



# Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund

## NFWF CONTACTS

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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 \$8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Wood duck

## 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, and the Walton Family Foundation announced a sixth year of funding for Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund (LMAV Fund) projects. Five new or continuing grants totaling \$1.2 million were awarded to restore bottomland hardwood forest, wetland and aquatic habitats. The five awards announced leveraged more than \$1.2 million in match from the grantees, generating a total conservation impact of more than \$2.4 million.

NFWF launched the LMAV 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.

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**Arkansas Wetland Reserve Easement Bottomland Hardwood Conservation Partnership**

Grantee: National Wild Turkey Federation  
 Grant Amount:..... \$150,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$153,300  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$303,300  
 Plan and implement voluntary conservation activities on USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement – Wetland Reserve Easements to improve wildlife habitat and timber quality within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas. Project will establish 6,000 acres of new bottomland hardwood forests, improve hydrology on 10,000 acres of wetlands and improve 3,000 acres of existing hardwood forest with wildlife-friendly forest treatments, benefiting forest birds, swamp rabbit and waterfowl.

**Engaging Underserved Landowners in Forest Restoration in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: The KKAC Organization  
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$250,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Provide outreach and technical assistance to historically underserved landowners in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley to voluntarily restore or enhance 250 forest habitat, with a focus on increasing enrollment in the USDA's Wetland Reserve Easement program, benefiting swamp rabbit and forest birds. Project will engage at least 30 landowners through workshops and other outreach efforts and will provide opportunities for youth to engage in conservation.

**Forested Wetland Restoration and Enhancement in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited  
 Grant Amount:..... \$250,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$250,000  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$500,000  
 Restore bottomland hardwood forest through plantings and improve existing forest habitat through forest treatments



Swamp rabbit



White-tailed deer fawn

on private lands and enhance wetland hydrologic function on public and private land in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Project will impact a total of 1,900 acres of forest and wetland habitat benefiting waterfowl and neotropical migratory birds.

**Forested Wetlands Enhancement on Private Lands in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust  
 Grant Amount:..... \$363,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$368,800  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$731,800  
 Enhance forest health and wildlife habitat on lands enrolled in the USDA's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetlands Reserve Easement Program (WRE) in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Project will protect 700 acres through voluntary easements, improve management on and restore 1,000 acres and provide outreach and education for landowners for the management of WRE forests, benefiting waterfowl, forest birds and the Louisiana black bear.

**Improving Aquatic Habitat Connectivity in the Lower Mississippi River (AR, LA, MS, TN)**

Grantee: Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee  
 Grant Amount:..... \$200,000  
 Matching Funds:..... \$244,400  
 Total Project Amount:..... \$444,400  
 Restore 300 acres and 1.5 miles of secondary channel habitat, install woody debris traps in previously connected secondary channels to increase biological diversity and ecosystem function, providing structure diversity for healthy river indicator aquatic insects. Project will focus on biotic monitoring of gar species abundance at three study sites.