



**Name:** **Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Location:** **Catahoula and LaSalle Parishes, Louisiana**  
**Grantee:** **The Conservation Fund**

With the support of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Wal-Mart, The Conservation Fund will acquire 6,098 acres of privately owned lands within the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge and donate these lands to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for long-term public stewardship. This addition will expand the refuge lands by 40 percent. Located in the heart of the Central Flyway, the refuge features cypress-lined lakes and forested bayous. The dense hardwood forests and abundant waters of the refuge and adjacent Catahoula Lake provide a haven for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds, reaching counts of 400,000 birds during peak migration periods.



The addition of this property to the refuge will benefit a significant number of migratory species, such as mallard, greater white-fronted goose, mottled duck, northern pintail, and greater and lesser scaup. Adjacent Catahoula Lake is one of only 22 wetland sites in the U.S. recognized by the Ramsar Convention as Wetlands of International Importance. This Refuge is considered a top priority of the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture for its important role in habitat restoration for forest breeding birds it is also an important wintering site for the bald eagle. The acquisition of this land is critical because it is such a large inholding within the refuge boundary.

Each year more than 40,000 birdwatchers, hunters, and anglers flock to this living outdoor classroom to take advantage of its rich natural resources. The more than 175 wetland-dependent bird species sighted at Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge will benefit from this additional protected acreage as well.

Project partners include American Electric Power, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

\*The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are presently 1428 wetland sites worldwide designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

## **CONTACT**

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“The dramatic scale and scope of this project demonstrates the extraordinary conservation results that can be achieved by capitalizing on the power of partnerships. By integrating economic and environmental objectives, we are pioneering a new brand of environmentalism that protects one of the most spectacular wetlands in the world, safeguards important wildlife habitat, and enhances recreation opportunities in the Mississippi River Valley.”

*Larry Selzer, President of The Conservation Fund*

## **ABOUT THE CONSERVATION FUND**

The Conservation Fund forges partnerships to preserve our nation's outdoor heritage -- America's legacy of wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open-space. Pioneering a unique brand of conservation driven by Effectiveness, Efficiency, and Environmental and Economic Balance, the Fund produces unsurpassed results.

Since 1985, The Conservation Fund, through its partnership-driven approach, has protected more than 4 million acres of America's outdoor heritage -- leading other organizations in leverage and effectiveness.

“This is an extraordinary gift by Wal-Mart to the American people. Wal-Mart’s innovative conservation program, “Acres for America,” will soon be the model for corporate America. We are honored to have Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge in Louisiana selected as one of the first projects funded under this new program.”

*Matt Hogan, Acting Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

“On behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge is honored to be the beneficiary of such an outstanding partnership that brings together public and private organizations for the benefit of wildlife and the people of this country. We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of unique partnership where conservation and restoration of this valuable bottomland hardwood forest habitat is realized.”

*Andrew Hammond, Manager of the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge*

### **ABOUT U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System that encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores national significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

