

# The North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Working for Louisiana

*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 appropriations 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.



Cypress Tree—  
Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge

# Louisiana NAWCA Projects:

Louisiana currently has **47** NAWCA projects either complete or underway. These projects have conserved a total of **519,038 acres** of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of over **\$33 million** stimulated partner contributions of nearly **\$92 million**.

	Title	NAWCA	Partners	Total	Acres
1.	CAMERON - CREOLE	\$250,000	\$252,050	\$502,050	60,500
2.	SEDIMENT DIVERSIONS	\$32,000	\$115,000	\$147,000	810
3.	SEDIMENT DIVERSIONS II	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$160,000	800
4.	BAYOU PENCHANT	\$560,250	\$960,250	\$1,520,500	4,550
5.	YAKEY TRACT	\$216,410	\$509,300	\$725,710	712
6.	BIG BRANCH MARSH	\$850,000	\$5,855,000	\$6,705,000	4,196
7.	SHERBURNE WMA	\$426,300	\$459,604	\$885,904	2,094
8.	BIG BRANCH MARSH II	\$1,000,000	\$2,050,000	\$3,050,000	4,122
9.	TENSAS DELTA TRACT	\$1,000,000	\$1,440,921	\$2,440,921	6,969
10.	TENSAS DELTA TRACT II WETLAND RESTORATION	\$473,030	\$662,339	\$1,135,369	3,010
11.	BIG BRANCH MARSH III	\$1,000,000	\$2,050,000	\$3,050,000	2,822
12.	PONTCHARTRAIN WETLANDS	\$1,000,000	\$4,550,500	\$5,550,500	3,538
13.	CAMERON - CREOLE WATERSHED MARSH TERRACING	\$50,000	\$277,000	\$327,000	210
14.	PONTCHARTRAIN WETLANDS II	\$1,000,000	\$4,020,000	\$5,020,000	3,300
15.	PONTCHARTRAIN WETLANDS III / BAYOU SAUVAGE & BIG BRANCH	\$1,000,000	\$2,800,000	\$3,800,000	2,559
16.	ACADIANA PARK WETLAND PRESERVATION	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$125,000	200
17.	LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS	\$999,713	\$3,006,198	\$4,005,911	68,738
18.	CHENIER PLAIN COASTAL WETLANDS RESTORATION	\$999,364	\$2,156,303	\$3,155,667	29,237
19.	ACADIANA PARK WETLAND PRESERVATION	\$50,000	\$78,500	\$128,500	130
20.	LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS II	\$1,000,000	\$1,497,260	\$2,497,260	20,277
21.	POINTE - AUX - CHENES HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION	\$992,914	\$2,186,354	\$3,179,268	5,960
22.	AVOCA ISLAND RESTORATION	\$635,460	\$1,732,311	\$2,367,771	9,645
23.	CHENIER PLAIN COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION I - WHITE LAKE PRESERVE	\$334,000	\$1,071,676	\$1,405,676	71,130
24.	OYSTER BAYOU RESTORATION	\$990,495	\$2,828,697	\$3,819,192	21,653
25.	CATAHOULA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE RESTORATION & EXPANSION I	\$1,000,000	\$2,228,108	\$3,228,108	14,387
26.	HANSON MARSH HYDROLOGIC RESTORATION	\$765,728	\$2,159,629	\$2,925,357	45,366
27.	LMV PRIORITY SITES, LOUISIANA, PHASE I	\$987,753	\$3,434,338	\$4,422,091	8,799
28.	MAUREPAS / PONTCHARTRAIN HABITAT CONSERVATION EFFORT I	\$1,000,000	\$3,100,000	\$4,100,000	69,500
29.	ACADIANA PARK WETLAND PRESERVATION	\$50,000	\$56,000	\$106,000	25
30.	CHENIER PLAIN - ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR HURRICANE DAMAGE	\$206,000	\$0	\$206,000	0
31.	LAFITTE TERRACING PROJECT	\$439,182	\$893,315	\$1,332,497	702
32.	LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS III	\$995,500	\$2,329,455	\$3,324,955	1,575
33.	MAUREPAS / PONTCHARTRAIN HABITAT CONSERVATION EFFORT II	\$1,000,000	\$3,774,000	\$4,774,000	7,600

34.	POINTE - AUX - CHENES - ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR HURRICANE DAMAGE	\$161,750	\$0	\$161,750	0
35.	GRAND COTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WETLAND ENHANCEMENT	\$685,114	\$1,753,077	\$2,438,191	2,147
36.	GULF COAST WETLANDS RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT	\$999,460	\$2,475,633	\$3,475,093	11,024
37.	MAUREPAS / PONTCHARTRAIN HABITAT CONSERVATION EFFORT III	\$950,000	\$2,095,000	\$3,045,000	2,530
38.	GULF COAST WETLANDS RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT II	\$998,391	\$2,262,905	\$3,261,296	1,367
39.	LOUISIANA DELTA WETLANDS CONSERVATION I	\$781,840	\$2,250,296	\$3,032,136	3,920
40.	MOTTLED DUCK HABITAT RESTORATION & ENHANCEMENT	\$998,576	\$2,175,513	\$3,174,089	2,337
41.	SABINE ISLAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA - ACQUISITION EFFORT II	\$1,000,000	\$4,850,000	\$5,850,000	750
42.	LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS IV	\$1,000,000	\$2,262,651	\$3,262,651	564
43.	LOUISIANA DELTA WETLANDS CONSERVATION I (08-2), II (09-2)	\$999,812	\$2,197,337	\$3,197,149	3,879
44.	ATCHAFALAYA WETLANDS ENHANCEMENT	\$56,824	\$167,630	\$224,454	415
45.	FLYING J RANCH CONSERVATION PROJECT	\$1,000,000	\$2,025,000	\$3,025,000	1,900
46.	LOUISIANA COASTAL WETLANDS V	\$1,000,000	\$2,068,823	\$3,068,823	3,040
47.	POINTE - AUX - CHENES - GRAND BAYOU I	\$1,000,000	\$2,545,817	\$3,545,817	3,180
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$33,030,727</b>	<b>\$92,548,601</b>	<b>\$120,884,656</b>	<b>519,038</b>

## Louisiana Multi-State Projects:

NAWCA currently has **19** multi-state projects completed in Louisiana. These projects will conserve a total of **314,887 acres** of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of **\$15.377 million** stimulated partner contributions of over **\$51.2 million**.

	Title	NAWCA	Partners	Total	Acres
1.	WETLANDS RESTORATION PRIVATE LANDS LMV	\$474,000	\$1,196,238	\$1,670,238	23,000
2.	WETLANDS RESTORATION PRIVATE LANDS LMV 1994	\$363,100	\$1,278,583	\$1,641,683	22,250
3.	MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY	\$1,131,185	\$1,841,314	\$2,972,499	10,489
4.	WETLANDS ENH. / REST. & REFORESTATION ON PRIVATE LANDS LMV	\$254,760	\$642,114	\$896,874	18,000
5.	WETLANDS ENH. / REST. & REFORESTATION ON PRIVATE LANDS LMV II	\$686,342	\$1,554,103	\$2,240,445	32,000
6.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM	\$955,898	\$2,288,736	\$3,244,634	33,187
7.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM II	\$999,655	\$2,295,999	\$3,295,654	31,209
8.	PRIVATE LANDS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY & GULF COASTAL PLAIN	\$450,000	\$3,550,000	\$4,000,000	20,000
9.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM III	\$999,667	\$3,592,576	\$4,592,243	44,973
10.	CHENIER PLAIN COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION II	\$998,952	\$6,902,220	\$7,901,172	10,719
11.	PRIVATE LANDS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY & GULF COASTAL PLAIN II	\$495,000	\$5,729,797	\$6,224,797	25,698
12.	CHENIER PLAIN COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION IV	\$637,771	\$1,593,624	\$2,231,395	1,802
13.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM IV	\$1,000,000	\$2,442,615	\$3,442,615	15,238

14.	CHENIER PLAIN COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION V	\$1,000,000	\$3,005,040	\$4,005,040	1,151
15.	LOWER NECHES RIVER CYPRESS	\$932,200	\$3,104,640	\$4,036,840	2,950
16.	MISSISSIPPI DELTA WMA WETLAND HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS II	\$999,384	\$5,900,566	\$6,899,950	6,663
17.	GULF COAST WETLANDS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT III	\$1,000,000	\$2,168,705	\$3,168,705	6,822
18.	WEST PONTCHARTRAIN - MAUREPAS SWAMP IBA HABITAT CONSERVATION EFFORT	\$1,000,000	\$8,802,280	\$9,802,280	1,914
19.	GULF COAST WETLANDS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT III	\$1,000,000	\$2,168,705	\$3,168,705	6,822
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$15,377,914</b>	<b>\$51,255,575</b>	<b>\$66,633,489</b>	<b>314,887</b>



**View of terraces created at Black Lake**



**Terrace Planting Crew, Black Lake Terracing Project**

### **Black Lake Terracing Project**

**NAWCA Projects:** Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Phases IV & V (2009-2010)

**Wetlands in Louisiana:** Louisiana has the highest rate of coastal wetland or marsh loss in North America. Currently, Louisiana loses 25 to 35 square miles, or 16,000 to 22,000 acres, annually, which equates to losing an area the size of football field every 30 minutes. Nearly 1,500 square miles of marsh have been lost over the past seven decades.

**Project Summary:** The Black Lake Terracing Project restored marsh on four separate sites, including areas west of Hackberry near Black Lake and areas on the Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge. The project, led by Ducks Unlimited, was a cooperative effort among 16 partners from numerous state, federal, corporate, nonprofit and other private partners, building more than 50 miles of marsh terraces to restore 2,500 acres of vital marsh habitat.

Marsh terraces slow wind and wave action, decreasing erosion and promoting marsh growth. They provide important habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.

**Species Affected:** The project area contains migration and wintering habitat for lesser and greater scaup, mottled duck, northern pintail, and mallard, and breeding, wintering or migration habitat for numerous species of shorebirds, wading birds, and other waterbirds.