

Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River

Conservation Opportunity Area



The Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River in Dyer, Crockett, and Gibson Counties is encompassed within this Conservation Opportunity Area (COA). This Middle Fork has been extensively channelized, and approximately 20% of the original bottomland hardwood forests remain. Nevertheless, the river and its associated terrestrial habitats remain important for a variety of wildlife species. This ecosystem is important for waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Tigrett Wildlife Management Area, which encompasses 7,000 acres within this COA, provides habitat for Alligator Gar, Alligator Snapping Turtles and Bald Eagles.

The potential to restore the river and its associated floodplain make this a high priority zone. Created habitats would benefit waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, and other migratory species as well as improve wetland functions. Improved wetland functions could enhance groundwater recharge, reduce sediment transfer, and help minimize downstream flooding.

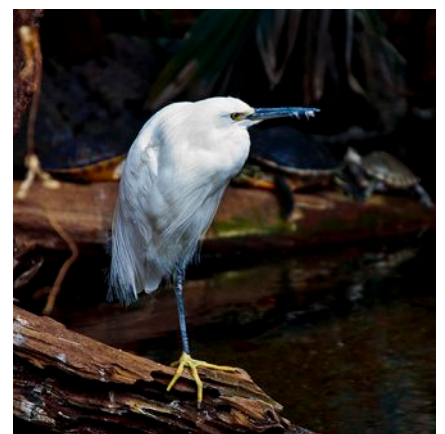
TWRA will consider future land acquisitions in this COA for watershed protection, critical habitat protection, habitat restoration, streambank stabilization, planting of bottomland hardwoods and warm season grasses, and buffer strip plantings along the river. TWRA will also seek partnerships with other agencies and landowners to implement many of the management strategies on private lands within this COA.

Public Lands within the COA

Eaton Bottom Wetland, Horns Bluff Refuge, Lake Lauderdale Refuge, Tigrett Wildlife Management Area



The river and its associated habitats remain important for a variety of wildlife, including waterfowl, wading birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.



Top to bottom: Portrait of an Alligator Snapping Turtle - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Snowy Egret - Utahwildflowers/next page: Alligator Snapping Turtles in monitoring traps - Rob Colvin, TWRA

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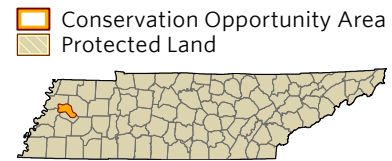
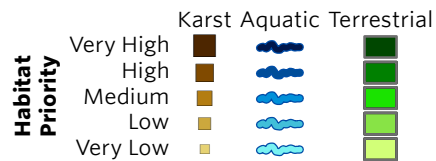
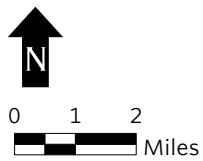
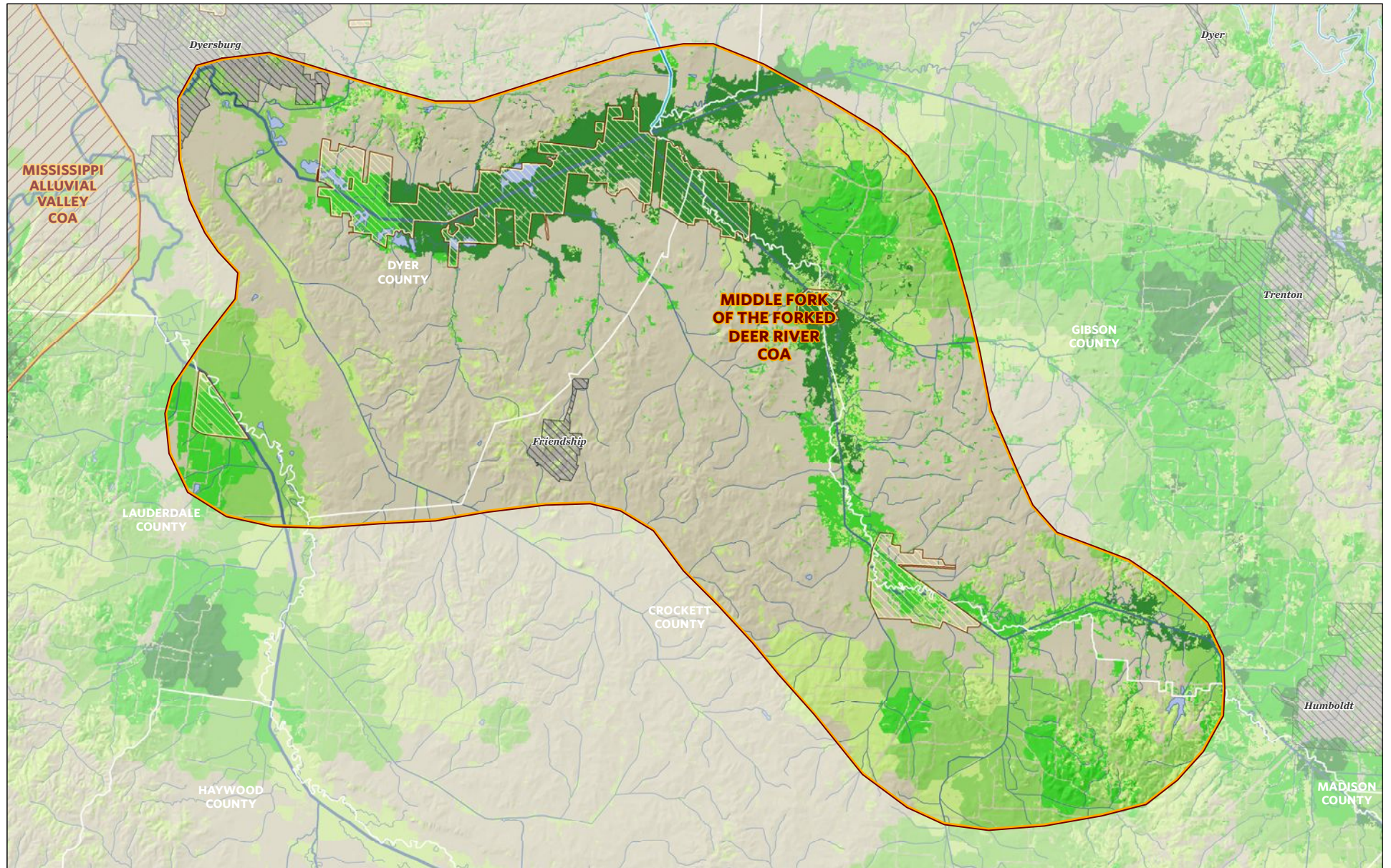
Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Natural Resources Conservation Service/ Mississippi River Basin Initiative, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Wetland Acquisition Fund, National Wild Turkey Federation, Tennessee Parks & Greenways Foundation, Farm Bureau, UT Agricultural Extension, Cooperative Extensions, universities, various other institutions, and local governments.



Desired Change	Units
+ Increase restoration of critical land units and aquatic resources on private lands using government-funded incentive programs	number
+ Restore acres of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands, and acquiring inholdings within public land areas.	acres
+ Restore rivercane corridors.	acres
+ Increase mudflat and moist soil habitat on wildlife refuges through enhanced water management to provide habitat for migrating birds and Mississippi kites	acres
+ Create or improve buffers around tributaries to reduce sediment transfer and runoff of contaminants.	acres
✓ Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres

To learn more about the Middle Fork of the Forked Deer River Conservation Opportunity Area, please contact: Rob Colvin, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, Region 1 (731) 423-5725



MIDDLE FORK OF THE FORKED DEER RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)

Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Amphibian	<i>Ambystoma texanum</i> (Smallmouth Salamander)
Bird	<i>Accipiter striatus</i> (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	<i>Anas rubripes</i> (American Black Duck)
Bird	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i> (Upland Sandpiper)
Bird	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> (American Bittern)
Bird	<i>Calidris himantopus</i> (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i> (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i> (Chimney Swift)
Bird	<i>Chordeiles minor</i> (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Northern Harrier)
Bird	<i>Colinus virginianus</i> (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	<i>Egretta caerulea</i> (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i> (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	<i>Geothlypis Formosa</i> (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (Bald Eagle)
Bird	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i> (Wood Thrush)
Bird	<i>Icteria virens</i> (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	<i>Icterus spurius</i> (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i> (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i> (American Golden Plover)
Bird	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i> (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	<i>Riparia riparia</i> (Bank Swallow)
Bird	<i>Scolopax minor</i> (American Woodcock)
Bird	<i>Setophaga cerulea</i> (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	<i>Setophaga discolor</i> (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	<i>Sturnella magna</i> (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i> (Buff-breasted Sandpiper)
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i> (Barn Owl)
Bird	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> (Golden-winged Warbler)
Fish	<i>Atractosteus spatula</i> (Alligator Gar)
Plant	<i>Didiplis diandra</i> (Water-purslane)
Reptile	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster</i> (Yellowbelly Water Snake)

MIDDLE FORK OF THE FORKED DEER RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest	18961
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	4189
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	8841
Pasture	722
Old Field / Successional	183
Aquatic Habitat Type	Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Headwaters and streams	1