



## Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Mississippi

### Background

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program is the Service's most popular and effective programs for voluntary, citizen and community-based fish and wildlife habitat restoration activities. Partners program serve as a bridge to owners and managers of private lands to develop partnerships for the benefit of these Trust Species. Its approach is simple: Engage willing partners, through non-regulatory incentives, to conserve and protect wildlife values on their property.

### Accomplishments

- ❖ In October 2006, Congress unanimously enacted the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act which recognizes and authorizes the Partners Program as a leader in

private lands conservation. This year, the Service will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Partners Program.

- ❖ The Partners Program is active in all 50 states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and other Trust Territories.
- ❖ Because of its successful voluntary, incentive-based approach, it has been recognized as an integral delivery mechanism for the recovery of threatened and endangered species as well as to maintain common species common.
- ❖ The Partners program supports more than 41,000 private landowners with the following habitat restoration and

### Partners Program Accomplishments 1987-2006

- 800,000 acres of wetland
- 2,000,000 acres of uplands
- 6,500 miles of stream and riparian habitat
- Over 3,000 partnering organizations

enhancement accomplishments:

- ❖ In FY 2006, the Partners program was funded at \$51 million.

### Priorities

As the delivery mechanism for strategic habitat conservation, the Partners Program will continue to lead change working and coordinating with our public and private partners to assist in reaching national conservation goals. By working cooperatively with private landowners to restore and enhance habitat on private lands, the Partners program helps reduce the reliance on regulation to achieve the Service's mission of conserving Trust species.

### For More Information

For more information about the Partners Program, contact Gilbert Ray at 601-321-1138 or visit our website on the internet at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/jackson/index.html/>

### Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife - 2006

