



## Fisheries & Habitat Conservation



### Key Partners:

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Corps of Engineers
- Asian Carp Work Group
- Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership



USFWS photo.



USFWS photo.

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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# Celebrating Habitat in Arkansas

- The Service has worked with partners to conserve and restore side channels, backwaters, and island habitats along 445 miles of the Arkansas River Navigation System.
- The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has initiated 20 restoration projects focused in the Lower Mississippi River and the Arkansas Red Ecosystems bottomland hardwood reforestation. Nearly 1,000 acres have been planted in 2004.
- The Environmental Contaminants Program has expertise in abnormal amphibian investigations, coordinating studies on National wildlife Refuges throughout the southeast. Cleanup investigations at 60 active and abandoned oil or gas wells were conducted from 2002 to 2004. Expert advice on pesticide risk assessments was made available nationally for training and evaluating pesticide use on refuges.
- The Vertac Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration provided reforestation of 2,000 acres of former agricultural land and the creation of 4,000 to 5,000 acres of open and wooded wetland habitat. These forested areas will be capable of maintaining breeding populations of migratory birds and wintering habitat for waterfowl.
- The Service is collaborating with Mississippi State University to survey and monitor waters in proximity to aquaculture facilities utilizing black carp to determine if the species is present in proximity to these facilities as a result of escapement due to flooding events or other reasons.
- The Service participates in the Asian Carp Work Group (ACWG), a multi-disciplinary group of federal, state, academia, industry, NGOs, and private entities, primarily from the Mississippi River Basin States (60 members).
- Three National Fish Hatcheries stock more than 4.9 million fish annually to support mitigation of Federal water development projects and anadromous fish restoration and recovery efforts, and recovery of endangered and threatened species including freshwater mussels.
- The Aquatic Animal Drug Approval Partnership was established within the National Fish Hatchery System to ensure continued progress towards obtaining FDA-approved and EPA-compliant new animal drug approvals for use in Federal, State, Tribal and private aquaculture program throughout the United States.
- The Service spearheaded the creation of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP), which is comprised of State and Federal partnerships that extend beyond the traditional boundaries of resource management agencies. It has established commitments by State fishery resource agencies, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and representation from the coastal Councils and Commissions to work for the benefit of the resource. The SARP now has 16 signatories, including the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

### Contact information:

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