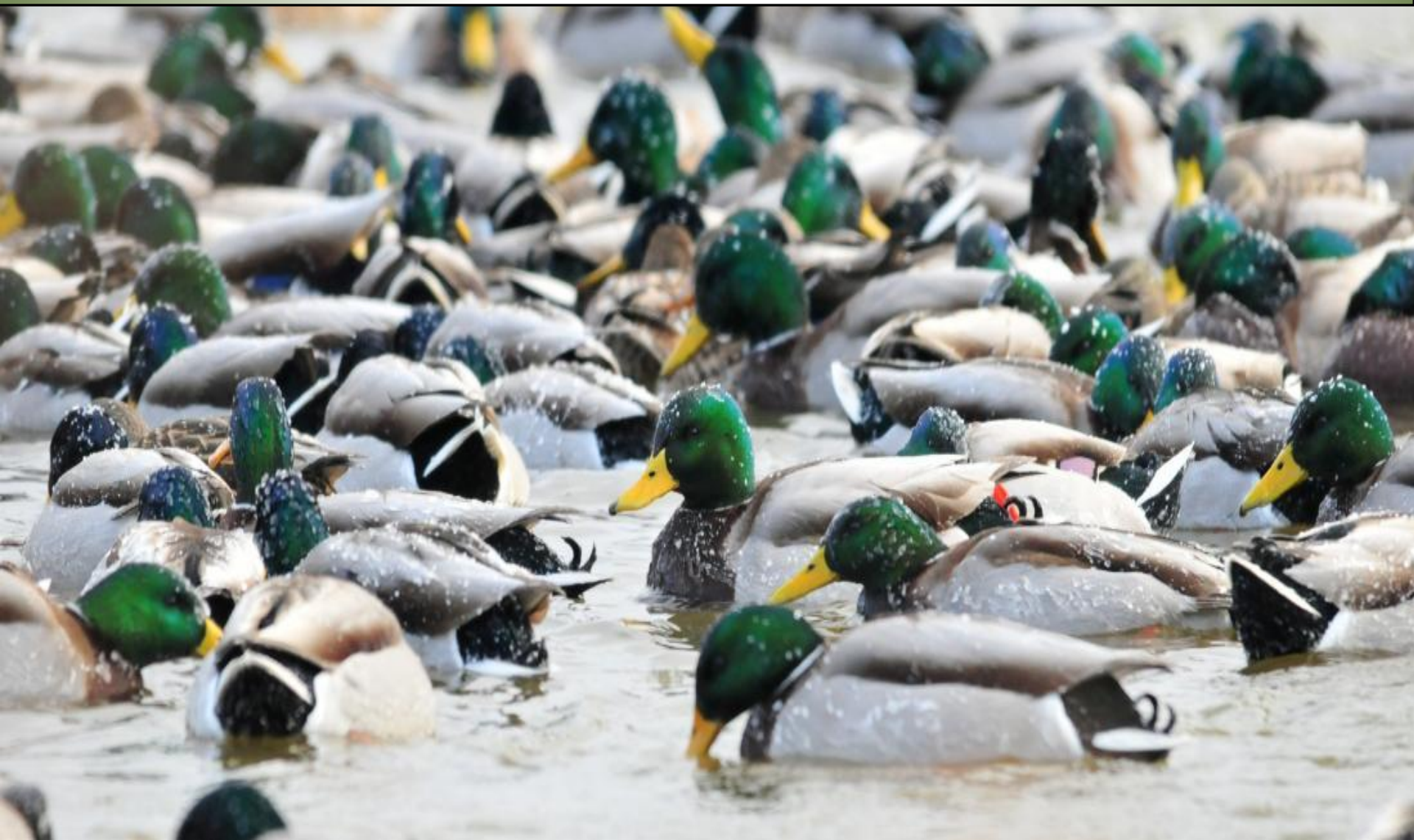




DU At Work In Arkansas





Jake Spears – Regional Biologist

- Jointly funded by NRCS and AGFC
- Private landowner assistance and public land coordination
- 5th year in this position





Ducks Unlimited – What We Do

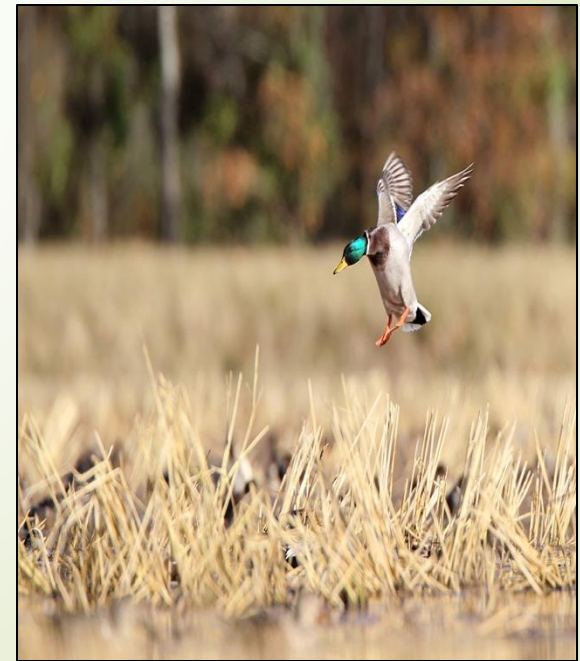
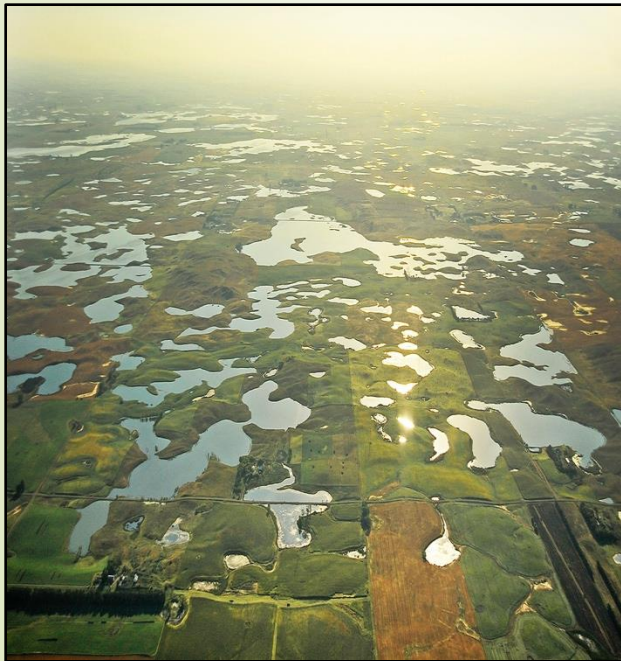
- Founded in 1937
- Conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl
- 16 million acres conserved
- US, Canada, and Mexico





Ducks Unlimited – What We Do

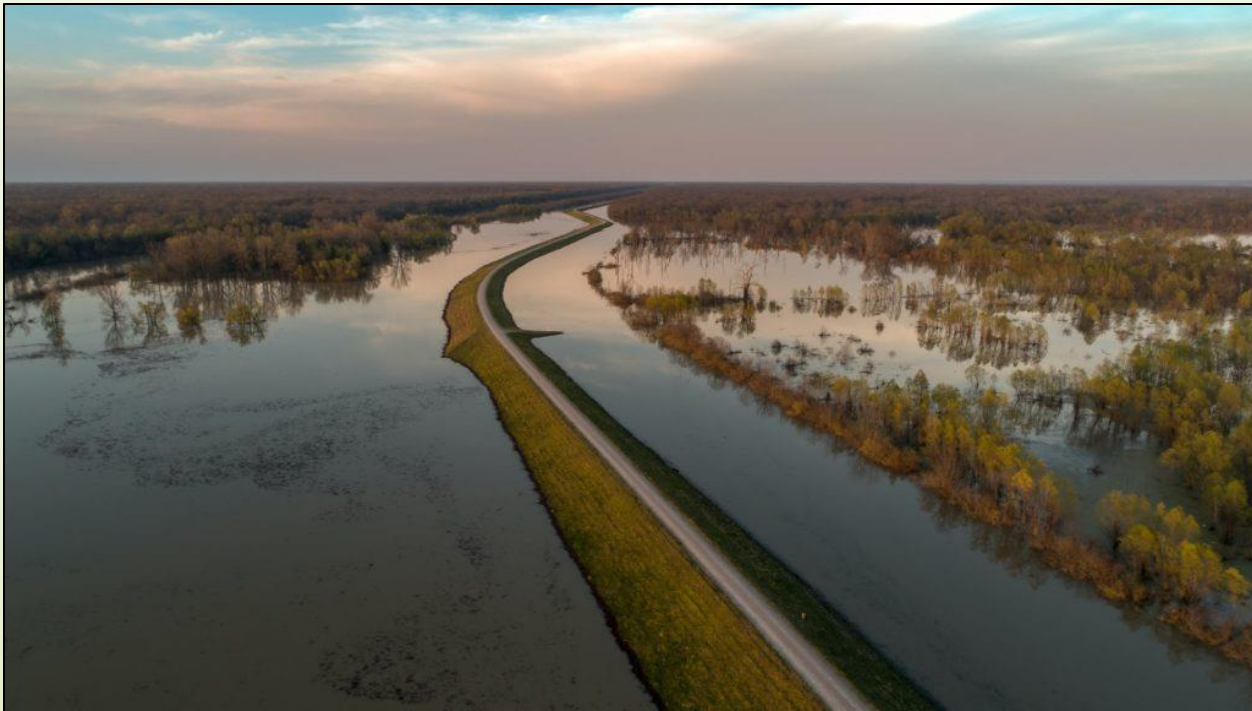
- Priority landscapes identified to focus work (Level I, II, and III)
- Priority I landscapes are primary focus of our time and resources





Ducks Unlimited – What We Do

- The MAV of Arkansas a Priority I landscape
- Numerous active programs to conserve, protect, and restore wetlands on private and public lands





Private Lands Programs

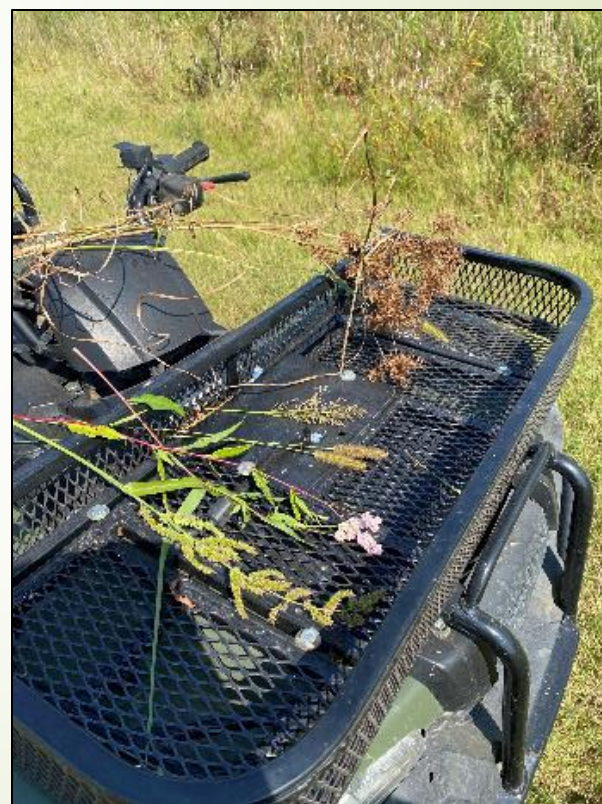
- Technical Assistance
- WRE/WRP Restoration
- Rice Stewardship Partnership
- Flyway Forests Program





Technical Assistance

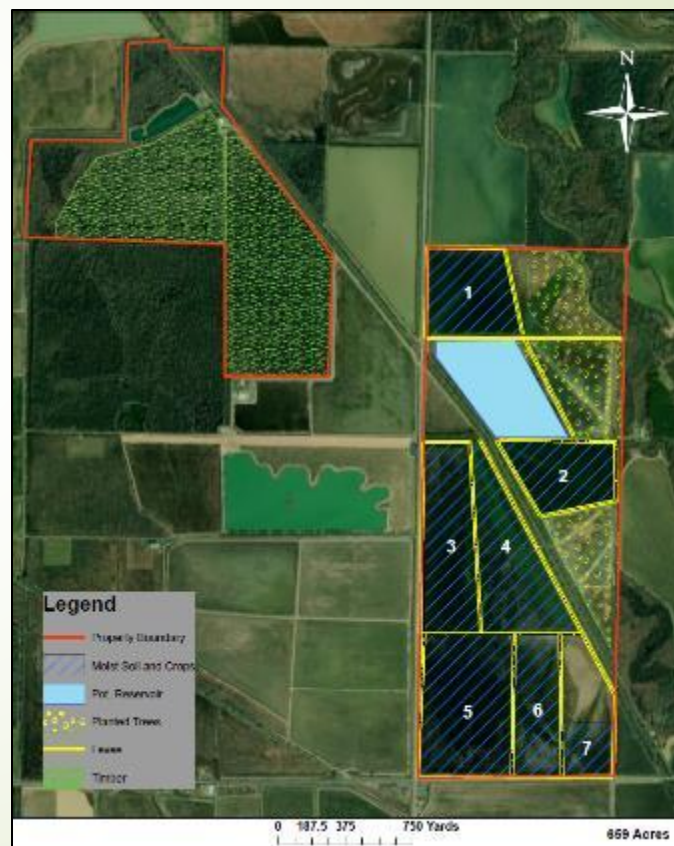
- Free habitat improvement consultation
- Avg 40 landowners and 6,000 acres/year





Technical Assistance

- Detailed maps/management plans
- Help find cost assistance options (WRE/CRP, other state and federal programs)





WRE/WRP Restoration

- NFWF funded habitat work
 - Financial assistance for habitat improvements on older easements in partnership with NRCS





WRE/WRP Restoration

- Infrastructure improvements, replacing old water control structures





WRE/WRP Restoration

- Pre-commercial hardwood thinnings





Rice Stewardship

- Leveraging DU Funds with partners to ensure sustainable rice production
 - Promote water efficiency, soil health, nutrient management, waterfowl habitat
 - If it's good for rice, it's good for ducks!





Rice Stewardship

- Landowner incentives for:
 - AWD
 - Surface Water Irrigation
 - Flow meters and moisture sensors
 - Reduced fall tillage
 - Winter flooding





Flyway Forests Program

- DU payment to landowners for reforestation of bottomland hardwood habitat
- Paid through carbon offsets
- Great alternative for those not qualified for WRE and other govt programs





Flyway Forests Program

- Permanent easement on property - \$3,453/acre
- 40 year agreement – 2,763/acre
- DU covers all site prep, planting, and monitoring

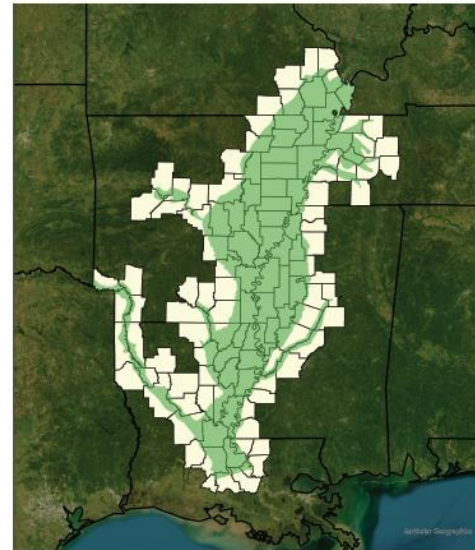




Flyway Forests Program

➤ Requirements

- 75 acre minimum
- Cannot be enrolled in any other tree planting programs
- No land clearing in the last 10 years



MAV Priority
Eligible Counties/Parishes

**Flyway Forests
Mississippi Alluvial Valley
Program Extent**



For more information about the
Flyway Forests program, contact:
LAUREN ALLEMAN, Carbon Specialist
lallemann@ducks.org



2.6 MILLION trees
to be planted by 2028



855,000+ TONNES
carbon dioxide (CO₂e)
removed from the
atmosphere



12 NATIVE SPECIES
to be planted

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Landowners in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi along the Mississippi Alluvial Valley
- 75+ acres of land available
- Lands where bottomland hardwood forests historically occurred
- Fields in current or recent agriculture production
- Lands not currently enrolled in a conservation easement program

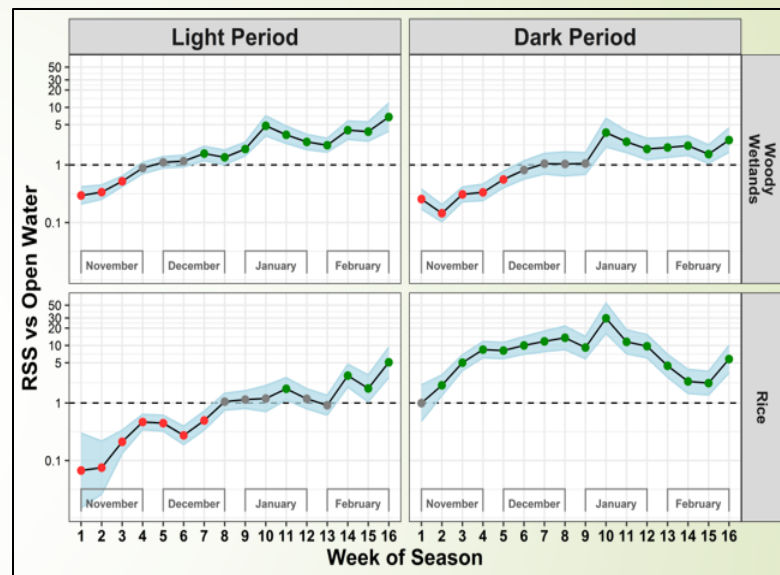
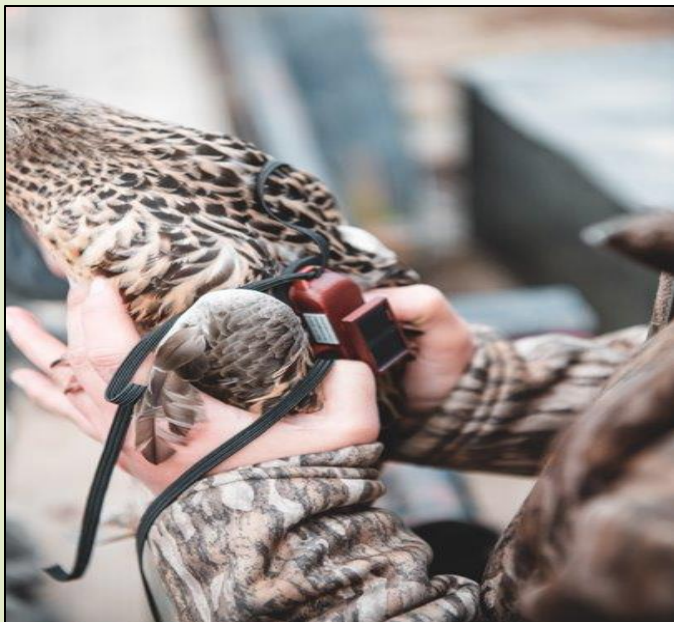
ENROLL TODAY





Science

- UARK-Monticello Banding Program
- Transmitter Studies
- Drone Research





Science

➤ Keeping conservation relevant!





Why We Do It





Thank You!!!

- ▶ Jake Spears – Regional Biologist
 - ▶ jspears@ducks.org
 - ▶ 870-273-5717
- ▶ Collaboration is key
- ▶ Don't hesitate to reach out

