



Partners for Fish and Wildlife Arkansas



Photo: USFWS.

Bottomland hardwood forest restoration in the Delta.



Photo: The Nature Conservancy

Streambank stabilization on the Archey Fork Little Red River.



Photo: USFWS

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

Restoration, Enhancement, and Protection of Fish and Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands through Voluntary Conservation and Partnerships

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program is a voluntary cost share program that restores, improves, and protects fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. It is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's most popular and effective program for voluntary, citizen and community-based fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities.

The Partners Program goals are to promote and implement habitat improvement projects that benefit Federal trust species, provide conservation leadership and promote partnerships, encourage public understanding and participation, and to work with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement Farm Bill conservation programs.

Partners staff achieve these goals by focusing on delivering voluntary on-the-ground habitat improvement projects on private lands.

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program is important because, with 80 percent of the land in Arkansas, and an estimated 73 percent nationally in private ownership, the future of Arkansas' and the nation's fish and wildlife depend on the private landowner.

Arkansas' diverse habitats provide vital food and shelter for hundreds of thousands of migrating and wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and

neotropical migratory songbirds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and freshwater mussels.

Priority Habitats of the Partners Program in Arkansas include:

- ◆ Bottomland hardwood and herbaceous wetlands
- ◆ Riparian areas and streams
- ◆ Native prairies
- ◆ Pine and oak woodlands
- ◆ Glades

The program also focuses on the protection of karst (i.e., caves) ecosystems, and control of invasive plants and animals.

The key to success is partnerships: Working together, teaming up to meet local needs, addressing issues, and taking advantage of local opportunities are fundamental to the success of the Partners Program. Program Staff work with any and all interested parties with an interest in wildlife.

Partners may be anyone interested in the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands: Farmers, ranchers, city dwellers, local agencies, private organizations, corporations, government agencies, and educational institutions.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

What Partners for Fish & Wildlife can do for you:

If you are interested in conserving habitat on your land, the Partners Program Staff can provide cost share and technical assistance to help you accomplish your goals. The Partners Program biologists will 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 trees and other vegetation, conduct invasive species control and much more.

Partners biologists can also help with obtaining assistance through private lands conservation programs administered by other agencies, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Wetland Easement and Environmental Quality Incentives Programs, Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Acres for Wildlife and Stream Team Programs, and others.

Become a Partner!

You can become a partner by contacting a Partners for Fish and Wildlife biologist. The biologist will get back in touch with you to discuss your needs, the opportunities available, and assist you as much as possible. If your project meets the program criteria, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may share or pay certain costs.

Habitat Improvement Opportunities on Private Lands:

Opportunities for habitat improvement abound and range from restoration or enhancement of all types of wetlands to benefit many different types of birds from ducks, herons and egrets to warblers and woodpeckers. You have the opportunity to benefit at-risk, declining, threatened and endangered species, and/or improve aquatic habitat through work on riparian areas, streambanks. Perhaps you have a glade that has become overgrown with eastern redcedar, or land that is degraded due to invasive species.

There are even opportunities to protect cave ecosystems.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Accomplishments in Arkansas (1988-2013):

- ◆ The Partners Program has restored or enhanced habitat on 1,054 sites.
- ◆ The Partners program has restored or enhanced 50,349 acres bottomland hardwood forest, native tall grass prairie and other habitats.
- ◆ Approximately 95 miles stream and riparian habitat have been restored or enhanced.

Examples of Funded Projects

- ◆ Bottomland and upland hardwood reforestation.
- ◆ Bioremediation of brine damaged sites.
- ◆ Hydrology restoration (plugging ditches, building levees, installation of water control structures, etc.).
- ◆ Artificial nest boxes.
- ◆ Wildlife habitat enhancement.
- ◆ Streambank stabilization/restoration.
- ◆ Outdoor classrooms.
- ◆ Restoration of riparian and floodplain areas.
- ◆ Restoration of fish habitat
- ◆ Native warm season grasses.
- ◆ Invasive species control.
- ◆ Stream channel restoration.

Past and Current Partners

Arkansas Conservation Districts
Arkansas Forestry Commission
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
Arkansas State University
ARKLATX
Audubon Arkansas
Central Arkansas Water
City of Clinton
City of Stuttgart
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Farm Service Agency

Gates Rogers Foundation
Mississippi River Trust
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Oil and gas industry
Private industry
Private landowners
The Nature Conservancy
University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Assistance Contacts:

State Coordinator Joseph Krystofik
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office

110 South Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, AR 72021
Telephone: 501/513-4479
Fax: 501/513-4480
E-mail: Joe_Krystofik@fws.gov

Private Lands Biologist Jon Wessman
AR-LA Migratory Bird Field Office
215 W. Front Street
Lonoke, AR 72086
Telephone: 501/676-3122
Fax: 501/676-3305
E-mail: Jon_Wessman@fws.gov

Private Lands Biologist Michael Budd
Overflow National Wildlife Refuge
3858 Highway 8 East
Parkdale, AR 71661
Telephone: 870/473-2869
Fax: 870/473-5191
E-mail: Michael_Budd@fws.gov

Farm Bill Biologist Christina Hacker
Arkansas Ecological Services Field Office
110 South Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, AR 72021
Telephone: 501/513-4477
Fax: 501/513-4480
E-mail: Christina_Hacker@fws.gov