Obion River

Conservation Opportunity Area

The Obion River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) already contains several state lands that provide habitat for numerous priority species including the crawfish frog, bald eagle, cerulean warbler, and sandhill crane. This area consists of bottomland hardwood forests, swamps, oxbows, sloughs, and agricultural fields. Much of the land surrounding the Obion River has been cleared and drained for agricultural use. Gooch Wildlife Management Area is one of the few areas where the bottomland timber remains. Also, the Obion and most of its tributaries have been channelized.

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

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Public Lands within the COA

Bean Switch Refuge, Big Cypress Tree State Natural Area, Glover Wetland, Gooch Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Harts Mill Wetland, Hop-In Refuge, Jarrell Switch Refuge, Maness Swamp Refuge, Obion River WMA, Three River WMA

Top to bottom: Mud Snake - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Channelized stream - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Lower Obion River aerial - Damon Hollis, TWRA/ next page: Taylor and Murry Moore, two farmers with conservation land along the Obion River - Mark Dorsett, USDA

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Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Natural Resources Conservation Service/National Water Quality Initiative/Mississippi River Basin Initiative, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, Cooperative Extensions, universities, various other institutions, and local governments.

	Desired Change	Units
+	Increase the application of Best Management Practices to benefit GCN species and habitats on private lands using government funded incentive programs	number
+	Restore acres and stream miles of bottomland hardwood forest by converting former agriculture lands.	acres/miles
+	Restore river cane 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 and a sediment retention basin to reduce sediment load and runoff of contaminants into the lake.	acres
✓	Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+	Encourage municipal and county governments to adopt zoning ordinances that limit or regulate development within critical units of aquatic, subterranean, and terrestrial habitats.	plans

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

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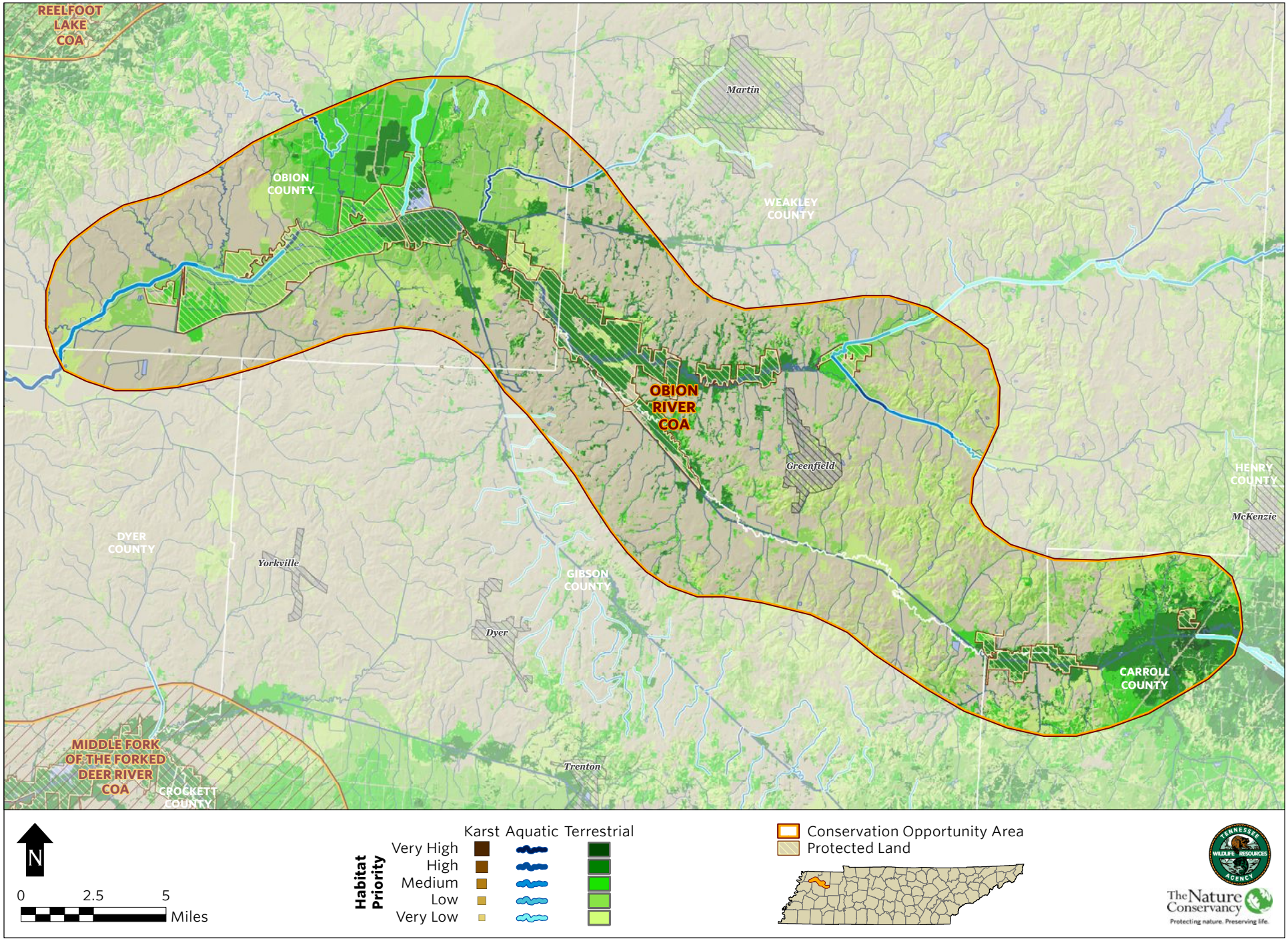

	OBION RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa group	**Scientific & Common names**
Amphibian	Hyla versicolor (Gray Treefrog)
Bat	Corynorhinus rafinesquii (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Bat	Myotis austroriparius (Southeastern Bat)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Bird	Ammodramus leconteii (LeConte's Sparrow)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Botaurus lentiginosus (American Bittern)
Bird	Calidris himantopus (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	Calidris mauri (Western Sandpiper)
Bird	Calidris pusilla (Semipalmated Sandpiper)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Empidonax minimus (Least Flycatcher)
Bird	Empidonax traillii (Willow Flycatcher)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Grus americana (Whooping Crane)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
Bird	Ixobrychus exilis (Least Bittern)
Bird	Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)
Bird	Limnothlypis swainsonii (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	Melanerpes erythrocephalus (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	Parkesia motacilla (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	Pluvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Riparia riparia (Bank Swallow)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Fish	Hybognathus placitus (Plains Minnow)
Fish	Noturus gladiator (Piebald Madtom)
Fish	Scaphirhynchus albus (Pallid Sturgeon)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Mammal	Ochrotomys nuttalli (Golden Mouse)
Mammal	Sorex longirostris (Southeastern Shrew)
Mammal	Zapus hudsonius (Meadow Jumping Mouse)
Reptile	Macrochelys temminckii (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle)

OBION 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	21426
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	7824
South-Central Interior / Upper Coastal Plain Flatwoods	3263
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	726
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	458
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	15815
Pasture	3452
Old Field / Successional	651
Aquatic Habitat Type	**Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Headwaters and streams	9
Small River	5
Medium River	6