

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## Arkansas



photo: USFWS



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### Photos, top to bottom:

*Top two photos: oil field restoration before and after.*

*Cave springs cave fence protects the largest known population of Ozark cavefish.*

*Restoring wetland hydrology.*

### Habitat Improvement Opportunities on Private Lands

- Wetlands-bottomland hardwoods, seasonally flooded wetlands.
- Migratory birds.
- Threatened and endangered species.
- Riparian corridors.
- Fisheries.
- Stream habitats.
- Prairies.
- Early successional plant communities.
- Invasive species control.
- Bioremediation.
- Cave ecosystems.
- Native upland communities.

### Technical Assistance

- Wetland Reserve Program.
- Conservation Reserve Program.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
- Wetlands Conservation Provisions (fencing, revegetation along streams, etc.).
- Debt Cancellation Conservation Contract Program.
- Other Farm Bill Conservation Programs.
- Arkansas Partners Project.

### Habitat Restoration (1988-2008)

- 987 sites.
- 44,469 acres.
- 78 miles riparian.

### Partnerships

- Private landowners.
  - National Audubon Society, Inc.
  - Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
  - Gates Rogers Foundation.
  - Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
  - Natural Resources Conservation Service.
  - The Nature Conservancy.
  - Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission.
  - Mississippi River Trust.
  - Arkansas conservation districts.
  - Arkansas State University.
  - Farm Service Agency.
  - Arkansas Forestry Commission.
  - University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.
  - ARKLATX.
  - Private industry.
  - Oil and gas industry.
  - Municipalities.
- ### Examples of funded projects
- Bottomland hardwood reforestation (hardwood seedlings).
  - Upland hardwood reforestation.
  - Bioremediation.
  - Hydrology restoration (plugging ditches, building levees, installation of water control structures, etc.).
  - Artificial nest boxes.
  - Wildlife habitat enhancement.

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# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

- Streambank stabilization/restoration.
- Prairie restoration.
- Outdoor classrooms.
- Restoration of riparian and floodplain areas.
- Cave gates and fencing.
- Restoration of fish habitat (reforestation along lakes, streams, and rivers to improve water quality).
- Native warm season grasses.
- Invasive species control.
- Stream channel restoration.

## 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, 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 key is partnerships! Working together, teaming up to meet local needs, addressing issues, and taking 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 the 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.