



# NFWF

## Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley 2019 Grant Slate

### NFWF CONTACTS

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

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

### PARTNERS



American Forest Foundation

INTERNATIONAL  PAPER

WALTON FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



### 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](http://www.nfwf.org)

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



Kentucky warbler

### OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Forest Service, International Paper, Walton Family Foundation and American Forest Foundation announced a second round of funding for the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund. In 2019, six bottomland hardwood forest and wetland conservation grants totaling nearly \$2 million were awarded, leveraging \$2.3 million in matching contributions from grantees to generate a total conservation impact of \$4.3 million.

NFWF launched the 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 conserve bottomland hardwood forest and wetland habitats for the benefit of both wildlife and people.

### Forest Conservation and Wetlands Reserve Lands Management in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MS)

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust  
Grant Award:..... \$640,970  
Matching Funds: ..... \$937,500  
**Total Amount:..... \$1,578,470**  
Protect 375 acres of bottomland hardwoods with working forest conservation easements and enhance an additional 1,000 acres of existing bottomland hardwood forests to

*(continued)*



## Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley 2019 Grant Slate

improve wildlife habitat and serve as demonstration sites for landowners and foresters. Project will provide an inventory of more than 30,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forest established through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program in Mississippi, providing landowners, land managers and NRCS with information needed to guide management treatments that enhance wildlife habitat at a landscape scale.

### **Engaging Private Forest Landowners and Enhancing Bottomland Hardwood Forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: The Forest Stewards Guild

Grant Award:..... \$133,212  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$99,907  
**Total Amount:..... \$233,119**

Leverage the expertise and accomplishments of state lands managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to promote and expand implementation of forest management practices that enhance wildlife habitat for forest interior birds, such as Kentucky warbler. Partners will host a regional learning exchange and workshops to share best practices, perform strategic and targeted outreach to private forest landowners, prepare forest management plans for high-priority private landowners, and implement enhancement activities on 1,200 acres of private and state forest lands in Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

### **Arkansas Wetland Restoration and Water Quality Improvement Initiative (AR)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Award:..... \$499,444  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$300,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$799,444**

Improve 1,600 acres of bottomland hardwood forest habitat through invasive species removal and hydrological restoration on public and private properties enrolled in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program in Arkansas, benefiting waterfowl and forest-dependent bird species. Project will engage private landowners through outreach and technical assistance, with the goal to enroll at least 30 landowners in stewardship programs that will improve bottomland hardwood forests, wetland habitats and water quality.

### **Stewardship of Privately-Owned Bottomland Hardwood Forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Award:..... \$153,180  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$306,360  
**Total Amount:..... \$459,540**

Increase stewardship of privately-owned bottomland

hardwood forests in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley through outreach, technical assistance and developing conservation plans to guide management of existing forests and improve habitat for waterfowl, forest-interior birds and other forest-dependent wildlife. Project will reach 150 landowners with existing conservation easements, including properties enrolled in the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Program, with the goal for at least half of these landowners to implement conservation activities that will enhance 2,000 acres of forested wetlands and restore hydrologic conditions on 450 acres to improve water quality.

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

Grantee: Pheasants Forever

Grant Award:..... \$295,022  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$295,050  
**Total Amount:..... \$590,072**

Work through Conservation Delivery Network 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, 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 and implement forest management on 1,400 acres, benefitting Bachman's sparrow, northern bobwhite and other early successional species.

### **Forests, Floodplains and Flow: Increasing Wetland Habitats, Habitat Complexity and Hydrologic Connections along the Lower Mississippi River (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust

Grant Award:..... \$268,345  
 Matching Funds: ..... \$385,000  
**Total Amount:..... \$653,345**

Work with private landowners to restore 1,000 acres of frequently flooded forests through the adoption of the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Reserve Easements and restore flow and habitat complexity within priority Mississippi River secondary channels through ecological engineering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Project will benefit federally listed and at-risk birds, fish and mussels and improve water quality in the Lower Mississippi River's active floodplain in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.