



Proposed Urban National Wildlife Refuge in Jackson, Mississippi, Metropolitan Area:

Options for Private Landowners



Reforestation project.
Source: USFWS

If the proposed refuge is approved, the acquisition boundary would contain approximately 5,000 acres. Land purchases for a national wildlife refuge can only be made within an approved acquisition boundary; which is entirely non-regulatory and non-restrictive, and it is our policy to acquire land only from willing landowners.

The establishment of the proposed refuge would enable the Service to protect a vital portion of the Pearl River bottomland riparian ecosystem in an urbanized area, as well as offer wildlife-dependent public use opportunities within the greater Jackson metropolitan area. Cultural and historical resources would be protected and environmental education and interpretive programs would allow the public to better understand and appreciate the important natural resources in this area.

We will also explore other options that would allow interested and willing landowners to help with conservation efforts while retaining ownership of their land through the use of leases, management agreements and conservation easements.

<i>Participation is completely voluntary</i>	Rights and responsibilities of the original landowner	Rights and responsibilities of the Fish and Wildlife Service
<p>Fee-Title Sale</p> <p>The Service purchases the land from a willing seller.</p>	<p>Ownership, with associated rights and responsibilities, transfers to the Service</p>	<p>As purchaser of the property, the Service inherits rights and responsibilities associated with ownership.</p>
<p>Management Agreement</p> <p>The Service enters into an agreement with a landowner specifying land management activities the owner will conduct over a period of time, often with some level of Service support.</p>	<p>Property owners retain all rights and responsibilities related to property ownership. Additional commitments may be included in the management agreement, which the Service and the landowner would willingly enter into.</p>	<p>Service would have no rights or responsibilities associated with property ownership. Additional commitments may be included in the management agreement, which the Service and the landowner would willingly enter into.</p>
<p>Technical and Financial Assistance</p> <p>The Service may offer technical and financial assistance to landowners for specific projects to improve fish and wildlife habitat on their property.</p>	<p>Property owners retain all rights and responsibilities related to property ownership.</p>	<p>The Service would have no rights or responsibilities associated with property ownership.</p>
<p>Conservation Easement</p> <p>Landowner agrees to transfer certain development rights, specified in the easement, to the Service for habitat management. Easement terms agreed to by landowner.</p>	<p>Owner retains ownership of the land yet transfers certain rights to the Service. Land uses that would adversely affect native plants and animals are normally restricted. Easement terms agreed to by landowner.</p>	<p>Service acquires certain rights providing it the ability to manage for fish and wildlife on the property. Easement terms agreed to by landowner.</p>

The Service only works with willing landowners and no one is under any obligation to sell their land or otherwise participate in the creation of the refuge.