



Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Forest Resource Conservation Working Group

Charter

Purpose:

The LMV Joint Venture Forest Resource Conservation Working Group (hereafter “Working Group”) will serve as the technical forum for coordination among Joint Venture partners on reforestation and forest management. The Working Group will strive to ensure that the conservation actions and programs of Joint Venture partners reflect reforestation and forest management prescriptions and practices that sustain populations of priority birds and other forest-dependent wildlife in concert with sustainable forestry.

The Working Group is empowered to:

- 1) Develop and refine the prescriptions, treatments, and practices for reforestation and forest management expected to achieve forest habitat conditions capable of sustaining populations of priority species. Recognizing the overlap in membership that often occurs between this and other Working Groups, the Management Board assumes and expects close coordination between biologists and foresters in first defining the forest conditions associated with sustainable populations and second, developing the prescriptions and treatments expected to achieve such conditions.
- 2) Translate prescriptions, treatments, and practices into forest management guidelines that speak to the management goals and objectives of the four broadly recognized categories of forest landowners – public natural resource agencies, non-industrial private forest (NIPF), industrial forest, and timber investment and management organizations (TIMO’s).
- 3) Develop collaborative forest inventory and monitoring protocols and databases as necessary to promote cooperative management between and among Joint Venture partners and their cooperators, and as necessary to support monitoring programs and projects as may be developed to track the biological and carbon sequestration response to forest management.
- 4) Identify research issues and needs pertinent to refining LMVJV reforestation and forest management practices and prescriptions, and facilitate the development and implementation of associated research projects.
- 5) Organize such ad hoc or standing sub-committees or working groups as deemed necessary in accomplishing its purpose.

Membership: Management Board Members will appoint at their discretion one to three Standing Working Group Members. Such members should have a strong background in conservation-based forestry, forestry-based wildlife conservation, and/or have a working knowledge of avian ecology in forested ecosystems. Additionally, the Science Coordinator of the LMV Joint Venture Office will serve as a Standing Member. The Standing Members of the Working Group so appointed are empowered and encouraged to enlist other such members as deemed appropriate to the creation and operation of ad hoc or standing subcommittees.

Process: The Working Group will operate under the broad guidance and direction of the Management Board and with operational oversight provided on behalf of the Board from the Joint Venture Coordinator. The Working Group should operate with an annual work plan that identifies priorities consistent with the purpose of the LMV Joint Venture; the broad goals and objectives of national and international bird conservation plans; and the mission, authorities, and responsibilities of the Joint Venture's member agencies and organizations.

Reporting

Responsibilities

And Relationships: The Working Group will submit an annual report through the Joint Venture Coordinator to the LMV Joint Venture Management Board at least 15 days prior to the Board's Spring/Summer Meeting. Report topics should include progress and activities associated with the current year's work plan and priorities, issues, findings or recommendations, and a proposed work plan for the ensuing 12 months.