

Wolf River

Conservation Opportunity Area



The Wolf River covers nearly 90 miles as it passes through Hardeman, Fayette, and Shelby Counties before emptying into the Mississippi River at Memphis. Meanders, sloughs, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood forests are characteristic of this river. The Wolf River is a significant component of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Ecoregion, which covers seven states in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The river and its sloughs provide excellent habitat for approximately 25 species of mussels, over 100 species of fish and numerous birds, reptiles, and amphibians including the Alligator Snapping Turtle. The riparian bald cypress-water tupelo forests are quickly disappearing and examples of unchannelized rivers and functional bottomland forests are becoming increasingly rare in West Tennessee. Additionally, this COA contains the quail focus area for TWRA's administrative Region 1, which is located on the Wolf River Wildlife Management Area.

TWRA will consider future land acquisitions in this COA for watershed protection, critical habitat protection, habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, planting of bottomland hardwoods, planting of native warm season grasses, and planting of buffer strips along the river. TWRA will also seek partnerships with other agencies and landowners to implement many of the management strategies on private lands within the COA to reduce soil erosion.

Public Lands within the COA

Ghost River State Natural Area (SNA), Hays Crossing Wetland, Moscow Wetland, Piperton Wetland Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Rossville Wetland, William B. Clark SNA, Wolf River WMA



The unchannelized Wolf River and its bottomlands support bald cypress-water tupelo forests and hundreds of fish and other species.



Top to bottom: Lost Swamp trail of the Wolf River - [John Henry Photography](#); Spotted Salamander - Rob Colvin, TWRA/next page: Cypress reflection - [John Henry Photography](#)

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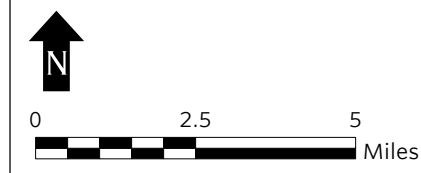
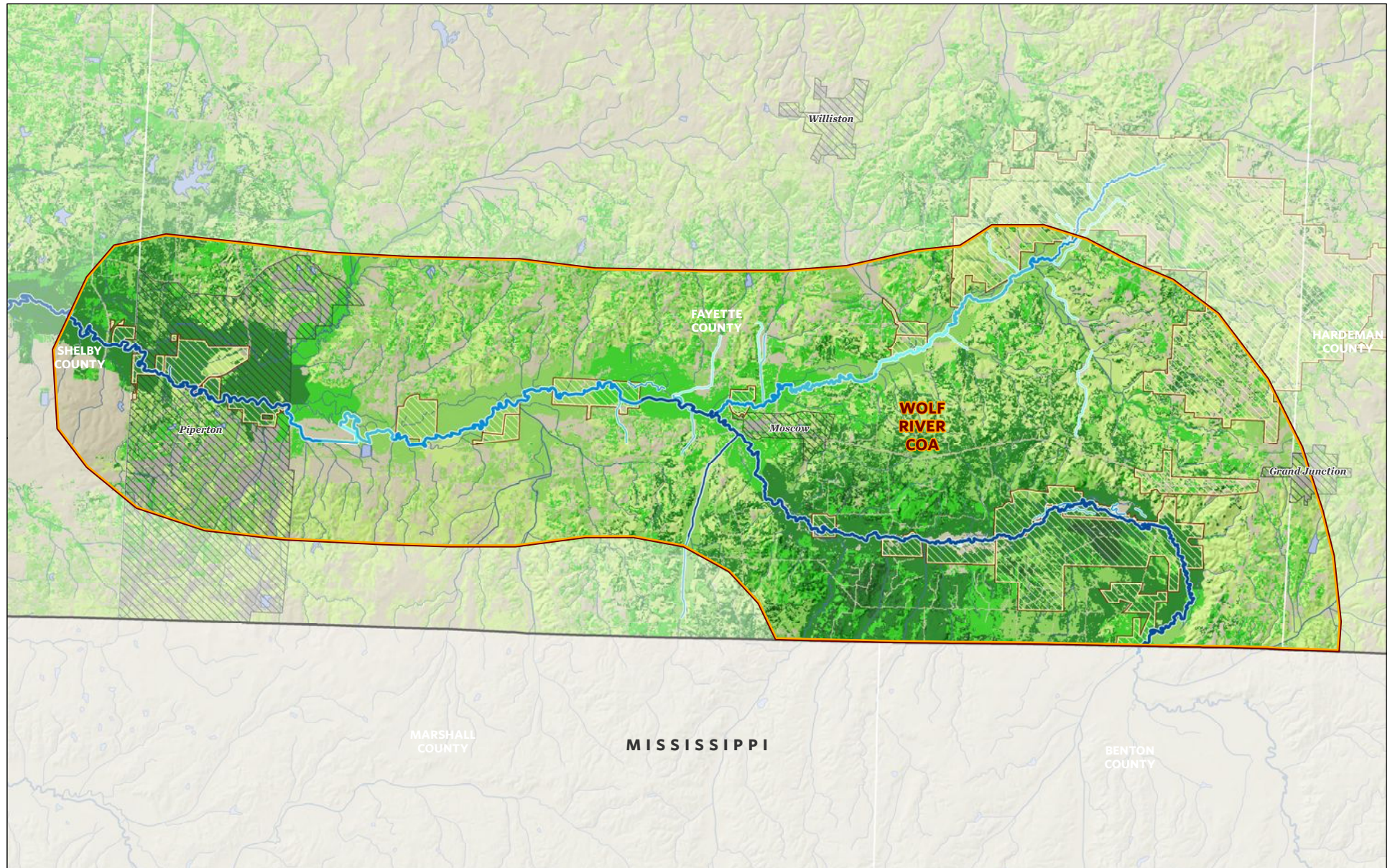
Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the Wolf River Conservancy, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Ducks Unlimited, Cooperative Extensions, universities, Fayette County Government, Shelby County Government, UT Agricultural Extension, local schools, and various other institutions.



Desired Change	Units
+ Increase restoration of critical land units and aquatic resources on private lands using government-funded incentive programs	number
+ Restore acres and stream miles of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands.	acres/miles
+ Create or improve buffers around tributaries to reduce sediment transfer and runoff of contaminants.	acres
+ Permanently protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+ Increase numbers of Bobwhite Quail and Alligator Snapping Turtles through improved habitat management.	acres
✓ Increase Alligator Snapping Turtle populations in key habitat areas where numbers are low through propagation and translocation of individuals.	animals

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



Habitat Priority	Karst Aquatic Terrestrial		
	Very High		
High			
Medium			
Low			
Very Low			

Conservation Opportunity Area
 Protected Land



WOLF RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)

Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Amphibian	<i>Acris gryllus</i> (Southern Cricket Frog)
Bird	<i>Accipiter striatus</i> (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i> (Henslow's Sparrow)
Bird	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i> (LeConte's Sparrow)
Bird	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	<i>Anas rubripes</i> (American Black Duck)
Bird	<i>Asio flammeus</i> (Short-eared Owl)
Bird	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i> (Upland Sandpiper)
Bird	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i> (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i> (Whip-poor-will)
Bird	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i> (Chimney Swift)
Bird	<i>Chordeiles minor</i> (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Northern Harrier)
Bird	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i> (Sedge Wren)
Bird	<i>Colinus virginianus</i> (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	<i>Egretta caerulea</i> (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i> (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	<i>Geothlypis Formosa</i> (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (Bald Eagle)
Bird	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i> (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> (Wood Thrush)
Bird	<i>Icteria virens</i> (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	<i>Icterus spurius</i> (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i> (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i> (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i> (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	<i>Passerina ciris</i> (Painted Bunting)
Bird	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i> (American Golden Plover)
Bird	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i> (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	<i>Riparia riparia</i> (Bank Swallow)
Bird	<i>Scolopax minor</i> (American Woodcock)
Bird	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i> (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	<i>Setophaga discolor</i> (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	<i>Sturnella magna</i> (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> (Bewick's Wren)
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i> (Barn Owl)
Bird	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i> (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	<i>Lampsilis siliquoidea</i> (Fatmucket)
Bivalve	<i>Obovaria jacksoniana</i> (Southern Hickorynut)
Bivalve	<i>Strophitus undulatus</i> (Creeper)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa lienosa</i> (Little Spectaclecase)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa vibex</i> (Southern Rainbow)
Fish	<i>Ammocrypta beanii</i> (Naked Sand Darter)
Fish	<i>Ammocrypta vivax</i> (Scaly Sand Darter)
Fish	<i>Atractosteus spatula</i> (Alligator Gar)
Fish	<i>Ichthyomyzon unicuspis</i> (Silver Lamprey)
Fish	<i>Noturus gladiator</i> (Piebald Madtom)
Mammal	<i>Ochrotomys nuttalli</i> (Golden Mouse)
Mammal	<i>Sorex longirostris</i> (Southeastern Shrew)
Mammal	<i>Synaptomys cooperi</i> (Southern Bog Lemming)
Mammal	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i> (Meadow Jumping Mouse)
Plant	<i>Listera australis</i> (Southern Twayblade)
Reptile	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i> (Eastern Box Turtle)

WOLF RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	17,619
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	1,652
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	485
Semi-natural habitats	
Old Field / Successional	15,982
Pasture	12,173
Cropland	3,008
Aquatic Habitat Type	
Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat	
Headwaters and Streams	6
Small River	46