



# Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund

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## FUNDING PARTNERS

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

## ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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



Wood duck

## OVERVIEW

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Paper and the Walton Family Foundation in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced an eighth year of funding for Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund (LMAV Fund) projects. Fourteen new bottomland hardwood forest, wetland and aquatic habitat restoration grants totaling nearly \$6 million were awarded. The 14 awards were leveraged by \$5.3 million in matching contributions by grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$11.3 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 LMAV Fund invests in on-the-ground projects that restore, enhance and maintain habitat within bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands, and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands.

The LMAV Fund has awarded eight rounds of grants totaling \$22.3 million, leveraging \$20.1 million in grantee matching funds to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$42.4 million. These projects are anticipated to restore more than 52,200 acres of forest, enhance nearly 50,700 acres of existing forest habitat, restore and improve hydrologic function to nearly 46,000 acres of wetlands and floodplains, and protect nearly 83,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest and wetland habitats with conservation easements.

## 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

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**2025 GRANTS****Bottomland Hardwood Habitat Management on Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge (LA)**

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Grant Amount:..... \$280,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$280,000

Improve the quality of bottomland forest habitat through pre-commercial thinning of planted bottomland hardwoods on public lands. Project will implement improved management practices on 430 acres to open the closed canopy conditions of the stand, allowing for increased understory growth and variable canopy structure, which will benefit species such as migratory birds and whitetail deer.

**Bottomland Hardwood Reforestation on Private Farmland in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$240,000

Matching Funds:..... \$720,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$960,400

Work with landowners to voluntarily restore 3,400 acres of private farmland to native bottomland hardwood forest through plantings and the development of forest management plans. Project will increase habitat for Louisiana black bear and swamp rabbit and improve flood resiliency through reforestation.

**Coordination and Technical Assistance for Bottomland Hardwood Restoration (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)**

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$452,300

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$452,300

Improve partner coordination and expand technical assistance delivery capacity by hiring a full-time Delivery Coordinator for the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, and restore bottomland hardwood forests on private lands. Project will engage local communities, organizations, landowners and nonprofit partners to achieve regional conservation outcomes, and result in the creation and improvement of bottomland hardwood forests to benefit wildlife.

**Engaging Farmers in Voluntarily Improving Waterfowl Habitat, Soil Health and Water Quality (AR)**

Grantee: Green America

Grant Amount:..... \$500,000

Matching Funds:..... \$1,000,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,500,000

Improve waterfowl habitat, soil health and water quality by engaging rice farmers in eastern Arkansas in voluntary agricultural conservation practices. Project will engage at least 60 community members in agricultural conservation education, assessment and implementation of conservation practices.

**Engaging Private Landowners to Improve Hydrologic Management on Working Agricultural Lands (AR, MO)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$150,000

Matching Funds:..... \$284,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$434,000

Assist private landowners in adopting voluntary conservation practices to improve wildlife habitat and water quality on agricultural lands. Project will install 40 water-control structures that will help manage floodplain hydrology, reduce sediment and nutrient runoff, and help landowners create winter habitat on 1,600 acres for waterfowl and migratory birds.

**Enhancing Bottomland Hardwood Habitat on Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex (LA, MS)**

Grantee: US Fish and Wildlife - Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Grant Amount:..... \$402,500

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$402,500

Enhance habitat on public lands by completing precommercial thinning on 1,150 acres of bottomland hardwood plantation. Project will improve forest habitat for Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit and migratory birds, while also benefiting water quality.

**Expanding Access to Federal Conservation Programs through Outreach and Assistance (LA, MS)**

Grantee: The KKAC Organization

Grant Amount:..... \$800,000

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$800,000

Conduct outreach and provide technical assistance in communities across the lower Mississippi River valley of Mississippi and Louisiana to increase awareness and participation in federal conservation programs that improve water quality and wildlife habitat. Project will promote enrollment in cost-share programs by building community knowledge and engagement to support broader conservation outcomes on private working lands.

**Hydrologic Restoration on Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (MS)**

Grantee: US Fish and Wildlife - Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Carter Unit

Grant Amount:..... \$646,200

Matching Funds:..... \$2,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$648,600

Improve floodplain hydrology across 252 acres through the installation of low-maintenance water-control structures and revegetation. Project will enhance habitat quality and hydrological function, benefiting migratory birds, waterfowl and native wetland species, and improving water quality.

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### **Improving Wetland Habitat on Private and Public Lands to Benefit Migratory Waterfowl (AR, LA, MS, TN)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$563,800

Matching Funds:..... \$795,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,358,800

Restore hydrology and enhance management capabilities on 1,555 acres of seasonal and forested wetland habitat on both private and public land. Project will provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners, helping them enroll in voluntary conservation programs and assisting in management and enhancement of properties already enrolled, and will improve hydrologic management on a number of state and federally owned public lands to improve wetland habitat.

### **Increasing Conservation Practices on Working Lands to Benefit Waterfowl and Shorebirds (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: Manomet

Grant Amount:..... \$457,000

Matching Funds:..... \$481,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$938,200

Increase wetland and shallow-water habitat for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds across Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Project will engage private landowners, implement targeted technical assistance and expand the use of voluntary best management practices including post-harvest flooding, shallow-water management, and moist-soil management to enhance habitat quality and connectivity.

### **Restoring and Enhancing Bottomland Hardwood Forest for Wildlife and Water Quality (AR)**

Grantee: Five Oaks Ag Research and Education Center

Grant Amount:..... \$167,600

Matching Funds:..... \$1,050,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,217,600

Restore new and enhance existing bottomland hardwood forest to benefit wildlife species and improve forest health. Project will result in the planting of native trees and the implementation of forest stand improvements through thinning to benefit biodiversity and water quality.

### **Restoring Wetland and Floodplain Hydrology on Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge (MS)**

Grantee: US Fish and Wildlife - Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Yazoo Unit

Grant Amount:..... \$837,300

Matching Funds:..... \$9,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$847,100

Create, enhance and restore 312.5 acres of wetlands and floodplain hydrology across six impoundments. Project will support moist soil plant growth and install low-maintenance flashboard risers to improve water management and reduce sedimentation, increases waterfowl forage potential and improve hydrological function.

### **Restoring Wetland Habitat via Hydrologic Restoration on Bayou Cocodrie National Wildlife Refuge (LA)**

Grantee: US Fish and Wildlife - Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Bayou Cocodrie Unit

Grant Amount:..... \$273,400

Matching Funds:..... \$2,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$275,800

Restore 115 acres of wetlands and floodplain hydrology to benefit waterfowl, migratory birds and native wetland species. Project will enhance moist soil habitat conditions by improving hydrologic function, reducing sedimentation and increasing forage availability through the installation of low-maintenance water control structures and erosion-control revegetation.

### **Wetland and Floodplain Restoration on Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge (MS)**

Grantee: US Fish and Wildlife - Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex – Lower Twist Unit

Grant Amount:..... \$200,200

Matching Funds:..... \$1,002,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,202,600

Restore 431 acres of wetlands and floodplain hydrology through land-leveling, hydrological enhancements and revegetation. Project will improve water quality, increase waterfowl forage, stabilize flow paths and support sustainable land use, advancing regional conservation goals and providing ecological and recreational benefits to the surrounding community.



White-tailed deer