Wolf River

Conservation Opportunity Area

The Wolf River covers nearly 90 miles as it passes through Hardeman, Fayette, and Shelby Counties before emptying into the Mississippi River at Memphis. Meanders, sloughs, wetlands, and bottomland hardwood forests are characteristic of this river. The Wolf River is a significant component of the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Ecoregion, which covers seven states in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The river and its sloughs provide excellent habitat for approximately 25 species of mussels, over 100 species of fish and numerous birds, reptiles, and amphibians including the Alligator Snapping Turtle. The riparian bald cypress-water tupelo forests are quickly disappearing and examples of unchannelized rivers and functional bottomland forests are becoming increasingly rare in West Tennessee. Additionally, this COA contains the quail focus area for TWRA's administrative Region 1, which is located on the Wolf River Wildlife Management Area.

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

Public Lands within the COA

Ghost River State Natural Area (SNA), Hays Crossing Wetland, Moscow Wetland, Piperton Wetland Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Rossville Wetland, William B. Clark SNA, Wolf River WMA

The unchannelized Wolf River and its bottomlands support bald cypress-water tupelo forests and hundreds of fish and other species.

Top to bottom: Lost Swamp trail of the Wolf River - John Henry Photography; Spotted Salamander - Rob Colvin, TWRA/next page: Cypress reflection - John Henry Photography

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Partnerships

TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the Wolf River Conservancy, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Ducks Unlimited, Cooperative Extensions, universities, Fayette County Government, Shelby County Government, UT Agricultural Extension, local schools, and various other institutions.

	Desired Change	Units
+	Increase restoration of critical land units and aquatic resources 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
+	Create or improve buffers around tributaries to reduce sediment transfer and runoff of contaminants.	acres
+	Permanently protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+	Increase numbers of Bobwhite Quail and Alligator Snapping Turtles through improved habitat management.	acres
✓	Increase Alligator Snapping Turtle populations in key habitat areas where numbers are low through propagation and translocation of individuals.	animals

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

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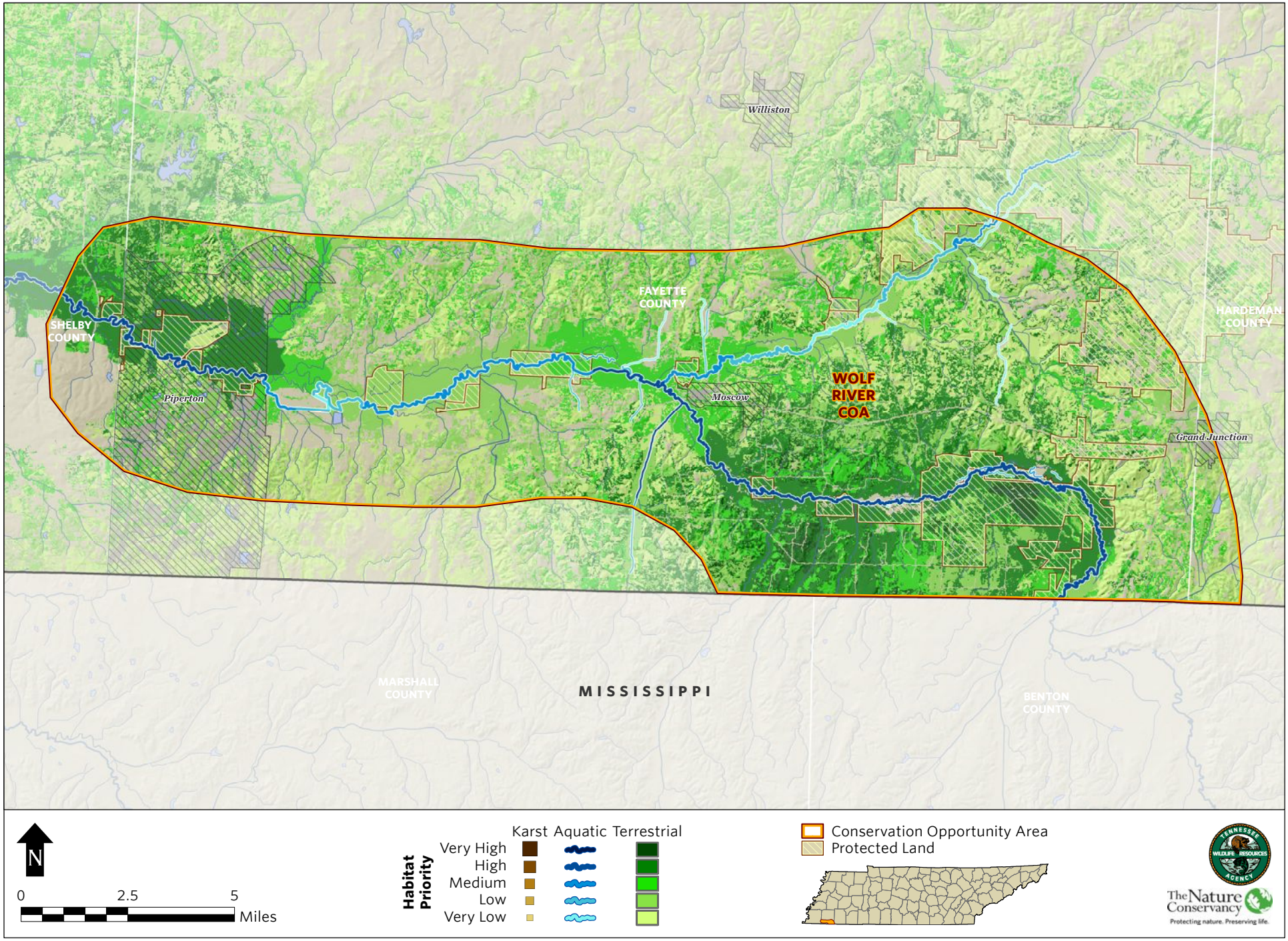

	WOLF RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)
Taxa group	**Scientific & Common names**
Amphibian	Acris gryllus (Southern Cricket Frog)
Bird	Accipiter striatus (Sharp-shinned Hawk)
Bird	Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Bird	Ammodramus leconteii (LeConte's Sparrow)
Bird	Ammodramus savannarum (Grasshopper Sparrow)
Bird	Anas rubripes (American Black Duck)
Bird	Asio flammeus (Short-eared Owl)
Bird	Bartramia longicauda (Upland Sandpiper)
Bird	Caprimulgus carolinensis (Chuck-will's-widow)
Bird	Caprimulgus vociferus (Whip-poor-will)
Bird	Chaetura pelagica (Chimney Swift)
Bird	Chordeiles minor (Common Nighthawk)
Bird	Circus cyaneus (Northern Harrier)
Bird	Cistothorus platensis (Sedge Wren)
Bird	Colinus virginianus (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	Egretta caerulea (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	Euphagus carolinus (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	Falco peregrinus (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	Geothlypis Formosa (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Bird	Helmitheros vermivorum (Worm-eating Warbler)
Bird	Hylocichla mustelina (Wood Thrush)
Bird	Icteria virens (Yellow-breasted Chat)
Bird	Icterus spurius (Orchard Oriole)
Bird	Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)
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	Passerina ciris (Painted Bunting)
Bird	Pluvialis dominica (American Golden Plover)
Bird	Protonotaria citrea (Prothonotary Warbler)
Bird	Riparia riparia (Bank Swallow)
Bird	Scolopax minor (American Woodcock)
Bird	Setophaga cerulea (Cerulean Warbler)
Bird	Setophaga discolor (Prairie Warbler)
Bird	Sturnella magna (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	Thryomanes bewickii (Bewick's Wren)
Bird	Tyto alba (Barn Owl)
Bird	Vermivora chrysoptera (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	Vermivora cyanoptera (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	Lampsilis siliquoidea (Fatmucket)
Bivalve	Obovaria jacksoniana (Southern Hickorynut)
Bivalve	Strophitus undulatus (Creeper)
Bivalve	Villosa lienosa (Little Spectaclecase)
Bivalve	Villosa vibex (Southern Rainbow)
Fish	Ammocrypta beanii (Naked Sand Darter)
Fish	Ammocrypta vivax (Scaly Sand Darter)
Fish	Atractosteus spatula (Alligator Gar)
Fish	Ichthyomyzon unicuspis (Silver Lamprey)
Fish	Noturus gladiator (Piebald Madtom)
Mammal	Ochrotomys nuttalli (Golden Mouse)
Mammal	Sorex longirostris (Southeastern Shrew)
Mammal	Synaptomys cooperi (Southern Bog Lemming)
Mammal	Zapus hudsonius (Meadow Jumping Mouse)
Plant	Listera australis (Southern Twayblade)
Reptile	Macrochelys temminckii (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	Terrapene carolina (Eastern Box Turtle)

WOLF RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	**Total acres of very high, high, and medium**
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	17,619
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	1,652
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	485
Semi-natural habitats	
Old Field / Successional	15,982
Pasture	12,173
Cropland	3,008
Aquatic Habitat Type	**Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat**
Headwaters and Streams	6
Small River	46