

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Working for Arkansas

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) is an incentive-based, landowner-friendly program that fosters the development of public-private partnerships to protect North America's migratory bird habitat.

NAWCA Positively Impacts the Economy and Creates Jobs

NAWCA benefits the national economy by translating \$411 million in federal funds into nearly \$3.5 billion in additional economic activity in the United States. These expenditures have created, on average, nearly 7,500 new jobs annually in the United States, generating over \$200 million in worker earnings each year.

NAWCA Effectively Leverages Private Sector Funds

Since enactment, NAWCA grants have leveraged more than \$3.2 billion in matching funds to deliver a total of over \$4.2 billion in on-the-ground conservation. NAWCA requires a 1:1 match, but federal funds are often tripled or quadrupled by partners at the local level.

NAWCA Expands Recreational Opportunities For People

The abundance of wildlife including many species of waterfowl, migratory birds, fish, and mammals supported by wetlands translates into multi-billion dollar activities for Americans who enjoy hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography.

NAWCA Benefits Hundreds Of Wildlife Species

NAWCA helps fulfill the mission of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan by providing migratory birds with essential habitat needs. NAWCA projects also benefit other fish and wildlife species, including rare, threatened, and endangered species that are dependent on wetlands ecosystems.

Conserving And Restoring Wetlands Increases Water Quantity And Quality

Wetlands store water and recharge aquifers, thus securing future water supplies. Plants and soils in wetlands play a significant role in purifying water, removing high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus, and in some cases, removing toxic chemicals before entering the groundwater supply. Some wetland plants have been found to accumulate heavy metals in their tissues at 100,000 times the concentration in the surrounding water.

Bayou Meto Basin Phase I

Located in Arkansas County, the 586-acre Halowell reservoir was constructed in the early 1950s and originally managed as a green tree reservoir for public hunting. The property was managed as a fishery from 1960-1976 and the forest succumbed to flooding in the late 1960s. The reservoir was drained for levee and water control structure repair in spring 1992.

In recent decades the site was managed as a waterfowl rest area. Despite attempts to provide quality waterfowl habitat, stumps impeded equipment from being used to manage it as a productive seasonally-flooded wetland. More recently, broomsedges, asters, and small trees invaded parts of the site; habitat quality for waterfowl and wetland birds diminished greatly.

This project has played a vital role in increasing and enhancing waterfowl habitat in one of the Mississippi Flyway's most important wintering areas. Protection, restoration and enhancement activities have benefited the little blue heron and at least eight other species of marsh or wading birds. Project work also benefited the large numbers of waterfowl hunters and birders who use the area.

Below, stump removal begins on the project:



Arkansas NAWCA Projects

Arkansas currently has **14** NAWCA projects either completed or underway. These projects have conserved a total of **67,414 acres** of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of over **\$8.7 million** stimulated partner contributions of nearly **\$33.5 million**.

Title	NAWCA	Partners	Total	Acres
1. TRICE WETLANDS	\$68,000	\$74,700	\$142,700	302
2. FALCON BOTTOMS	\$422,135	\$470,000	\$892,135	878
3. CACHE / LOWER WHITE RIVERS	\$800,000	\$800,000	\$1,600,000	3,125
4. PAYNEWAY MOIST-SOIL IMPOUNDMENT	\$40,000	\$93,445	\$133,445	260
5. POINT REMOVE WETLAND	\$667,429	\$1,345,957	\$2,013,386	3,013
6. SEVEN DEVILS SWAMP	\$1,000,000	\$3,100,000	\$4,100,000	3,445
7. FALCON BOTTOMS II	\$617,290	\$1,274,580	\$1,891,870	2,430
8. CHOCTAW ISLAND	\$300,000	\$7,380,580	\$7,680,580	8,300
9. ARKANSAS ECOREGIONAL PORTFOLIO SITES I	\$957,419	\$10,715,100	\$11,672,519	15,230
10. BOTTOMLAND CONSERVATION IN THE ARKANSAS DELTA	\$917,140	\$1,834,281	\$2,751,421	1,720
11. BAYOU METO BASIN PHASE I	\$909,138	\$2,176,144	\$3,085,282	13,372
12. BAYOU METO BASIN PHASE II	\$999,900	\$2,033,881	\$3,033,781	12,647
13. WHITE AND CACHE RIVERS WETLANDS CONSERVATION PROJECT	\$985,000	\$2,151,150	\$3,136,150	1,280
14. ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY WETLANDS RESTORATION PHASE I	\$75,000	\$108,000	\$183,000	1,412
Totals	\$8,758,451	\$33,557,818	\$42,316,269	67,414

Arkansas Multi-State Projects

Arkansas currently has **12** multi-state projects underway. These projects have conserved a total of **294,710 acres** of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of over **\$9.3 million** stimulated partner contributions of over **\$27.8 million**.

Title	NAWCA	Partners	Total	Acres
1. MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY (AR, IL, LA, MS, TN)	\$1,131,185	\$1,841,314	\$2,972,499	10,489
2. LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM	\$955,898	\$1,937,427	\$2,893,325	33,187
3. WETLANDS ENH. / REST. & REFORESTATION ON PRIVATE LANDS LMV	\$254,760	\$570,114	\$824,874	18,000
4. WETLANDS ENH. / REST. & REFORESTATION ON PRIVATE LANDS LMV II	\$686,342	\$1,409,743	\$2,096,085	32,000
5. PRIVATE LANDS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY & GULF COASTAL PLAIN	\$450,000	\$3,470,000	\$3,920,000	20,000
6. LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM III	\$999,667	\$3,274,666	\$4,274,333	44,973
7. PRIVATE LANDS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY & GULF COASTAL PLAIN II	\$495,000	\$5,529,797	\$6,024,797	25,698
8. LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM IV	\$1,000,000	\$2,302,615	\$3,302,615	15,238
9. WETLANDS RESTORATION PRIVATE LANDS LMV 1994	\$363,100	\$769,298	\$1,132,398	22,250
10. LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM II (AR, LA, MS, TN)	\$999,655	\$2,137,411	\$3,137,066	31,209
11. ARK - LA - MISS WETLANDS CONSERVATION I	\$989,150	\$2,563,784	\$3,552,934	39,913
12. ARK - LA - MISS WETLANDS CONSERVATION II	\$999,917	\$2,053,042	\$3,052,959	1,753
Totals	\$9,324,674	\$27,859,211	\$37,183,885	294,710