

LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

NE Texas Conservation Delivery Network Up and Running!

The Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture is a self-directed, non-regulatory private, state, federal conservation partnership that exists for the purpose of sustaining bird populations and their habitats within the Lower Mississippi Valley region through implementing and communicating the goals and objectives of relevant national and international bird conservation plans.



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The Northeast Texas Conservation Delivery Network (NE TX CDN) held its first meeting on 16 May 2013 at the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's Nature Center in Tyler. Thirty conservation delivery professionals participated, representing the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and staff of the LMJVJ.

The agenda included information and discussions on the role of the Joint Venture, basic objectives of CDNs, success stories and experiences from the Arkansas MAV CDN, "what's in it for me?", draft Operating Guidelines, and concluded with discussion of high priority landscape-scale resource issues facing Northeast Texas. Two *ad hoc* working groups were formed to address (1) finalizing the Operating Guidelines, and (2) drafting a coherent set of geographic and functional priorities based on resource issues provided by the group. Products from these working groups will be presented and discussed by the full CDN at a tentatively-set second meeting in October 2013.

The Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the Caddo Lake Institute, National Wild Turkey Federation, U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas A&M Forest Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department has provided critical energy, support, and leadership in the development of this network, including provision of the CDN Chair, Laura Speight; Co-Chair, Jared Laing; GIS support, Jason Estrella; and supervisory and administrative support from District and Regional leaders.

Conservation Delivery Networks (CDNs) are forums whereby members of the Joint Venture and other interested conservation organizations coordinate on-the-ground delivery of their otherwise independent efforts.

