



# Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund

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## PARTNERS

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- International Paper
- Walton Family 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 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$7.4 billion.

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

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## BACKGROUND

The Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund (LMAV Fund) was launched in 2017 to restore, enhance and maintain bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands to improve habitat for forest breeding birds, waterfowl, and terrestrial and aquatic species, and safeguard water quality.

The program has awarded five rounds of grants totaling \$12.7 million, leveraging \$13.1 million in grantee matching funds to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$25.8 million. These projects are anticipated to restore more than 51,000 acres of forest, enhance nearly 43,000 acres of existing forest habitat, restore and improve hydrologic function to nearly 39,000 acres of wetlands and floodplains, and protect nearly 52,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetland habitats with conservation easements.

The LMAV Fund is a public-private partnership supported with federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and private funding from International Paper's Forestland Stewards Partnership, and the Walton Family Foundation. Additional support this year was provided by the Bezos Earth Fund.



Swamp rabbit

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Goals of the LMAV Fund include:

- Establish and enhance bottomland hardwood forests to benefit wildlife and improve water quality
- Restore and enhance wetland forest and floodplain hydrology
- Improve aquatic habitat connectivity
- Protect bottomland forest and wetland habitats through conservation easements
- Expand and coordinate private landowner technical assistance and outreach

The LMAV Fund will award grants within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee.