



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

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Prothonotary warbler

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 fifth round of funding for the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley Restoration Fund (LMAV Fund). Additional funding was provided this year by the Bezos Earth Fund. Six new bottomland hardwood forest, wetland, and aquatic habitat restoration grants totaling nearly \$2.6 million were awarded. The six awards announced generated about \$4.5 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of over \$7 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.

(continued)

Implementing Farm Bill Programs to Benefit Wetlands Along the Mississippi River (MO, IL, KY)

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$245,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$189,600
 Total Project Amount:..... \$435,300

Promote and implement Farm Bill conservation programs with private landowners within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of southeast Missouri, southwest Illinois, and western Kentucky to restore and enhance wetland habitat. Project will engage a minimum of 250 landowners, enroll 36 landowners in Farm Bill programs, and develop 30 new wetland plans to restore or enhance more than 2,300 acres of wetland habitat, benefiting swamp rabbit, waterfowl and songbirds including the Kentucky warbler.

Restoring Bottomland Hardwoods in the Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge (LA)

Grantee: The Trust for Public Land

Grant Amount:..... \$200,000
 Matching Funds:..... N/A
 Total Project Amount:..... \$200,000

Restore 1,700 acres of bottomland hardwood forest wetlands within the Bayou Teche National Wildlife Refuge. Project will contribute to a multi-year effort to establish a forested habitat corridor between a large expanse of coastal forests in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, and the vast forested wilderness of the Atachafalaya Basin benefiting forest birds, waterfowl and the Louisiana black bear.

Restoring Habitat and Addressing Barriers to Improving Louisiana Black Bear Populations (LA)

Grantee: University of Memphis

Grant Amount:..... \$390,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$217,200
 Total Project Amount:..... \$607,200

Restore 700 acres of forest habitat in Russell Sage State Wildlife Management Area to benefit Louisiana black bear; pilot a BearWise project coordinator to address human-bear conflicts, and identify landscape barriers to bear movement and gene flow within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Louisiana. Project will restore soil hydrology, forest and understory growth, engage communities to decrease human-bear conflict, and identify which environmental variables influence population connectivity.

Restoring Forested Wetlands in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley of Arkansas and Louisiana

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$435,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$400,000
 Total Project Amount:..... \$835,700

Perform hydrologic and forest enhancement and restoration activities on private land in Louisiana and Arkansas and public land in Arkansas. Project will restore hydrology, enhance existing forests, and reforest areas to impact a total of 1,450 acres, benefiting migratory waterfowl, Louisiana black bear and other forested wetland-dependent species.



Flying mallards

Restoring Bottomland Hardwood Wetland Habitat in the Lower Mississippi River Floodplain (AR, MS, LA)

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust

Grant Amount:..... \$199,600
 Matching Funds:..... N/A
 Total Project Amount:..... \$199,625

Work with private landowners to reforest and protect 2,000 acres of frequently flooded, mostly cleared land through the adoption of Natural Resources Conservation Service Wetland Reserve Easements in the active floodplain of the Lower Mississippi River. Project will expand and enhance habitat for the Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit, forest-dwelling birds, waterfowl, and freshwater fish; improve water quality in the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico; and increase carbon sequestration.

Restoring Forests for Wildlife and Carbon in the Mississippi River Floodplain (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)

Grantee: The Carbon Fund

Grant Amount:..... \$1,100,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$3,661,300
 Total Project Amount:..... \$4,761,300

Pilot a forest restoration program to re-establish bottomland hardwoods to improve wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration and storage within the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Project will provide outreach and technical and financial assistance to private landowners, with a focus on engaging historically underserved landowners, to reforest frequently flooded marginal cropland benefiting Louisiana black bear and forest birds, including the prothonotary warbler.