

# LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY JOINT VENTURE

## Desired Forest Conditions for Wildlife Mini-Workshop in Arkansas

*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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A mini-workshop on Wildlife Forestry guided by Desired Forest Conditions (DFCs) for Wildlife was held April 15 & 16, 2015 at the Potlatch Conservation Education Center at Cooks Lake (PCEC). Partner staff integral to success of the workshop were Jeff Denman (USFWS, Dale Bumpers White River NWR), Martin Blaney (AGFC), Eric Johnson (USFWS, Central Arkansas Complex), Jay Hitchcock (USFWS, Dale Bumpers White River NWR), & Scott Baker (MDWFP). PCEC is owned by Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation and operated by the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge lands were examined in the field tours, with mobility via two large boats due to river flooding of forest roads. 24 conservation professionals attended over the two days, including one forestry consultant.



DFCs for wildlife were developed to provide a general forest management framework for promoting the development of productive wildlife habitat by diversifying tree species composition, vertical and horizontal structure, tree age, and canopy densities within forest stands, creating a patchwork of habitats that benefit a wide variety of wildlife species across landscapes. These conditions are **expected to provide productive habitat to sustain populations of priority birds and other forest-dependent wildlife in concert with sustainable forestry.**

DFCs for wildlife are characterized by landscape scale considerations, primary stand scale factors (e.g., canopy cover, midstory, basal area, etc.) that managers can manipulate through prescribed treatments, and secondary stand scale factors (e.g., regeneration, cavities, understory cover, etc.) that respond indirectly to management. A detailed description of DFCs for wildlife can be found at

[http://www.lmvjv.org/pages/Planning/Forest\\_Resources.htm](http://www.lmvjv.org/pages/Planning/Forest_Resources.htm)

