

# Lower Mississippi Valley

## Joint Venture Office



photo: USFWS



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### Station Facts

- Established: 1986.
- FY 00 budget: base funding of \$400,000 and grants.
- Staff: five.

### Station Goals

- Implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (focusing on the Lower Mississippi Valley).
- Coordination and review of projects for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.
- Ecosystem planning (emphasis on wetlands and migratory birds).
- Coordination and delivery of Partners-for-Wildlife activities with states, Ducks Unlimited and others.
- Geographical Information System (GIS) development for wildlife landscape projects and conservation planning.
- Evaluation and monitoring of NAWMP projects and habitat restoration activities.
- Coordinated research with Biological Resources Division (BRD) of USGS.

### Services Provided To

- Private landowners.
- Federal and state agency partners.
- Conservation organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, Partners-In-Flight, Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network, etc.
- Local governments.
- Service refuges and ecological services stations.
- Universities.
- Canadian and Mexican conservation agencies.

### Activity Highlights

- Major role in revision of the original 1986 NAWMP.
- Integration of waterfowl, neotropical birds, and shorebird plans to demonstrate how plans can/should be linked on a landscape basis.
- Model Joint Venture Program for the nation, emphasizing a biological basis and landscape approach to planning.
- Grant proposals prepared and approved allowing major habitat restoration projects to be carried out in the Lower Mississippi Valley on/off public lands.
- Coordination of several partners' programs involving over 25,000+ acres of wetland restoration, enhancement and conservation.
- Serving on the LMV migratory bird ecosystem team.
- GIS capability improved/increased to provide ecosystem/landscape planning for NAWMP and other migratory bird initiatives.
- Grants written and approved to allow monitoring and evaluation of NAWMP and partners' projects throughout the Lower Mississippi Valley.
- Long-term planning and cooperation with BRD research personnel (USGS agreements).
- State/Federal meetings to step-down habitat responsibilities for waterfowl and shorebirds.