

MPFW and Private Landowners Restoring Snow Brake

Submitted by Calvin Lunceford, private lands biologist, Mississippi Field Office, Jackson

The Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife (MPFW) are currently working with private landowners to restore historic Snow Brake – a 355-acre-bald-cypress-and-tupelo wetland located in northwest Mississippi.

Snow Brake was drained in the late 1950s, the cypress timber harvested, and the land converted to agricultural production of soybeans and rice. Today, to restore the property, Snow Brake landowners are working with MPFW representatives like Ed Penny, a waterfowl biologist with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. This spring, despite flood waters from the Tallahatchie River, 46,000 cypress seedlings were successfully hand planted on approximately 130 acres of the brake. And, there's more restoration work to come.

The landowners, Ed, and a MPFW rep. from the Mississippi Field Office, met in early 2010 to discuss a long-term plan for Snow Brake. Everyone kept in mind that the property was purchased primarily for waterfowl hunting. Ideas considered included restoration designs, topographical surveys, reforestation, long-term management plans, long-term protection, hydrology restoration and grade-control structures.

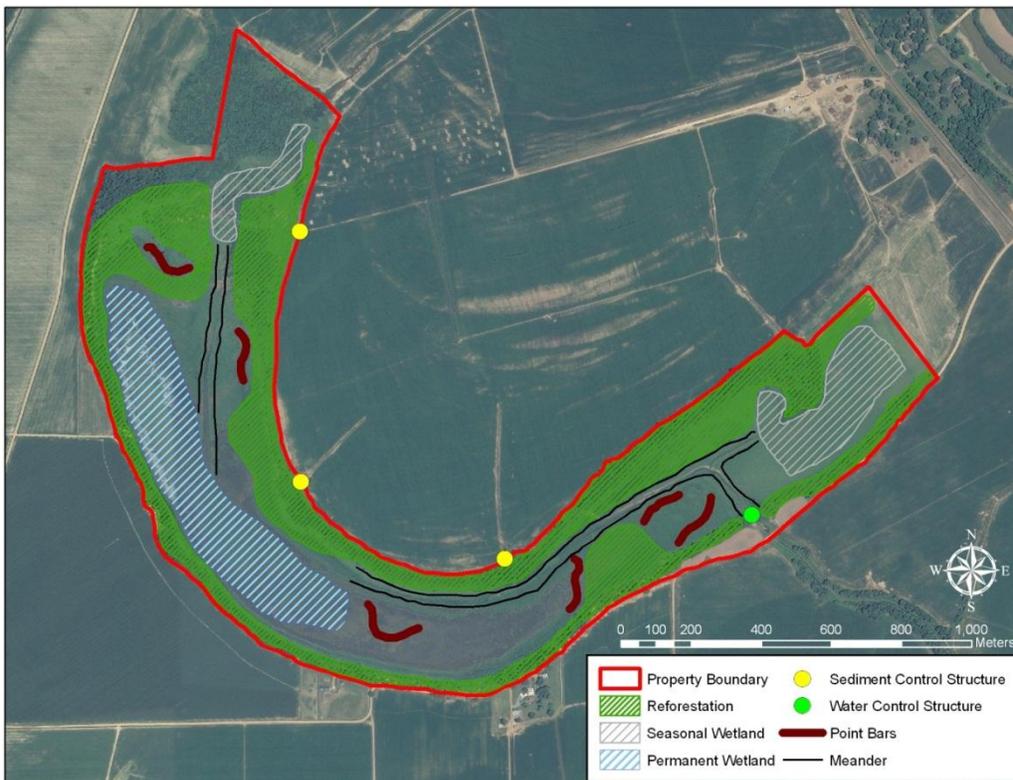
The Snow Brake restoration project will directly contribute to the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the MPFW.

Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife is a mixture of representatives from federal, state, and non-governmental conservation organizations that help private landowners restore, enhance, and manage wildlife habitat on privately owned property in the state of Mississippi.



Dan Gregg, Mississippi Field Office biologist, looks at a newly planted cypress seedling.

Photo credit: Jeffrey Lee, USFWS



Aerial photo of Snow Brake

Photo credit: Calvin Lunceford, USFWS