



Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund

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FUNDING PARTNERS

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

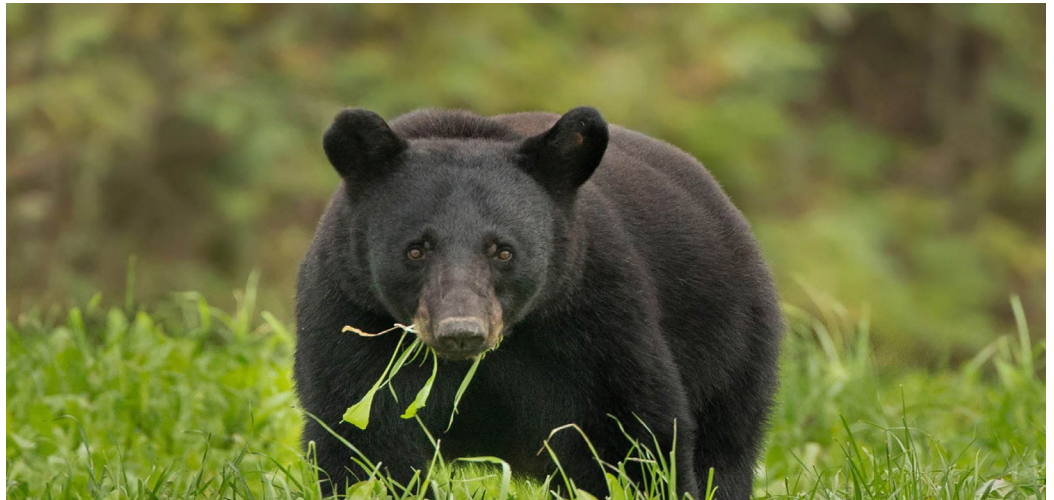
ABOUT NFWF

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 23,900 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$12 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Louisiana black bear

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Paper, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Walton Family Foundation announced a ninth year of funding for Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund (LMAV Fund) projects. Twelve new or continuing bottomland hardwood forest, wetland and aquatic habitat restoration grants totaling nearly \$5 million were awarded. The 12 awards generated \$1.8 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of almost \$6.8 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 habitat within bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands, and promote aquatic connectivity on private and public lands.

The program has awarded nine rounds of grants totaling \$27.1 million, leveraging \$20.3 million in grantee matching funds to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$47.4 million. These projects are anticipated to restore nearly 66,900 acres of forest, enhance nearly 48,900 acres of existing forest habitat, restore and improve hydrologic function to nearly 49,300 acres of wetlands and floodplains, and protect more than 74,700 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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2026 GRANTS

Building Landowner Capacity for Desired Forest Conditions for Wildlife (AR, LA, MS)

Grantee: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation

Grant Amount:..... \$105,000

Matching Funds:..... \$105,200

Total Project Amount:..... \$210,200

Provide voluntary training and technical assistance to natural resource professionals, land managers and landowners to advance bottomland hardwood forest stewardship. Project will promote conservation activities that improve existing habitat, benefiting forest birds, swamp rabbits and other wildlife.

Enhancing Bottomland Hardwood Forest Habitat on Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge (LA)

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tensas River NWR)

Grant Amount:..... \$400,000

Matching Funds:..... \$400,000

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

Improve bottomland hardwood stands on Tensas National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana through precommercial thinning. Project will improve 1,100 acres of forest habitat, moving stands toward desired forest conditions and benefiting wildlife including the Louisiana black bear.

Enhancing Bottomland Hardwoods and Wetland Hydrology on Wetland Reserve Easements (AR, LA, MS)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$482,500

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$482,500

Enhance bottomland hardwood forests and wetland hydrology on private lands and National Wildlife Refuges in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi. Project will improve forest condition to increase water and wildlife habitat quality for priority species, benefiting swamp rabbits, waterfowl, forest birds and waterbirds.

Enhancing Bottomland Hardwoods on Easements in Arkansas

Grantee: National Wild Turkey Federation

Grant Amount:..... \$186,700

Matching Funds:..... \$192,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$379,100

Support a forester to monitor, evaluate and plan conservation activities on existing wetland easements in Arkansas and evaluate new properties for restoration opportunities. Project will establish 5,500 acres of new bottomland hardwood forests and improve the management of 7,500 existing acres to enhance forest health, structure and habitat for priority wildlife species.



White-tailed doe with fawn

Enhancing Connectivity at Eagle Lake Refuge and Lower Mississippi River Secondary Channels (AR, TN)

Grantee: Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee

Grant Amount:..... \$700,000

Matching Funds:..... \$226,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$926,500

Restore wetland hydrology and aquatic habitat in Tennessee's Mississippi River Valley by constructing moist soil impoundments, improving water conveyance in forested wetlands, thinning forests and notching dikes to connect three secondary channels in the Hatchie Loosahatchie reach. Project will enhance emergent and forested wetlands for species such as waterfowl and swamp rabbits, and increase connectivity across 9 river miles for the benefit of aquatic species such as mussels.

Improving the Hydrology of the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway in Pointe Coupee Parish (LA)

Grantee: Pointe Coupee Parish Government

Grant Amount:..... \$585,000

Matching Funds:..... \$585,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,170,800

Improve hydrology in the Lower Atchafalaya Basin Floodway in Pointe Coupee Parish by clearing and grubbing 10,000 linear feet of Bayou Stiff. Project will restore flow conveyance, reconnect hydrologic pathways, and improve aquatic organism passage and connectivity.

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Restoring and Enhancing Hydrology at St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge (MS)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$132,000

Matching Funds:..... \$135,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$267,700

Provide survey and engineering design services for a permanent water control structure to restore and enhance water management capability for Butler Lake within St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge. Project will improve the hydrological connection between Butler Lake and the Mississippi River, improve water quality through nutrient and sediment reduction, provide additional flood water storage and enhance the habitat within the lake for fish and wildlife.

Restoring Bottomland Hardwood Wildlife Corridors on Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge (LA)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:..... \$520,000

Matching Funds:..... \$15,400

Total Project Amount:..... \$535,400

Improve habitat connectivity by restoring 650 acres of bottomland hardwood forest on the Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge. Project will plant more than 280,000 seedlings and establish habitat corridors to enhance connectivity for the Louisiana black bear and other priority wildlife between extensive coastal forests in St. Mary Parish and the bottomland hardwood forests of the Atchafalaya Basin.

Restoring Hydrology at Chickasaw and Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuges (TN)

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-West TN Refuge Complex

Grant Amount:..... \$716,200

Matching Funds:..... \$4,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$721,000

Replace diesel-powered wells with electric wells and install water control structures to restore wetland hydrologic management within the refuge waterfowl sanctuary. Project will improve management of 1,275 acres of moist soil units, bottomland hardwoods and agricultural impoundments, enhancing habitat and forage for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, forest interior birds and swamp rabbits.

Restoring Wetland and Floodplain Hydrology of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (KY, TN)

Grantee: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-West TN Refuge Complex

Grant Amount:..... \$716,200

Matching Funds:..... \$4,800

Total Project Amount:..... \$721,000

Convert antiquated diesel-powered water wells to electric wells and install water control structures to restore the hydrological management of wetland habitats within the



Swamp rabbit

Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge waterfowl sanctuary. Project will improve 1,275 acres of moist soil, bottomland hardwoods and agricultural impoundments within the waterfowl sanctuary, improving habitat and providing forage for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, forest interior land birds and swamp rabbits.

AMENDMENTS

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

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$260,900

Matching Funds:..... \$0

Total Project Amount:..... \$260,900

Assist private landowners in adopting voluntary conservation practices to improve wildlife habitat and water quality on agricultural lands. Project will enhance more than 180,000 acres of winter habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds.

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

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

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

Matching Funds:..... \$150,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$300,000

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.