



Lower Mississippi Valley
JOINT VENTURE
www.lmvjv.org

LMVJV Conservation Delivery Networks

Maximizing our Greatest Assets: People, Knowledge, and Experience

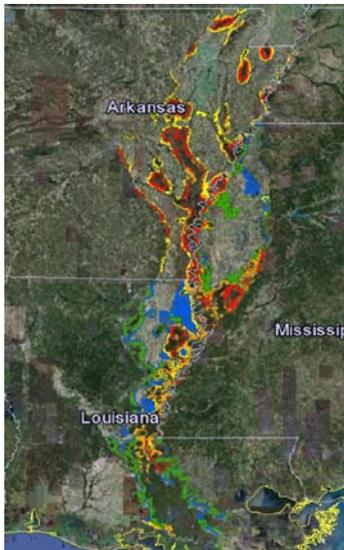
Conservation Delivery Networks (CDNs) are forums whereby members of the Joint Venture and other appropriate conservation organizations coordinate on-the-ground delivery of their otherwise independent efforts, with the scope of coordination intended to include not only the implementation of individual projects, but also the refinement of programs as partners deal with emerging challenges such as urban sprawl, habitat loss and degradation, altered hydrology, and potential long-term effects of global climate change. CDNs provide a functional link for translating biological planning and conservation design tools (science at landscape scales) to more effective action on the ground. Importantly, this link also facilitates enhanced feedback from delivery staff to planners.

The primary objectives of a Conservation Delivery Network (CDN) are to:

- (1) Facilitate more effective communication, coordination, and collaboration among the full spectrum of conservation organizations working to positively impact the landscape for wildlife populations within the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture region, and
- (2) Facilitate more effective coordination between the biological planning/conservation design functions of the JV partnership and the priorities of JV partner staff responsible for conservation delivery

Providing a Communication Mechanism Between Planning & Delivery

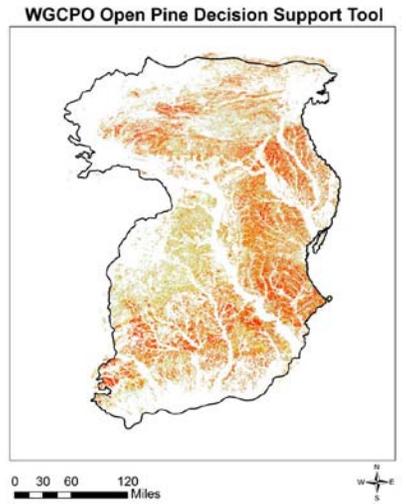
MAV Forest Breeding Bird Reforestation DSM



One of the key assets of the LMVJV partnership is its appreciation of and ability to apply information and technology toward establishing meaningful biological objectives at landscape scales. Through this process partners are able to focus on-the-ground conservation delivery using biologically-driven and transparent prioritization. As the ecological scope of the LMVJV's responsibilities have expanded since its inception (from waterfowl to all birds), and the available information and technology have grown exponentially, the value of effectively conveying the partnership's collective goals, objectives, decision support products, datasets, etc. "to the field" has grown accordingly. The role of Conservation Delivery Networks is to facilitate effective exchange of information between delivery staff (e.g., professionals on-the-ground) and planners. This approach is intended to refine and improve conservation priorities and accomplishments of both.

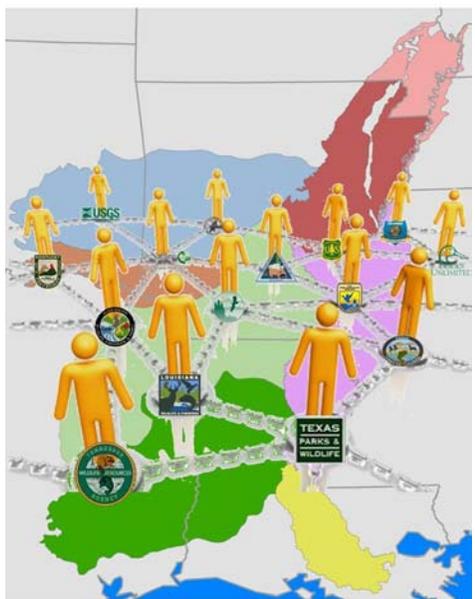
Hence, CDN members are encouraged to strive for clear and explicit connections between the activity-based objectives of their programs and the biological objectives identified by the Joint Venture. As the biological planning infrastructure of the Joint Venture develops decision support tools that translate landscape-scale objectives into site-scale priorities, it is important that

CDN members integrate these tools into their planning and delivery process. Likewise, biological planning and conservation design are refined only to the degree they are informed by what is happening on the ground. To this end, CDN members individually play a pivotal role in the growth and maturation of the Joint Venture partnership by supporting monitoring programs used in evaluating biological outcomes.



Providing a Mechanism for Communication, Coordination, and Collaboration Among Conservation Delivery Partners

As conservation delivery staff attend to their many core duties, it is natural for them to keep their eyes and minds focused on familiar, immediate, and nearby tasks.



However, given that our ultimate goal is establishing landscapes capable of indefinitely sustaining trust wildlife populations, new and novel collaborations among partners that result in even greater impacts will be critical to success. Only through regular, effective communication can this occur. CDNs are designed to foster such communication among conservation partner staff – particularly those staff directly responsible for actions on-the-ground. It is the role of the CDN to assemble the critical mass of conservation delivery staff from all appropriate conservation organizations within its geography, to share information and ideas regarding the most efficient and effective means of meeting landscape objectives. It is anticipated that this approach will function to more effectively leverage the capacities of multiple organizations through sharing of information regarding ongoing and planned projects, assessing and seeking sources of matching funds, identifying mutual information and monitoring needs, and capitalizing on areas of overlap (geographic & functional) that represent potential for strengthening partnerships.

Moving Ahead with a Common Vision & Increased Resources

CDN members are guided by the vision that through cooperative coordination, leveraging, and targeting of their collective actions they may more effectively achieve, at ecoregional scales, the measurable biological outcomes sought by conservation organizations within the LMV Joint Venture region. Further, the scope of coordination within CDN's is intended to include the development and implementation of grants through programs such as the North American Wetland Conservation Act, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, State Wildlife Grants, and private foundations as appropriate to accomplish identified objectives as well as leverage the otherwise standalone resources of its conservation partners.

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