



# 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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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

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Louisiana black bear

## 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. Four new bottomland hardwood forest, wetland, and aquatic habitat restoration grants totaling more than \$2.5 million were awarded. The four awards announced leveraged \$2.9 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$5.4 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.

The program has awarded seven rounds of grants totaling \$16.4 million, leveraging \$14.8 million in grantee matching funds to generate a total conservation impact of more than \$31.2 million. These projects are anticipated to restore more than 49,000 acres of forest, enhance nearly 50,000 acres of existing forest habitat, restore and improve hydrologic function to nearly 44,000 acres of wetlands and floodplains, and protect nearly 76,000 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

(continued)



**2024 GRANTS****Forest Enhancement and Hydrologic Restoration on Public and Private Lands (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$626,600

Matching Funds:..... \$625,000

Total Project Amount:..... \$1,251,600

Enhance and restore private and public land across the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley through the installation of water management infrastructure and technical assistance to help implement forest management practices. Project will restore and enhance 919 acres across public and private land, improving hydrology and assisting species like the Louisiana black bear and swamp rabbit.

**Improve and Restore the Baucum Tree Nursery to Increase Seedling Capacity (AR)**

Grantee: Arkansas Department of Agriculture - Forestry Division

Grant Amount:..... \$250,000

Matching Funds:..... \$269,700

Total Project Amount:..... \$519,700

Improve 30.5 acres of Baucum Tree Nursery land to supply bottomland hardwood seedlings for restoration projects in the lower Mississippi River region. Project will increase the nursery's capacity so that they can supply 3 million more hardwood tree seedlings annually.

**Promoting Forest Management and Agricultural Conservation Practices with Cost Share (IL, KY, MO, TN)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount:..... \$1,375,400

Matching Funds:..... \$1,375,500

Total Project Amount:..... \$2,750,900

Provide technical assistance to landowners with wetland easements and promote, through cost share programs, conservation practices that will improve wildlife habitat and water quality on working agricultural lands. Project will complete 900 acres of habitat restoration and evaluation on public lands, plant 120,800 trees on public and private lands, and restore 100 acres of public land through the removal of invasive species.

**Restoring Wetland Forests through Tree Planting on Marginal Cropland (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount:..... \$317,000

Matching Funds:..... \$635,900

Total Project Amount:..... \$952,900

Restore wetland forests through tree establishment and wetland reconstruction techniques, with a focus on restoration on marginal croplands. Project will improve habitat quality and connectivity for bird species such as the cerulean warbler, northern parula and hooded warbler; for fish species such as the alligator gar; as well as for aquatic macroinvertebrates and threatened wetland plants.



Northern parula