

Reelfoot Lake

Conservation Opportunity Area



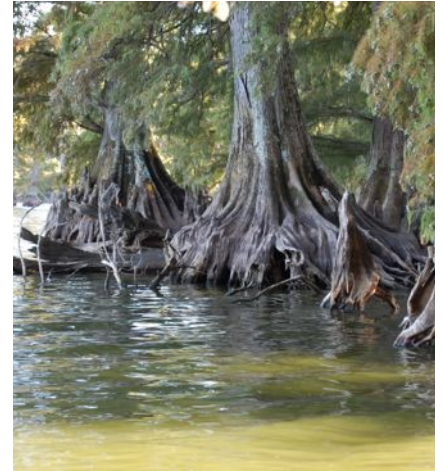
Reelfoot Lake is located in Lake and Obion Counties in northwest Tennessee, with a small portion of the lake extending into southwestern Kentucky. It is the largest natural lake in Tennessee, encompassing more than 10,000 acres of water and another 5,000 acres of marshes and wetlands. Approximately 30,000 acres of the lake and surrounding marshes and wetlands are protected, with approximately 18,000 acres designated as a State Natural Area. Management of the lake and its surrounding lands is primarily vested with three agencies (TWRA – 17,500 acres; USFWS – 12,300 acres; TDEC – 300 acres).

Reelfoot Lake and its associated habitats are internationally recognized for their diversity of wildlife species, scenery, and recreational opportunities. There are over 50 species of mammals and over 70 species of reptiles and amphibians that inhabit the Reelfoot area, including over 60 plants and animals of Greatest Conservation Need. Additionally, Reelfoot is one of the premier eagle viewing areas in eastern North America and is an important migration area for large populations of shorebirds, wading birds, and waterfowl.

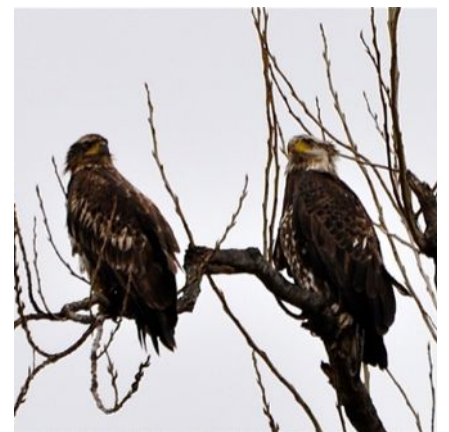
Despite its abundant populations and the habitats that support them the lake is being subjected to severe actions that are degrading and destroying the area. It is estimated that 1.4 million tons of silt are deposited in the lake each year, depending on the severity of rainfall events. Originally, the lake was surrounded by extensive bottomland hardwood forests, but only small fragments remain today due to agricultural encroachment. The primary goals of this COA are to protect and restore the functional integrity of the Reelfoot Lake ecosystem and to enhance the capability of this ecosystem to provide habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife.

Public Lands within the COA

Black Bayou Refuge, Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Reelfoot NWR, Reelfoot Lake State Park, Reelfoot Lake State Natural Area, Reelfoot Lake Wildlife Management Area, SCS Watershed Lakes



Reelfoot Lake and its associated habitats are internationally recognized for their wildlife diversity, scenery, and recreational opportunities



Top to bottom: Reelfoot Lake Cypress - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Bald Eagles (juvenile & adult) - Greg Wathen, TWRA/next page: Blackburnian Warbler - Chris Sloan

Reelfoot Lake Conservation Opportunity Area

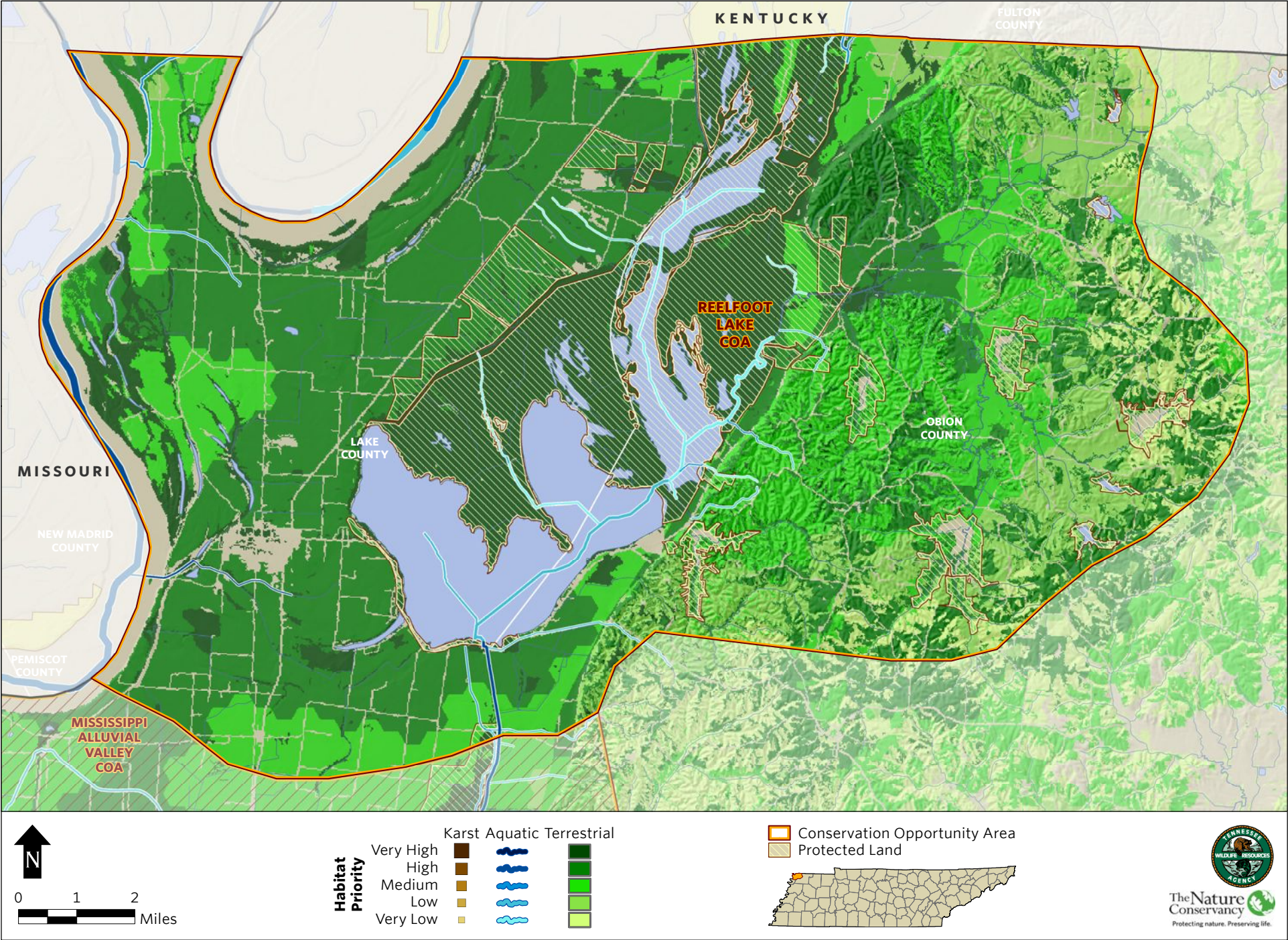
Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation, Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation, The Conservation Fund, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, Cooperative Extensions, universities, various other institutions and local governments.



Desired Change	Units
+ Restore acres of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands.	acres
+ Restore the functional integrity of the Reelfoot Lake ecosystem and enhance the capability of the ecosystem to provide habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife.	acres
+ Create or improve buffers around tributaries and a sediment retention basin to reduce sediment load into the lake and runoff of contaminants.	acres
+ Increase mudflat and moist soil habitat on wildlife refuges through enhanced water management to provide critical habitat for migrating birds and Mississippi kites	acres
✓ Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+ Increase acres of permanent habitat protection along Reelfoot bluffs.	acres

To learn more about the Reelfoot Lake Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact:
Rob Colvin, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 1 (731) 423-5725



REELFOOT LAKE COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Amphibian	Ambystoma texanum (Smallmouth Salamander)
Bat	Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Bat	Myotis austroriparius (Southeastern Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus leconteii (LeConte's Sparrow)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Ardea alba (Great Egret)
Bird	Asio flammeus (Short-eared Owl)
Bird	Bartramia longicauda (Upland Sandpiper)
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern)
Bird	Calidris canutus (Red Knot)
Bird	Calidris himantopus (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	Calidris mauri (Western Sandpiper)
Bird	Calidris pusilla (Semipalmated Sandpiper)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Charadrius melodus melodus (Piping Plover)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Cistothorus platensis (Sedge Wren)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	Empidonax minimus (Least Flycatcher)
Bird	Empidonax traillii (Willow Flycatcher)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Helmitheros vermivorum (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Ixobrychus exilis (Least Bittern)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Limnithlypis swainsonii (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	Limosa fedoa (Marbled Godwit)
Bird	Limosa haemastica (Hudsonian Godwit)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Parkesia motacilla (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	Pluvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Rallus elegans (King Rail)
Bird	Riparia riparia (Bank Swallow)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Sternula antillarum athalassos (Interior Least Tern)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Thryomanes bewickii (Bewick's Wren)
Bird	Tryngites subruficollis (Buff-breasted Sandpiper)

REELFOOT LAKE COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vireo bellii (Bell's Vireo)
Fish	Fundulus chrysotus (Golden Topminnow)
Fish	Polyodon spathula (Paddlefish)
Plant	Elodea nuttallii (Nuttall's Waterweed)
Plant	Iris fulva (Copper Iris)
Plant	Ranunculus flabellaris (Yellow Water-crowfoot)
Plant	Sagittaria platyphylla (Ovate-leaved Arrowhead)

REELFOOT LAKE COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Natural habitats	
Mississippi River Low Floodplain (Bottomland) Forest	17537
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	8231
Mississippi River Riparian Forest	5100
South-Central Interior Small Stream and Riparian	3039
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Bluff Forest	1578
East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest	360
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	40
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	47999
Pasture	10893
Old Field / Successional	1021
Aquatic Habitat Type	Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Headwaters and Streams	12
Small River	2
Large River	1

