

## **Arkansas/Louisiana West Gulf Coastal Plain**

### **Conservation Delivery Network**

**February 7, 2016**

**Lake D'Arbonne State Park Visitor Center, Farmerville, LA**

#### **Meeting Summary**

The Arkansas/Louisiana West Gulf Coastal Plain Conservation Delivery Network (ARLA CDN) held its second meeting on 7 February 2016 at the Lake D'Arbonne State Park Visitor Center near Farmerville Louisiana. Thirty-four conservation delivery professionals participated, representing the Arkansas Association

of Conservation Districts, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game & Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, International Paper, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy Louisiana, Potlatch Corp, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S.D.A.



Natural Resources Conservation Service (Arkansas & Louisiana) and the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture. The meeting agenda and a list of attendees is included with this summary.

The meeting was facilitated by CDN Co-Chairs David Breithaupt (LDWF) and Steve Fowler (AGFC). The primary objective of the meeting was to consider a recommendation by the CDN Delivery Prioritization Tool (DPT) Working Group and to initiate the process to identify potential delivery projects in areas identified by the Delivery Prioritization Tool.

#### **LMVJV Management Board Appreciation Letter**

Keith McKnight, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Coordinator, on behalf of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Management Board expressed appreciation for the CDN efforts and encouraged the CDN to provide feedback to the Board regarding how the Board might provide additional support to the CDN. A copy of LMVJV letter of appreciation is included with this summary.

## **Delivery Prioritization Tool & Strategy**

Kate Hasapes (LDWF) reported on the work of the Delivery Prioritization Tool (DPT) Working Group and their proposed Delivery Prioritization Tool. The Working Group was composed of Don Bragg (USFS), Kate Hasapes (LDWF), Bill Holimon (ANHC), Roger Mangham (TNC AR), Steve Nipper (NRCS LA), Jason Nolde (USFS), Latimore Smith (TNC LA), Mike Stroeh (USFWS), Jeff Taverner (AGFC), Dan Weber (TNC LA) and Blaine Elliott (LMVJV). The Working Group considered approximately fourteen different datasets to use in developing the Prioritization Tool and selected three inputs for use in the recommended DPT. Those three inputs were the LMVJV Wild Turkey model, the LMVJV WGCPD Open Pine Landbird model and the USGS HUC 12 watershed boundaries. The DPT is designed for upland landscapes within the AR/LA CDN geography. The identified priority area, which represents the upper twenty-five percentile priorities, was sub-divided into [four separate focus](#) areas to facilitate regional discussions by the CDN membership. The Working Group also developed an [Upland Delivery Strategy](#) document that describes the process used to create the DPT.

## **LMVJV Open Pine & Bottomland Landbird Decision Support Models**

Anne Mini, LMVJV Science Coordinator, gave an update on the JVs Open Pine Landbird Model which is used in the AR/LA CDN Delivery Priority Tool. The DPT Working Group discovered that the model was constructed with a floodplain filter that removed some important pine areas in the CDN geography. Anne reported that the LMVJV was committed to re-constructing the model within the next year. Currently the LMVJV is developing a West Gulf Coastal Plain bottomland landbird plan that could be completed by the end of the year. It was agreed that the CDN would want to consider initiating the development of a bottomland DPT and updating the Upland DPT when these efforts are finished by the LMVJV. Additional information at [LMVJV](#).

## **ANHC Approach to Landscape Prioritization and Partnerships in a Focus Area**

Bill Holimon with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission gave an overview of ongoing priorities and projects in the Arkansas side of CDN Priority Zones A & B. Partnerships with TNC Arkansas, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Potlatch Corporation are pursuing the objective of re-establishing corridors up the Ouachita and Saline Rivers to connect with the Ouachita National Forest. Bill noted these objectives fall within the CDNs Priority Zones and how the CDN could pursue similar or the same objectives through additional partnerships enabled by the CDN.

## **Focus Area Breakouts**

After lunch Zone Focus Area breakout groups were formed for each Zone to identify high priority conservation needs, goals, and opportunities for each respective Zone. After a time for brainstorming each Zone facilitator reported back to the CDN membership. Although each Zone has its own unique conservation needs and opportunities there were some common themes across the full CDN geography.

#### Conservation Goals:

Establish corridors by building on existing projects where available;  
Pursue forest management opportunities to promote open pine ecosystems;  
Expand fire management on the landscape.

#### Threats to these Goals:

Land ownership changes;  
Public perceptions toward forest management;  
Resistance to older forest rotations;  
Lack of fire capabilities.

#### Potential Conservation Actions:

CDN member partnerships combined with both industrial and non-industrial landowners;  
Pursue partnership funding; e.g. NRCS, SPI, AACD;  
Outreach to Forestry Consultants;  
Partner prescribed fire with industrial landowners.

#### Ongoing projects in Focus Areas:

In Arkansas, project partnerships between ANHC, TNC, AGFC and AACH;  
Ongoing programs on the Poison Springs State Forest and Ross Foundation;  
Forest Certification;  
AGFC Lease Land areas.

Following these discussions Zone Working Groups were formed through voluntary sign-up. Follow-up meetings will be coordinated for each Zone Working Group in the near future. Additionally it was agreed that delivery professionals outside those present would be encouraged to participate in an appropriate Zone Working Group.

#### **Action Items:**

- Plan the next CDN membership meeting for December, 2016;
- Request TNC AR representative on the CDN Steering Committee;
- Coordinate Zone Focus Area meetings;
- Consider DPT data/map distribution options; recommended that the DPT Working Group be asked to make that consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

## Zone Working Group members:

### Zone A

Bubba Groves	AGFC
Andy Yung	NRCS LA
Debbie Moreland	AACD
Ricky O'Neill	Potlatch
Bill Holimon	ANHC
Brad Kennon	LDWF



### Zone B

Wayne Roberts	NRCS LA
Kate Hasapes	LDWF
Betsy Dutoit	NWTF
Susan Nimmo	AGFC

### Zone C

Jeremy Poirier	International Paper
Ben Holten	LDWF
Betsy Dutoit	NWTF
Chris Doffitt	LDWF
David Hayden	LDWF
Keith McKnight	LMVJV



### Zone D

Griffin Park	AGFC
Cory Easley	AGFC
Jeff Taverner	AGFC

## **Delivery Prioritization Working Group (Current Members):**

1. Don Bragg (U.S. Forest Service)
2. Kate Hasapes (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries)
3. Bill Holimon (Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission)
4. Roger Mangham (The Nature Conservancy, Arkansas)
5. Steve Nipper (Natural Resources Conservation Service, Louisiana)
6. Jason Nolde (U.S. Forest Service)
7. Latimore Smith (The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana)
8. Mike Stroeh (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service)
9. Jeff Taverner (Arkansas Game & Fish Commission)
10. Dan Weber (The Nature Conservancy, Louisiana)
11. add: Debbie Moreland (Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts)

# Arkansas/Louisiana WGCP

## Conservation Delivery Network

July 7, 2016  
Lake D'Arbonne State Park  
Farmerville, LA

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### Agenda:

9:00 - 9:20	Welcome & Partner Introductions	David Breithaupt/Steve Fowler
9:20 - 9:30	LMVJV Board Presentation	Keith McKnight
9:30 - 10:45	CDN Delivery Prioritization Tool & Strategy & Discussion	Kate Hasapes/Blaine Elliott
10:45 - 11:30	Update on LMVJV Open Pine & Bottomland Landbird Decision Support Models	Anne Mini
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch (On your own)	
1:00 - 1:20	Focus Area Priorities and Partnerships - An Example	Bill Holimon
1:20 - 2:15	Focus Area Breakouts	David Breithaupt/Steve Fowler
	Focus Area Zone Facilitators:	
	A. Bill Holimon	
	B. David Breithaupt/Bubba Groves	
	C. David Hayden	
	D. Jeff Taverner	
2:15 - 3:00	Summaries of Focus Area Breakouts	Zone Facilitators
3:00 - 3:20	Funding Opportunities	Luke Lewis
3:20 - 3:45	Review & Finalize Action Items	David Breithaupt/Steve Fowler



30 November 2015

Conservation Delivery Network Partners:

I am writing on behalf of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Management Board (Board) to express our appreciation for your efforts, and to encourage your feedback to the Board regarding how we may provide additional support to the CDN.

We have followed with great interest and support, over the past several years, the initiation and continued growth of your Conservation Delivery Network (CDN). CDNs are bearing fruit toward achieving numerous shared conservation objectives in the region, from multi-partner collaboration and support of MRBI, to the establishment of multiple joint Working Groups that support outreach, development of CSP Enhancements recommendations and collaboration on multiple Tri-C targets (such as WRE forest management in the MAV of Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi), to the Little Boggy Ridgetop to River Bottom Project in NE Texas, to critical review and refinement recommendations for the LMVJV's Open Pine Decision Support Tool by the Arkansas & Louisiana West Gulf Coastal Plain CDN partners. Given these and the litany of positive outcomes and tangible deliverables which are emanating from CDN activities, it is clear that the hopes of the initial crafters of this concept are being met with great success. Each CDN member owns a share in this success, and the Board heartily thanks you and hopes you will continue in these and future such efforts.

In that vein, we also encourage CDNs to identify and communicate ways in which the LMVJV Board can help remove roadblocks, facilitate progress, provide useful information/tools, and otherwise assist in the great work that you are doing. The success of LMVJV CDNs is increasingly recognized across the southeast by conservation partners as worthy of support and duplication, and we want to ensure optimal opportunity for ongoing and future success.

Thank you for your dedication to this partnership and the resources that depend on our work together!

Sincerely,

Jeff Raasch  
Chair, LMVJV Management Board

**Attendees:**

Andy Yung	AGFC
Anne Mini	LMVJV
Ben Holten	LDWF
Bill Holimon	ANHC
Blaine Elliott	LMVJV
Brant Bradley	NRCS LA
Bubba Groves	AGFC
Chris Doffitt	LDWF/NHP
Cory Easley	AGFC
Dan Weber	TNC LA
Darren Spinks	AFC
David Breithaupt	LDWF
David Hayden	LDWF
Debbie Moreland	AACD
Doyle Shook	LMVJV
Betsy Dutoit	NWTF
George Rheinhardt	NRCS AR
Griffin Park	AGFC
Gypsy Hanks	USFWS
Kate Hasapes	LDWF
James Shivers	NRCS LA
Jeff Taverner	AGFC
Jeremy Poirier	International Paper Co.
Keith McKnight	LMVJV
Martha Manley	AACD
Michael Renfrow	USFWS
Mike Stroeh	USFWS
Nancy Young	NRCS AR
Ricky O'Neill	Potlatch Corp
Robert Kennon	LDWF
Steve Fowler	AGFC
Susan Nimmo	AGFC
Tom Edwards	USFWS
Wayne Roberts	NRCS LA