

Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Mississippi



photo: Ronnie Haynes,
USFWS



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Jackson Field Office
601/321 1138

Jackson Migratory Birds
601/965 4903

Habitat Improvement Opportunities on Private Lands

- Wetlands and Associated Uplands.
- Longleaf Pine Ecosystems.
- Migratory Birds.
- Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Riparian.
- Fisheries.

Technical Assistance

- Wetland Reserve Program.
- Conservation Reserve Program.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
- Wetlands Conservation Provisions.
- Other Farm Bill Conservation Programs.

Conservation Strategies

- The Mississippi Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program works with interested private landowners to restore bottomland hardwood forest and associated marsh wetlands. This work includes reforestation as well as hydrology restoration.
- The Mississippi Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program works with private landowners and Federal and State agencies to restore the longleaf pine ecosystem on private and tribal lands. Reforestation costs \$125 per acre.

- The Mississippi Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program works with farmers and ranchers to restore native grasses on the Blackland Prairie in east Mississippi.
- Riparian (streamside) vegetative buffers are being restored along rivers and streams. This work involves replanting trees and shrubs and stabilizing any eroding stream banks. Buffers about 200 feet wide are usually established along streams. The work costs \$3000 per mile.
- The Mississippi Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program works with USDA to implement all USDA conservation programs in Mississippi. The Wetlands Reserve Program is of special interest because over 150,000 acres of bottomland hardwood habitat have been restored in the Mississippi Delta.
- The Mississippi Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program is utilizing priority species and habitat information in the Mississippi Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Plan to help guide our partnership efforts. The Plan can be reviewed at: www.mdwfp.com/Level2/cwcs/Final.asp. We will continue our collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks and other partners in delivering priority conservation actions on private lands in Mississippi.

Partners

Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Farm Services Agency
Mississippi Department of Wildlife,
Fisheries, and Parks
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Mississippi Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
Delta Wildlife, Inc.
Mississippi Wildlife Federation

Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife

International Paper Company

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality

Mississippi Department of
Transportation

Weyerhaeuser Company

TARA Wildlife

Quail Unlimited

Audubon Mississippi

Mississippi Farm Bureau

Mississippi Forestry Commission

Mississippi Soil and Water
Conservation Commission

Mississippi State Extension Service

Wild Turkey Federation,
Mississippi Chapter

Accomplishments

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program has been active in Mississippi since 1987. Since 1987, over 96,882 acres of habitat improvement projects involving over 760 landowners have been completed. In 2005, the Mississippi Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program was initiated. This partnership includes over 20 federal and state agencies, conservation organizations and corporations. The mission of this partnership is to establish, restore, improve, and protect fish and wildlife habitat on privately owned lands through voluntary partnerships with agencies, organizations, corporations, and private individuals. The goal of the partnership is to leverage resources of government agencies, private conservation organizations, corporations, local agencies, educational institutions, and private individuals who have the interest and/or the responsibility of working with private landowners to establish, restore, improve, and protect fish and wildlife habitat on private lands in Mississippi.

Questions and Answers

What is Partners for Fish & Wildlife?

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife program restores, improves, and protects fish and wildlife habitat on private lands through alliances between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other organizations and individuals, while leaving the land in private ownership.

Who are the Partners?

Anyone can be a partner: farmers, ranchers, city dwellers, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, government agencies, educational institutions and anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

Why is Partners for Fish & Wildlife important to you?

The future of the nation's fish and wildlife depends on the private landowner.

Over two-thirds of our nation's land is privately owned and contains some of the most important fish and wildlife habitat in the United States. The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program can restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat and contribute to the health of the land and the quality of life of the people living on it.

Three-quarters of the wetlands remaining in the United States are privately owned. Wetlands are vital to both wildlife and people. Millions of birds, mammals and other animals depend on wetlands for food, spawning and nursery areas. Nearly one-third of America's endangered and threatened plants and animals need wetlands for survival.

Wetlands also benefit people by providing natural flood water storage, recreational opportunities, recharging ground water supplies, filtering pollutants, and providing irrigation water.

The longleaf pine ecosystem once covered a reported 90 million acres in the Southeastern United States. Today, less than three million acres remain (over 97% decline), mostly in the Coastal Plains of the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

Stands of longleaf pine offer more diversity, visual appeal, wildlife habitat, and higher value products than other pine species.

The key is partnerships! Working together, teaming up to meet local needs, address issues, and take advantage of local opportunities.

Technical Assistance

What can Partners for Fish & Wildlife do for you?

If you need help solving a land management problem, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can provide assistance, or help facilitate assistance through other agencies, on a variety of issues including:

- Wetland restoration and protection.
- Nest structures or nesting islands.
- Food and shelter for fish and wildlife.
- Soil and water quality improvement.
- Pesticide use reduction.
- Native plant restoration.
- Moist-soil management.

If your property contains damaged habitat that can be restored for wildlife; or, if you want to manage a portion of your property for wildlife, but don't know where to begin, we may be able to work with you to develop and implement a plan that meets your needs. On the ground, we can provide certain structures, help move dirt, establish bottomland hardwood trees and other vegetation, and much more.

Technical assistance is also available to landowners through U.S. Department of Agriculture programs and various programs available through state fish and wildlife agencies and certain conservation organizations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will assist you in recognizing opportunities within these programs.

How do I become a Partner?

Individual landowners can become involved by contacting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A biologist will contact you to discuss your needs, the opportunities available, and assist you as possible. If your project meets certain criteria, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may share or pay certain costs.

If we can't help you, we will try to find someone who can.