$710,000

Restore bottomland hardwood forest habitats, monitor habitat condition and wildlife response to restoration treatments, and provide information, training, and technical assistance to landowners and resource managers to inform forest and wildlife management decisions. Project will restore 774 acres of bottomland hardwood forest within the Tallahatchie, Boeuf, and Tensas watersheds in Arkansas and Mississippi, benefitting waterfowl, swamp rabbit, and other forested wetland-dependent species.

#### **Priority Bird Habitat Conservation in the West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas II (AR, LA, OK, TX)**

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Amount: ..... \$213,996  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$228,750  
 Total Project Amount ..... \$442,746

Coordinate conservation delivery networks to restore forest and grassland habitats and monitor species response within the West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas geography of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Project will provide technical assistance to private landowners to implement conservation practices benefitting Bachman's sparrow, prairie warbler, and other forest and grassland-dependent bird species.

#### **Restoring Forested Wetlands within Mississippi Alluvial Valley Priority Focal Areas (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: ..... \$694,688  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$395,000  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$1,089,688

Restore and protect forested wetlands within high-priority areas in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Project will reforest 4,800 acres of marginal cropland, restore 1,200 acres of hydrologic wetland function and protect 6,000 acres with conservation easements, benefitting Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit, waterfowl, and neotropical migratory songbirds.

#### **Connecting Forest Landowners with Markets to Improve Forest Health and Wildlife Habitat (LA)**

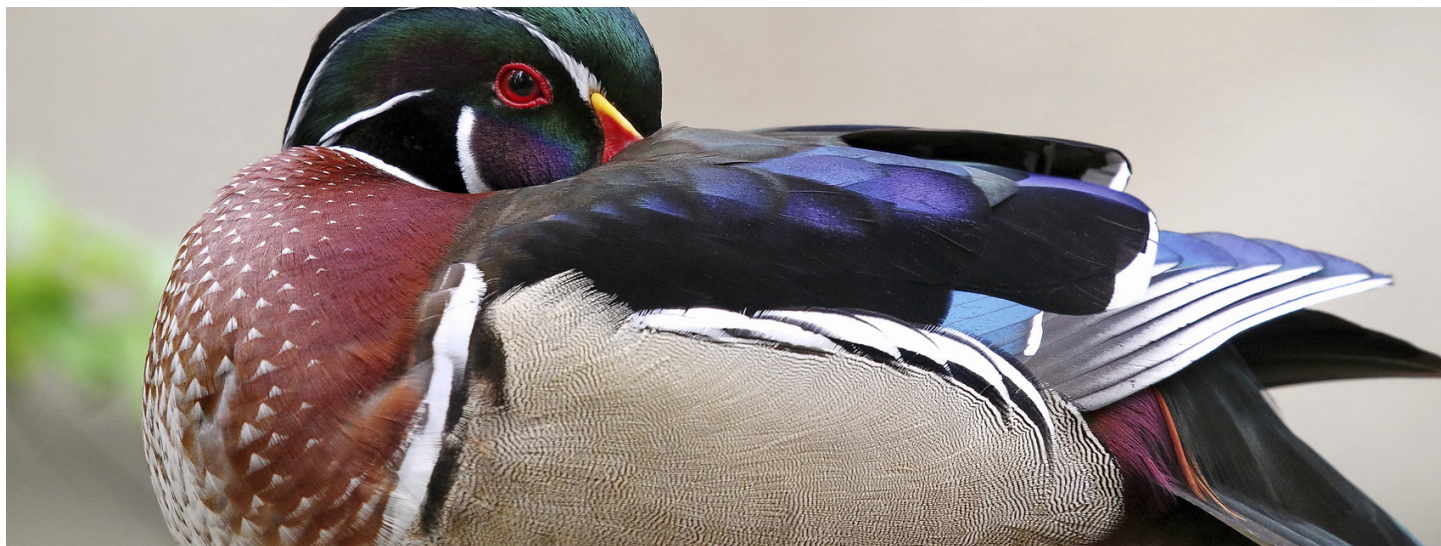
Grantee: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation

Grant Amount: ..... \$245,000  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$265,800  
 Total Project Amount: ..... \$510,800

Pilot market-oriented approaches to manage bottomland hardwood forests and improve wildlife habitat in Louisiana. Project will develop partnerships between local wood suppliers, forest products companies, landowners, and resource professionals to thin 583 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, improving forest habitat structure, understory condition, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

(continued)





Wood duck

### Monitoring Waterfowl Response to Wetland Restoration in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, LA, MS)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: ..... \$225,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$179,330

Total Project Amount: ..... \$404,330

Monitor waterfowl response to forest and shallow water wetland restoration on Wetland Reserve Easement sites within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Project will deploy unmanned aerial vehicles to investigate their utility to monitor waterfowl use of restored wetlands and use imagery analysis and machine learning to establish efficient and effective protocols to derive duck counts and general use behaviors at a project level scale.

### Enhancing Hydrology and Restoring Forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley - II (AR, MS)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: ..... \$343,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$343,000

Total Project Amount: ..... \$686,000

Restore and enhance bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands on public and private lands within the Delta of Arkansas and Mississippi. Project will restore hydrology, enhance existing forests, and reforest areas to impact a total of 8,075 acres, including 7,095 acres of conservation easements, benefitting migratory waterfowl, Louisiana black bear, and other forested wetland-dependent species.

### Forested Wetland Restoration in the Lower Mississippi River Floodplain - II (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust

Grant Amount: ..... \$780,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$783,729

Total Project Amount: ..... \$1,563,729

Reforest and protect frequently flooded, marginal cropland on private lands through the adoption of USDA Wetland Reserve Easements in the active floodplain of the Lower

Mississippi River. Project will restore and protect 10,285 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetlands to expand and enhance habitat and improve water quality, benefitting the Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit, forest birds, waterfowl, and freshwater fish.

### Engaging Underserved Landowners in Conservation and Woodland Management (AR, MS)

Grantee: KKAC Foundation

Grant Amount: ..... \$375,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$269,374

Total Project Amount: ..... \$644,374

Develop forest management plans and implement forest conservation practices to improve forest health and wildlife habitat on private lands in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas and Mississippi. Project will engage historically underserved and minority landowners through workshops and field days to provide forestry technical assistance, address heirs property issues, and connect landowners with financial assistance resources to restore and manage 350 acres of forest habitat.

### THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY RESTORATION FUND IS ALSO CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR ONE EXISTING GRANT:

#### Forested Wetland Restoration in the Lower Mississippi River Floodplain (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust

Grant Amount: ..... \$96,304

Total Project Amount: ..... \$96,304

Reforest and protect frequently flooded, marginal cropland on private lands by adopting wetland reserve easements in the active floodplain of the Lower Mississippi River. Project will establish 7,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest to expand and enhance habitat and improve water quality, benefitting the Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit, forest birds, waterfowl, and freshwater fish.