

Morehouse Family Forest Initiative

Updates from the Field

January 2022—March 2022

Partnership Update



This open pine stand was treated using mechanical methods to reduce the dense midstory for better forest health and reducing competition.

Prescribed burn completed using cost share assistance in the MFFI geography to reduce the risk of wildfire hazard.



LSU presented survey analyses to the MFFI partnership to include information on landowner demographics, property characteristics, conservation practices, certification, outreach, and more! Most landowners were 55-84 years old, owned 51 to 250 acres, and cited family legacy as an extremely important reason for owning their forest lands. The most desired form of information was through printed materials and onsite visits.

The survey also revealed that respondents want future information on wildlife management, timber management, and timber sales. However, wildlife management showed the biggest difference between desired future information and past information received, indicating most landowners have not received wildlife information but want to know how to manage their forests for wildlife benefit. In comparison, most respondents have received forest management information and would like continued updates. This demonstrates the landowner desire for wildlife information to be disseminated in the region due to a lack of existing information. See the table below for details.

The Open Pine Landscape Restoration Regional Conservation Partnership Program was announced in January by NRCS. This program provide cost share to specifically increase open forest conditions in north Louisiana and south Arkansas. For more information, see the attached fact sheet or visit <https://www.lmvjv.org/ar-la-repp> or the promotional video shared by This Week in Louisiana Agriculture here <https://fb.watch/bbtLDcUBXp/>.



An existing road being used as a firebreak during a prescribed burn to limit the needs for putting in additional firebreaks.

Information received by respondents in the past as compared to information desired in the future. Adapted from LSU MFFI survey.

Topic	Past Information	Future Information
Wildlife Management	24.0 %	60.6 %
Timber Management	66.2 %	78.7 %
Timber sales/harvest	57.3 %	63.5 %





Arkansas Partner Accomplishments

Partner	Landowner Contacts	Site Visits	Conservation Plans	Planned Acres	Landowner Workshops Conducted	# Workshop Participants	New Tree Farm Inspections	New Tree Farm Acres	Recertification Tree Farm Inspections	Recertification Tree Farm Acres
January 2022—March 2022										
AFA					6	53	3	394	11	1,286
ADAFD	174	174	70	7,418						
AGFC	6	6	2	56	2	30				
QF	65	12	2	76						
August 2018— March 2022										
AFA	16,768				42	1,169	95	15,573	66	8,996
ADAFD	1,326	1,316	1,010	83,613						
AGFC	49	48	13	241	8	212				
QF	616	228	36	4,242.7	9	174				





Louisiana Partner Accomplishments

Partner	Landowner Contacts	Site Visits	Conservation Plans	Planned Acres	Landowner Workshops Conducted	# Workshop Participants	New Tree Farm Inspections	New Tree Farm Acres	Recertification Tree Farm Inspections	Recertification Tree Farm Acres
January 2022—March 2022										
LSU										
LFA										
LDAF										
LDWF										
QF	82	13	3	171						
August 2018- March 2022										
LSU	72	12			2	94				
LFA	3,984				2	131				
LDAF	120	6	6	375						
LDWF	40	3	1	80						
QF	376	105	134	12,491.6	14	489				



AR-LA Conservation Delivery Network Open Pine Landscape Restoration Partnership

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Fact Sheet

Project Overview

The Arkansas-Louisiana Conservation Delivery Network Open Pine Landscape Restoration Partnership Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) Project will address wildlife habitat, fire management, and water quality concerns in Arkansas and Louisiana. By implementing open pine forest management practices across private lands in Arkansas and Louisiana, this project will advance the recovery of species of conservation concern. Partnerships with the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff and other entities will help to ensure that historically underserved farmers and landowners participate meaningfully in the project.



AR Department of Agriculture Forestry Division photo

Primary Resource Concerns

Primary resource concerns include worsening of degraded plant condition; significant decrease in fire management; deterioration of terrestrial forest habitat, mainly due to changing land uses.

This loss of forest structure and plant diversity has caused declines in wildlife like Northern Bobwhite, Henslow's and LeConte's Sparrows, Louisiana Pine Snake, Red-cockaded Woodpecker and many other species.

Project Goals

Improve open forest conditions. Reduce hazardous fuel and the threat of wildfire and improve watershed condition.

Conservation Practice Funding

Funding will be available to eligible landowners through RCP. NRCS will provide financial assistance for a systems approach using approved conservation practices to address resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility and all other program criteria for participation must be met to participate in this initiative. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.

Approved Conservation Practices

- 338 — Prescribed Burning
- 394 — Firebreak
- 643 — Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities – Woodland, Glade, Barren, Savanna or Prairie Restoration
- 645 — Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Habitat Monitoring and Management, Medium Intensity and Complexity
- 666 — Forest Stand Improvement

Note: Additional financial assistance may be available through the partnership for certain areas and conservation management practices.

How to Apply for RCPP

NRCS and associated conservation partners will deliver this program collaboratively.

In Arkansas: Applications may be obtained and filed at the following Arkansas NRCS county offices:

Ashley – (870) 853-9881, ext. 3
310 N Cherry St
Hamburg, AR 71646-3002

Bradley – Serviced in Monticello (870) 224-7313
419 W Gaines St
Monticello, AR 71655-4723

Calhoun – Serviced in Monticello (870) 224-7313
419 W Gaines St
Monticello, AR 71655-4723

Clark – (870) 246-9816, ext. 3
640 S 6th St
Arkadelphia, AR 71923-6231

Drew – (870) 367-8400, ext. 3
419 W Gaines St
Monticello, AR 71655-4723

Lincoln – (870) 628-4542, ext. 3
303 North Lincoln Avenue
Star City, AR 71667

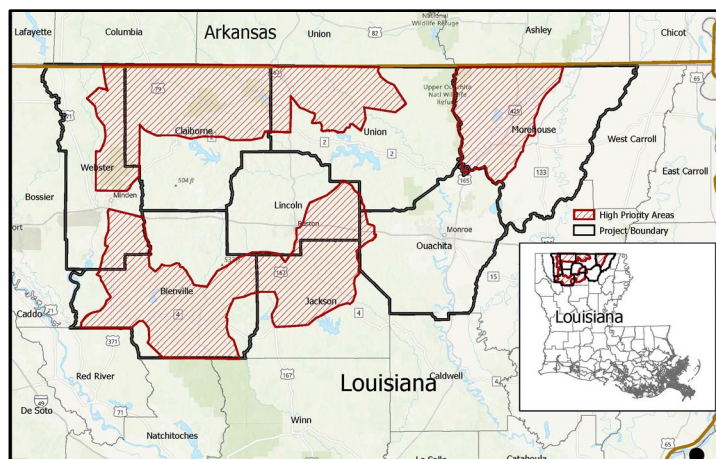
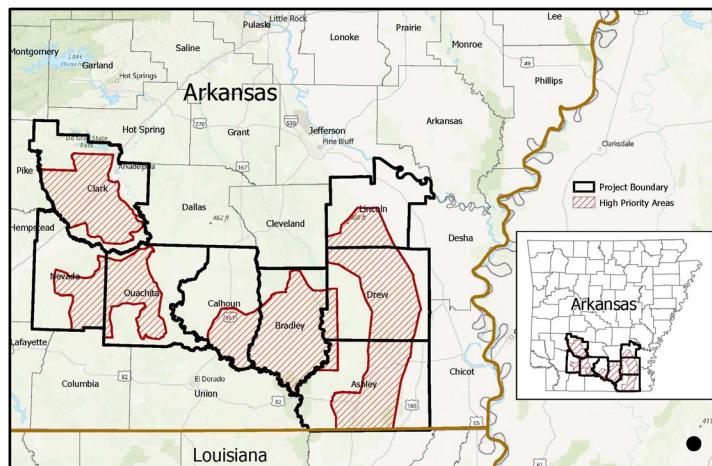
Nevada – Serviced in Hope (870) 777-8800, ext. 3
300 West Commerce Blvd
Hope, AR 7180

Ouachita – (870) 836-2089, ext. 3
151 South Adams Avenue
Camden, AR 71701

In Louisiana: Applications may be obtained and filed at the following Louisiana NRCS Parish offices:

Bienville – (318) 932-4352, ext. 3
1311 Ringgold Avenue
Coushatta, LA 71019

Claiborne – (318) 377-3950, ext. 3
216B Broadway St
Minden, LA 71055-3301



Jackson – (318) 255-3136, ext. 3
1412 Celebrity Drive
Ruston, LA 71270

Lincoln – (318) 255-3136, ext. 3
1412 Celebrity Drive
Ruston, LA 71270

Morehouse – (318) 281-1561, ext. 3
9604 Marlatt St
Bastrop, LA 71220-9758

Ouachita – (318) 343-4467, ext. 3
2410 Old Sterlington Rd Ste B
Monroe, LA 71203-2668

Union – (318) 368-8021, ext. 1
501 Glory Road
Farmerville, LA 71241

Webster – (318) 377-3950, ext. 3
216B Broadway St
Minden, LA 71055-3301

