



NFWF

Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley 2018 Grant Slate

NFWF CONTACTS

Jonathan Scott
Program Director,
Southern Forests
jonathan.scott@nfwf.org
202-595-2609

Lindsay Vacek
Senior Coordinator,
Southern Region
lindsay.vacek@nfwf.org
202-595-2433

PARTNERS



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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
1133 15th Street NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005
202-857-0166



Kentucky warbler

OVERVIEW

The Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund is awarding approximately \$2.19 million in funding to seven projects that restore and enhance bottomland hardwood, upland forest and wetland habitats for the benefit of species, including Kentucky warbler, green-winged teal, wood duck, mallard, Louisiana black bear and pallid sturgeon. Projects will also restore floodplain hydrology, contributing to improved water quality. The grants will generate approximately \$1.5 million in match from grantees for a total conservation impact of more than \$3.6 million.

The Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund invests in on-the-ground projects to restore, enhance and conserve bottomland hardwood forest and wetland habitats to benefit wildlife and improve water quality within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.

Bottomland Hardwood Conservation Partnership Initiative under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (AR)

Grantee: National Wild Turkey Federation	
Grant Amount:	\$188,174
Matching Funds:	\$188,240
Total Project:	\$376,414

Implement a three-year project to monitor, evaluate and plan conservation activities on existing Agricultural Conservation Easement – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) program easements, specifically those where bottomland hardwood stands have reached or are approaching site conditions that warrant management. Project will also evaluate

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new properties for wetland and bottomland hardwood restoration opportunities and the potential for enrollment in the ACEP-WRE. Outcomes will include 6,000 acres of new bottomland hardwood forest established and 250 acres of existing hardwood forest under improved management.

Floodplain Reconnection and Hydrological Restoration at Loch Leven (MS)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$500,000
 Matching Funds: \$250,000
Total Project: \$750,000

Install water control structures to flood the interior of Loch Leven, a batture island in Mississippi, to reconnect the tract to the Mississippi River. The project will restore hydrology to 6,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forested wetlands, improve water quality through sediment and nutrient reduction, provide 15 billion gallons of flood storage capacity, and enhance the land for wildlife.

Mississippi Landowner Outreach and Conservation Technical Assistance Program

Grantee: Mississippi Land Trust
 Grant Amount: \$300,000
 Matching Funds: \$75,000
Total Project: \$375,000

Expand upon past outreach efforts and implement a three-year technical assistance capacity-building project in partnership with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to improve landowners' understanding and participation in NRCS conservation programs in Mississippi. The project will improve water quality, enhance wildlife populations, and meet landscape-level conservation priorities. Outcomes include 1,500 acres of existing bottomland hardwood and longleaf pine forests under improved management, 3,500 acres placed under conservation easements and 1,000 landowners reached through outreach and technical assistance. At least 25 percent of the outreach and technical assistance will be devoted to working with underserved landowners and agricultural producers.

Wetland Restoration Technical Assistance Program (MS)

Grantee: The Trust for Tomorrow
 Grant Amount: \$296,169
 Matching Funds: \$74,050
Total Project: \$370,219

Establish a full-time, three-year position in Mississippi to provide targeted landowner outreach and education for increasing new enrollment in NRCS's Agricultural Conservation Easement – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) program. The project will also provide assessment and implementation planning for the enhancement and management of bottomland forests on existing easements. Outcomes include 223 private landowners reached through

outreach and education and 90 new landowners in ACEP-WRE. Through these enrollments, the project will establish 12,180 acres of bottomland hardwood forest, and manage and enhance an additional 4,500 acres of existing bottomland hardwood forests.

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

Grantee: American Bird Conservancy
 Grant Amount: \$263,221
 Matching Funds: \$263,468
Total Project: \$526,689

Facilitate the establishment, development, maintenance and success of Conservation Delivery Networks (CDNs) in the West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas geography. The project will focus on building connections and relationships among private landowner-focused partner delivery staff across the four-state region covering Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. Outcomes include 277 acres of bottomland hardwood forests restored and 92 acres of existing bottomland hardwoods improved.

Delivery of Conservation Technical Assistance and Implementation of Early Successional Habitat Practices (LA, AR)

Grantee: Pheasants Forever
 Grant Amount: \$149,574
 Matching Funds: \$150,000
Total Project: \$299,574

Work through Conservation Delivery Network (CDN) partner organizations to conduct program promotion and strategic marketing efforts on sustainable forest management to 600 landowners located in southeastern Arkansas and northeastern Louisiana. Of the 600 landowners reached in year one, the project expects that 550 will receive one-on-one technical assistance by resource conservation organization staff to produce landowner management plans on a minimum of 10,000 acres.

Restore Wetland Forest and Stabilize Agricultural Floodplains in the Upper Cache River (AR)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy – Arkansas Chapter
 Grant Amount: \$500,000
 Matching Funds: \$500,000
Total Project: \$1,000,000

Restore 1,000 acres of wetland and bottomland hardwood habitat under USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Conservation Easement – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE) program, install best management practices along 10 miles of tributary ditch, re-engineer 3 miles of two-stage ditch, and engage approximately 30 landowners through outreach and technical assistance. Together, these activities will reduce sediment and nutrients flowing into the riverine system and improve habitat for wildlife.