

Jackson

Wildlife and Habitat Management Office

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Station Facts

- Established: 1986.
- Staff: two full-time and one part-time employee.

Station Goals

- Conserve, protect and enhance Federal trust resources and their habitats including national wildlife refuges, wetlands, endangered species, migratory birds and inter-jurisdictional fishes.
 - Provide biological support and scientific consultation to 28 national wildlife refuges located in Mississippi and Louisiana.
 - Coordinate migratory bird surveys that include mourning dove coo-call counts, mid-winter waterfowl surveys, mid-December goose surveys, and other periodic migratory bird surveys in Louisiana and Mississippi. In addition, this office coordinates wood duck banding activities in both states.
 - Coordinate public use activities on national wildlife refuges with state game and fish agencies.
 - Provide biological support on request to military installations, such as Barksdale Air Force Base.
 - Serve as a research liaison between national wildlife refuges and state universities, particularly Mississippi State University (MSU) and Louisiana State University (LSU).
 - Coordinate reforestation activities on the Lower Mississippi River Ecosystem (LMR) refuges through the Reforestation Committee of the LMR and the Private Lands Committee.
- Assist in the development of national migratory bird habitat plans including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Woodcock, National Shorebird and Partners In Flight State Plans.
 - Provide a biological review of new national wildlife refuge acquisition proposals.
 - Provide technical guidance to U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wetland Reserve Program and other Farm Bill activities with special emphasis in Mississippi. Serves as representative to State Technical Committee.
 - Provide technical expertise to Mississippi Partners Project and is heavily involved in on-the-ground delivery of the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in both Louisiana and Mississippi.
 - Provide environmental outreach to local schools, conservation agencies and conservation organizations.
 - Provide assistance to aquaculture groups, particularly in Mississippi, to resolve migratory bird depredation problems at aquaculture facilities.
 - Assist national wildlife refuges in Louisiana and Mississippi with the development of their comprehensive management plans.
 - Provide congressional assistance upon request in resolving constituent issues that involve Federal trust species.
 - Provide assistance to Southern Regional Office of Ducks Unlimited in coordinating "MARSH" and "DONOR" projects on national wildlife refuges.

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Services provided to

- Private citizens.
- Federal and state agency partners.
- Conservation organization partners such as Ducks Unlimited, Wildlife Federations, Black Bear Conservation Committee, Tensas Basin Technical Steering Committee and Wild Turkey Federation.
- Local governments and community groups.
- Other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service entities.

Activity Highlights

- Developed several research projects involving neo-tropical birds and other wildlife species that were completed by LSU, MSU, USM, Louisiana Tech University and Northeast Louisiana State University. Over \$200,000 provided by Barksdale Air Force Base, through this office, supported many of the projects.
- Coordinated and supervised the reforestation of over 1,000 acres of private land in Louisiana during 1998.
- Secured funding from private sources for the reforestation of over 1,000 acres of national wildlife refuge lands.
- Participated and provided leadership to two Service ecosystems (Lower Mississippi River and Central Gulf).
- Provided technical expertise and assistance to Tensas Basin Steering Committee.
- Coordinated seedling and acorn orders and the reforestation of over 3,000 acres of refuge lands in the LMR.
- Coordinated the funding and construction of a wildlife viewing walkway, viewing blind and kiosk, with several partners at the Pearl River Wildlife Management Area.
- Served on the interagency committee that developed the Mississippi Wildlife Viewing Guide for public land.

- Served as a mediator for several issues involving national wildlife refuges and private citizens.
- Finalized a Memorandum of Agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement wetland restoration on Wetland Reserve Program lands in Mississippi.
- Worked closely with the Mississippi State Office of Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop Wetland Reserve Program ranking factors, present them to the State Technical Team, train field personnel, review lands (34,636 acres) offered into the program, and reviewed the factors in preparation of 1998 "sign-up".
- Provided Natural Resources Conservation Service with endangered species information for use in developing Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program in Mississippi.