



# Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley

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## PARTNERS

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

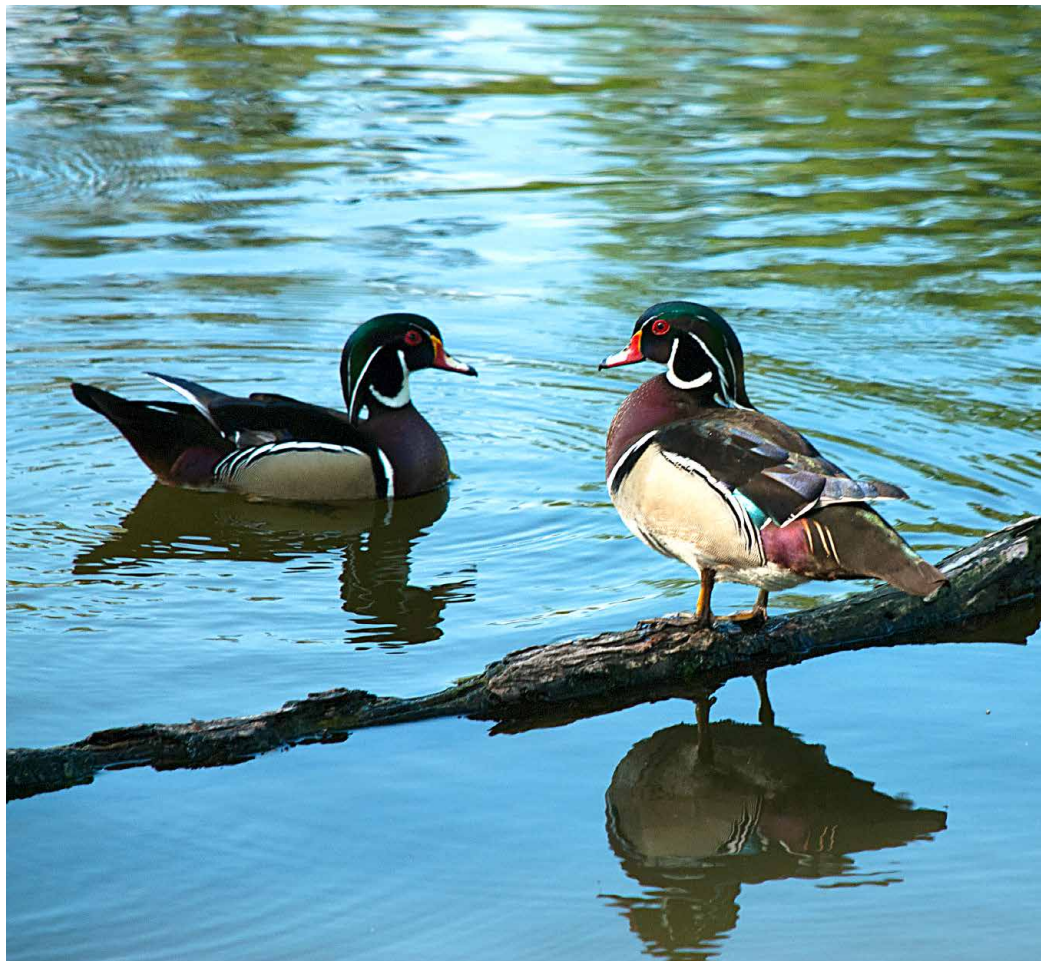
## ABOUT NFWF

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 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

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

## NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Pair of wood ducks in Louisiana

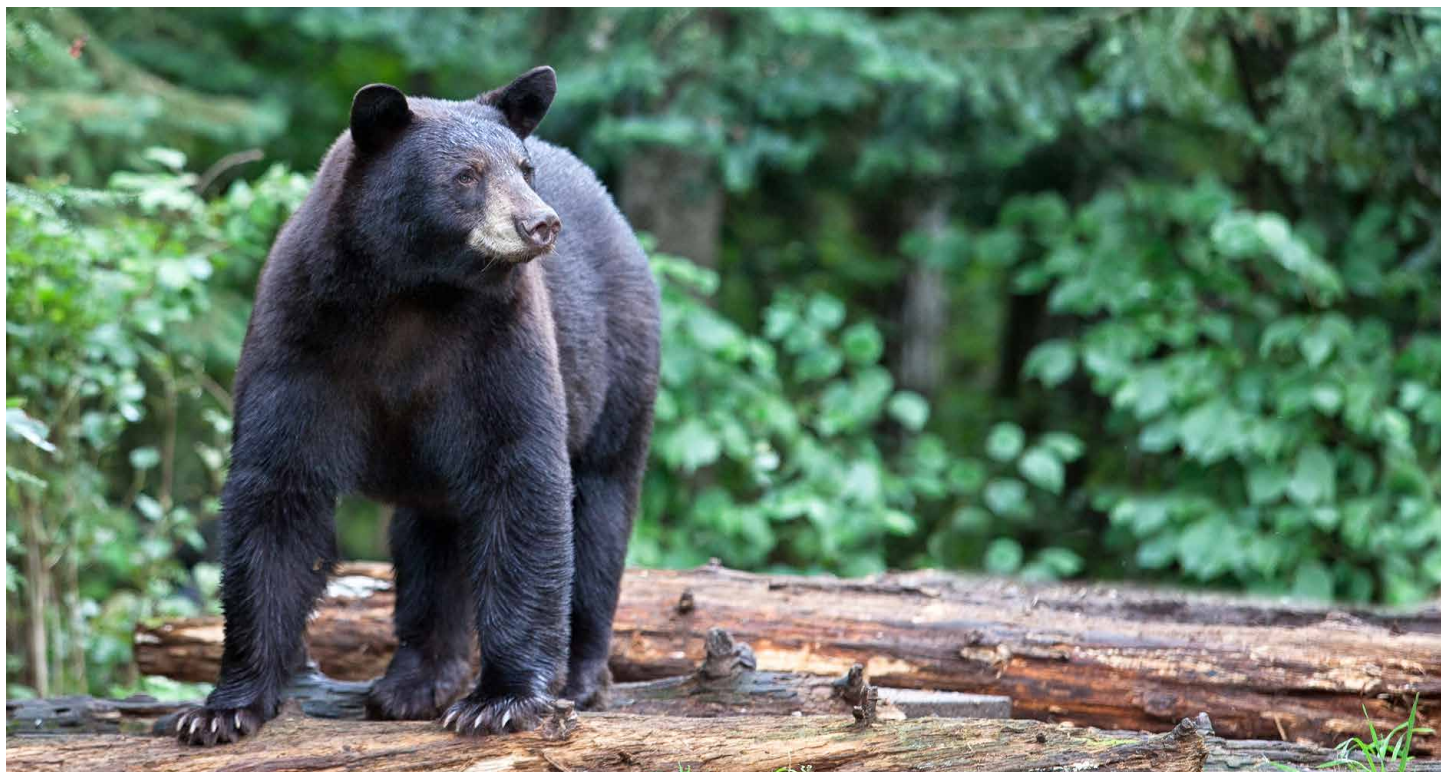
## OVERVIEW

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 Walton Family Foundation announced a third round of funding for the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (LMAV) Restoration Fund.

In 2020, eight bottomland hardwood forest, wetland and aquatic habitat restoration grants totaling more than \$2.6 million were awarded. The eight awards announced generated \$2.3 million in match from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$4.9 million

NFWF launched the LMAV Restoration 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.

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Black bear

#### **Restoring Forested Wetlands through a Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: .....\$696,304  
 Matching Funds: .....\$160,000  
 Total Project:.....\$856,304

Restore and protect forested wetlands within high priority areas in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley region of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Project will reforest 2,650 acres of marginal cropland, restore 600 acres of hydrologic wetland function and protect 3,300 acres with conservation easements, benefiting Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbits, waterfowl and neotropical migratory songbirds.

#### **Black Bear Monitoring in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, LA, MS)**

Grantee: Mississippi State University

Grant Amount: .....\$138,483  
 Matching Funds: .....\$95,838  
 Total Project:.....\$234,321

Monitor and collect baseline data on black bear movement, gene flow, and genetic isolation among five recovering populations within the Mississippi Alluvial Valley in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi. Project will help assess black bear response to bottomland hardwood restoration efforts and establish a regional black bear monitoring protocol by leveraging monitoring efforts in the three states, coordinating standardized protocols for sampling, and collaborating on analyses.

#### **Revising the Lower Mississippi Desired Forest Condition for Wildlife Report (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)**

Grantee: Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation

Grant Amount: .....\$79,254  
 Matching Funds: .....\$43,800  
 Total Project:.....\$123,054

Update the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture's Desired Forest Condition for Wildlife report, which provides technical guidance to land managers on how to manage bottomland hardwood forests for the conservation of wildlife. Project will revise the report to integrate new science on the habitat needs of priority wildlife species, include updates from the Forest Resource Conservation Working Group, and add a section dedicated to the management of restored or young bottomland hardwood stands.

#### **Enhancing Hydrology and Restoring Forests in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, MS)**

Grantee: Ducks Unlimited

Grant Amount: .....\$375,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$375,000  
 Total Project:.....\$750,000

Restore and enhance bottomland hardwood forests and wetlands on public and private lands within the Delta of Arkansas and Mississippi. Project will restore hydrology, enhance existing forests, and reforest areas to impact a total of 2,590 acres, benefiting migratory waterfowl, Louisiana black bear and other forested wetland-dependent species.

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Loggerhead shrike in Louisiana

**Forested Wetland Restoration in the Lower Mississippi River Floodplain (AR, KY, LA, MO, MS, TN)**

Grantee: Mississippi River Trust

Grant Amount: .....\$653,696  
 Matching Funds: .....\$800,000  
 Total Project: .....\$1,453,696

Reforest and protect frequently flooded, marginal cropland on private lands through the adoption of Wetland Reserve Easements in the active floodplain of the Lower Mississippi River. Project will establish 7,500 acres of bottomland hardwood forest to expand and enhance habitat and improve water quality, benefitting the Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbit, forest birds, waterfowl and freshwater fish.

**Restoring Bottomland Hardwood Forests in the Yazoo River Basin (MS)**

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: .....\$225,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$225,000  
 Total Project: .....\$450,000

Restore 1,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests on marginal agricultural lands in the Yazoo River Basin of the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. Project will restore habitat for Louisiana black bear, swamp rabbits and waterfowl, while improving water quality through sediment and nutrient reduction.

**Restoring Hydrology and Monitoring Species Response in the Blackhawk Scar Lakes Ecosystem (LA)**

Grantee: Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee

Grant Amount: .....\$400,000  
 Matching Funds: .....\$548,443  
 Total Project: .....\$948,443

Repair and replace water control structures to restore more natural hydrology and stream connectivity to 700 acres of floodplain habitat on the R.K. Yancey Wildlife Management Area in Louisiana. Project will monitor floodplain resource use by alligator gar and associated fish communities, monitor water quality improvements post-restoration, and engage private landowners to share lessons learned and floodplain management recommendations to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

**Monitoring Avian Response to Forest Management in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley (AR, LA, MS, TX)**

Grantee: Stephen F. Austin State University

Grant Amount: .....\$73,377  
 Matching Funds: .....\$73,738  
 Total Project: .....\$147,115

Develop a baseline inventory of bird species in bottomland hardwood restoration sites in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley through the deployment of autonomous sound recorders. Baseline data will be compared to avian community metrics captured in bottomland hardwood forests at different successional stages to identify effective management activities used in forestry wildlife treatments and stages of stand development that need further treatments for maintaining desired forest conditions.