

# The North American Wetlands Conservation Act: Working for Mississippi

*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.

## **Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex**



The most recent NAWCA projects in Mississippi have been located on the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Part of these projects have provided protection to nearly 675 acres of wetland habitat on the Morgan Brake National Wildlife Refuge and Panther Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

The work at Morgan Brake NWR in Holmes County has converted abandoned catfish ponds to moist soil units. The conversion will consist of redesigning existing levees and making improvements to the existing wells and underground irrigation system used to flood these impoundments.

The work on Panther Swamp NWR in Yazoo County has resulted in enhanced waterfowl habitat on the Lower Twist and Big Twist areas. Renovation of existing levees and construction of new ones will allow refuge staff to better control flooding of moist soil plants and agricultural crops for waterfowl. An additional 800 acres on Panther Swamp NWR were opened to hunting in 2009 that were previously off limits.

Partners included Ducks Unlimited, Wetlands America Trust, Environmental Synergy, the Walker Foundation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Mississippi NAWCA Projects

Mississippi currently has **11** NAWCA projects either completed or underway. These projects have conserved a total of **47,757 acres** of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of over **\$5.99 million** stimulated partner contributions of over **\$20.5 million**.

	Title	NAWCA	Partners	Total	Acres
1.	MISSISSIPPI DELTA	\$200,000	\$278,440	\$478,440	10,000
2.	MISSISSIPPI DELTA II	\$239,000	\$432,200	\$671,200	11,500
3.	BUTLER LAKE WATERSHED REFORESTATION & WEIR STABILIZATION	\$50,000	\$105,700	\$155,700	948
4.	GRAND BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	\$533,000	\$3,800,000	\$4,333,000	2,700
5.	O'KEEFE WMA WETLANDS RESTORATION	\$652,933	\$3,174,550	\$3,827,483	5,640
6.	UPPER PASCAGOULA CONNECTOR PROJECT	\$855,842	\$2,045,766	\$2,901,608	2,554
7.	MALMAISON WMA FORESTED WETLANDS ENHANCEMENT	\$591,646	\$1,417,081	\$2,008,727	2,402
8.	MISSISSIPPI DELTA WMA WETLAND HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS	\$999,521	\$2,284,526	\$3,284,047	4,370
9.	THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE COMPLEX WETLANDS	\$881,234	\$2,250,157	\$3,131,391	3,601
10.	THEODORE ROOSEVELT NWR COMPLEX WETLANDS REST & ENH II	\$921,209	\$4,688,502	\$5,609,711	3,592
11.	THEODORE ROOSEVELT NWR COMPLEX - WETLAND HAB REST & AG RUN-OFF ABATEMENT	\$75,000	\$106,022	\$181,022	450
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$5,999,385</b>	<b>\$20,582,944</b>	<b>\$26,582,329</b>	<b>47,757</b>

## Mississippi Multi-State Projects

Mississippi currently has **13** multi-state NAWCA projects either completed or underway. These projects have conserved a total of **322,620 acres** of wildlife habitat. NAWCA funding of over **\$9.79 million** stimulated partner contributions of over **\$34.87 million**.

	Title	NAWCA	Partners	Total	Acres
1.	WETLANDS RESTORATION PRIVATE LANDS LMV	\$474,000	\$1,196,238	\$1,670,238	23,000
2.	MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY	\$1,131,185	\$1,841,314	\$2,972,499	10,489
3.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM	\$955,898	\$2,288,736	\$3,244,634	33,187
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.	PRIVATE LANDS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY & GULF COASTAL PLAIN	\$450,000	\$3,550,000	\$4,000,000	20,000
7.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM III	\$999,667	\$3,592,576	\$4,592,243	44,973
8.	PRIVATE LANDS IN THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY & GULF COASTAL PLAIN II	\$495,000	\$5,729,797	\$6,224,797	25,698
9.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM IV	\$1,000,000	\$2,442,615	\$3,442,615	15,238
10.	WETLANDS RESTORATION PRIVATE LANDS LMV 1994	\$363,100	\$1,278,583	\$1,641,683	22,250
11.	LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY ECOSYSTEM II	\$999,655	\$2,295,999	\$3,295,654	31,209
12.	ARK - LA - MISS WETLANDS CONSERVATION I	\$989,150	\$2,563,784	\$3,552,934	39,913
13.	MISSISSIPPI DELTA WMA WETLAND HABITAT ENHANCEMENTS II	\$999,384	\$5,900,566	\$6,899,950	6,663
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,798,141</b>	<b>\$34,876,425</b>	<b>\$41,121,632</b>	<b>322,620</b>