

# Ivory-billed Woodpecker

*Recovery starts here...*

Tuesday, July 19, 2005

## B I - W E E K L Y U P D A T E

### Recovery Team

The Steering Committee and the Habitat Conservation and Management and Biology Working Groups will meet in Little Rock, Arkansas on August 2-3, 2005, to develop specific tasks related to recovery plan preparation. A recovery outline is scheduled to be completed by early September.

A Communications Working Group has been established to support the Recovery Team. The group includes representatives from federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, conservation organizations, and universities. The group will meet in Little Rock, Arkansas, on July 26, to begin developing a communications plan related to recovery efforts for the woodpecker. The following agencies and organizations make up the Communications Working Group:

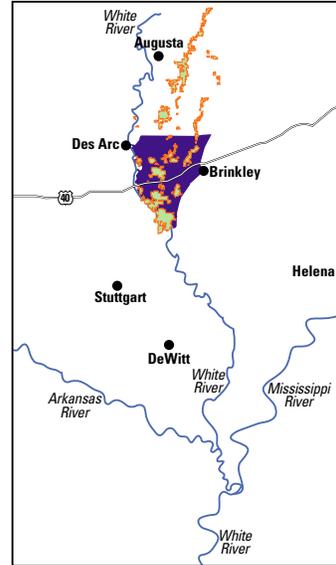
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Arkansas Parks and Tourism
- Audubon Arkansas
- Audubon Mississippi
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Ducks Unlimited
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Farm Bill Conservation for the IBW

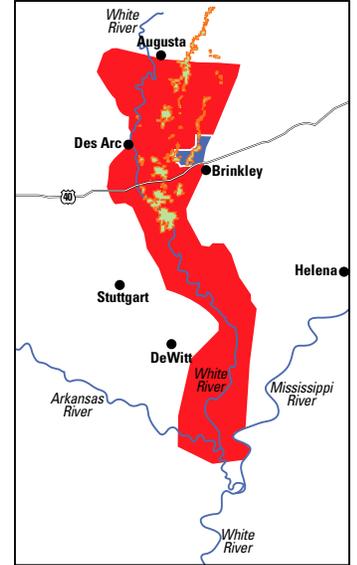
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency administers the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP), which is a voluntary land retirement program that assists agricultural producers in protecting environmentally sensitive land, restoring wildlife habitat and decreasing erosion through partnerships with state, federal and tribal governments as well as private organizations. CREP boundaries have been established in eastern Arkansas (see maps).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). The WRP is a voluntary program that provides technical assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. It provides an opportunity for landowners to receive financial incentives to restore, protect and enhance wetlands in exchange for retiring marginal land from agriculture.

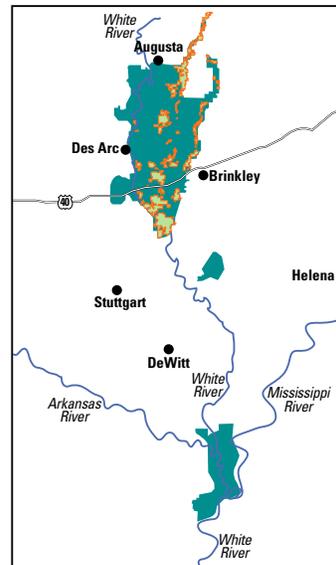
The WHIP is a voluntary program that encourages creation of high quality wildlife habitats that support wildlife populations of national, state, tribal and local significance. Through WHIP, the NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas on their property. NRCS recently held a public



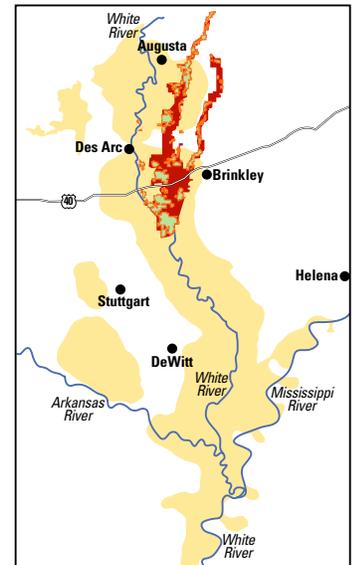
**FSA**  
 ■ IBW CREP  
 ■ Cache River NWR



**NRCS**  
 ■ Priority 1 Blue Zone  
 ■ Priority 2 Red Zone



**TNC**  
 ■ Priority Area  
 ■ Cache River NWR



**USFWS**  
 ■ Top 25% FBB Priority  
 ■ Cache River NWR  
 ■ Cache River NWR Acquisition Boundary

meeting at the White River National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center to inform landowners of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker WHIP Special Project. Reforestation, forest management and limited hydrology restoration WHIP practices will be available to landowners within the project area with NRCS paying the entire practice cost.

