

# Partners for Fish and Wildlife

## South Carolina



photo: Wes Cooler

**Photos, top to bottom:**

*Reforestation of riparian area along degraded stream in the Upcountry region.*

*Longleaf pine forest restoration in the Sandhills region four years after planting.*

*Endangered wood storks foraging at a restored wetland in Lowcountry region.*

*Landowner and biologist discussing option for wildlife habitat improvement in the agricultural Pee Dee region.*



photo: USFWS/ Joe Cockrell

**Opportunities on Private Lands**

*Habitat Improvement*

- Wetlands and associated uplands.
- Migratory bird habitat.
- Forested riparian buffers.
- Longleaf pine forest.
- Threatened and endangered species.
- Native grass establishment
- Stream restoration

**Technical assistance**

*To landowners:*

- Habitat improvement recommendations.

*To USDA-NRCS:*

- Wetland Reserve Program.
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.
- Other Farm Bill Conservation Programs.



photo: John Blackwell, Jr.

**Partnerships**

Our primary partners are more than 75 **private landowners** as well as the following organizations and agencies:

- American Chestnut Foundation
- Audubon South Carolina
- Bamberg Conservation District
- Brookgreen Gardens

- BSA Blue Ridge Council
- Catawba Indian Nation
- Charleston Natural History Society
- Chapin High School
- Ducks Unlimited
- East Piedmont RC&D
- Farm Service Agency
- Foothills RC&D Council
- Greenlawn Baptist Church
- James Island Elementary School
- Lowcountry RC&D Council
- Mepkin Abbey
- National Audubon Society
- Nemours Wildlife Foundation
- USDA-NRCS
- SC Chapter of The Wildlife Society
- SC Native Plant Society
- SC Department of Corrections
- SC Department of Natural Resources
- SC Waterfowl Association
- Telephone Pioneers of America
- The Bishop Gravatt Center
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trinity Collegiate School
- University of South Carolina
- USDA-NRCS
- West Ashley High School

**Accomplishments**

*(1993 – 2008)*

- Uplands.....3,794 acres
- Wetlands .....2,566 acres
- Stream.....3.4 miles

Seven education-outreach projects which include three schoolyard habitat and outdoor teaching facilities.



photo: USFWS/ Joe Cockrell

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## 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, rural landowners, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, educational institutions or anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

*Why is Partners for Fish and 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 for 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, address issues, and take advantage of local opportunities.

*What can Partners for Fish & Wildlife do for you?*

## Technical Assistance

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:

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

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. We can help with providing certain structures, excavation, establishing 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.

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