

Our Work



Since 1936, the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has worked to protect wildlife for our children's future.

At the South Central Regional Center, our focus is on protecting and restoring healthy rivers and estuaries, conserving wetlands, springs, and aquifers, protecting wildlife populations from global warming, promoting sustainable land and water use, and connecting both children and adults with the natural world.

Our Affiliates

NWF affiliates operate on the grassroots level by working to educate, encourage, and facilitate the conservation efforts of their distinct bases of members and supporters.

Arkansas Wildlife Federation
arkansaswildlifefederation.org

Iowa Wildlife Federation
iowawildlifefederation.org

Kansas Wildlife Federation
kswildlife.org

Louisiana Wildlife Federation
lawildlifefed.org

Conservation Federation of Missouri
confedmo.org

Texas Conservation Alliance
tcatexas.org



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South Central REGIONAL CENTER NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION



CONFRONTING GLOBAL WARMING



PROTECTING AND RESTORING WILDLIFE HABITATS



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

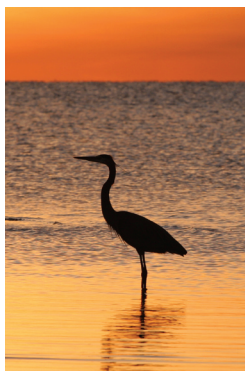
ARKANSAS - IOWA - KANSAS - LOUISIANA - MISSOURI - OKLAHOMA - TEXAS



CONFRONTING GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is the single greatest threat to the wildlife and natural systems that sustain us all. NWF is committed to addressing both the causes and the effects of global warming. Emissions of heat-trapping gases into the atmosphere must be reduced well below current levels, and we must manage our land, water, and wildlife to minimize the harmful effects of the warming already underway.

GLOBAL WARMING ADAPTATION



Global warming will continue to affect wildlife and ecosystems, even if all nations dramatically reduce carbon emissions, because carbon lingers in the atmosphere for centuries. To help wildlife withstand this challenge, we will have to adjust the way we manage our land, water, and air. But there is as yet no guidebook for how to do this. In partnership with scientists and natural resource managers, NWF is working to assess the threats that a warming planet poses for wildlife and habitat in Texas, and to develop and promote conservation practices that will protect the species and places most important to Texans. The time to prepare for a climate-altered landscape is now. We believe this program will serve as a model for other states in the region.

CAMPUS ECOLOGY

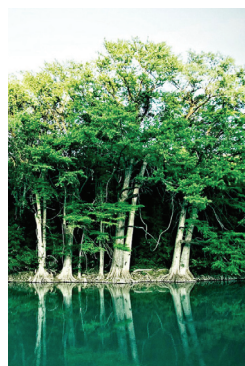
Institutions of higher education are uniquely positioned to model the transition to the low-carbon future we must embrace if we are to confront global warming successfully. Colleges and universities are centers of research for new technologies and are educating the future professionals who will usher in the new energy economy. NWF's Campus Ecology program challenges campuses across the country to dramatically reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions, offering technical support, creating regional networks, and showcasing success stories through its annual Chill Out Competition. We also engage students as advocates for global warming solutions through national events like Power Shift and Focus the Nation and regional events like Re-Energize Texas. And through a new partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges, we will help prepare the workforce for millions of new green jobs.



PROTECTING AND RESTORING WILDLIFE HABITATS

Our region is blessed with abundant fish and wildlife, which need healthy rivers, forests, grasslands, wetlands, and estuaries to survive and thrive. These natural assets are challenged by population growth, urban expansion, and misguided management policies and practices. NWF is taking aggressive action to protect and restore vital wildlife habitats for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

TEXAS LIVING WATERS



Through our Texas Living Waters project, NWF has worked since 2001 to reform the way Texas manages and uses its fresh water. Our goal is to ensure that in the face of rapid population growth and a warming climate, the state's rivers and streams, bays and estuaries, springs and aquifers have the water they need to remain healthy and productive for generations to come. In 2007 we reached an historic milestone when Texas lawmakers created a formal process to reserve water for these environmental purposes. We are now working with scientists, stakeholders, and citizen groups to make sure the new stakeholder-driven process incorporates good science and guarantees sufficient water for our rivers and bays.

COASTAL LOUISIANA RESTORATION

Louisiana has 30% of the coastal wetlands in the continental United States. This vast expanse of marsh and swamp supports an abundance of fish and wildlife, including millions of migratory waterfowl and hundreds of species of songbirds. Over the past 75 years these wetlands have been deteriorating and disappearing at an alarming rate, a consequence of levee construction and oil and gas activities combined with natural subsidence. NWF is working with national and regional partners to propel bold action to restore these coastal areas. The ancient, land-building power of the Mississippi River must be harnessed to restore this system. Sending fresh-water and sediment from the river into coastal wetlands will help restore an ecological treasure and at the same time protect communities from stronger storms and rising seas. What we learn from this effort will be of value to climate-threatened coastal communities around the world.



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

Children today spend an average of six hours a day in front of a TV, computer, video game, or other electronic screen. NWF is working to bring these children back to nature by promoting outdoor environmental education, natural playscapes, and family-centered outdoor play. We believe time outdoors in nature helps children stay healthier, do better in school, and become lifelong environmental stewards.

POLICY AGENDA FOR CHILDREN AND NATURE



Working with governors and state legislatures, NWF is crafting ground-breaking state policy responses to the challenge of connecting children with nature. We helped bring about the Kansas Governor's April 2009 Executive Order, which will focus state policy for schools, parks, health care, and the built environment on the issue of getting children outdoors. We are working on similar state-level efforts in Texas, Missouri, and elsewhere in the region. Through our Green Play Guidelines initiative we are also working to incorporate natural features into the outdoor areas where children play the most: at schools, childcare centers, and parks.

SCHOOLYARD HABITATS & ECO-SCHOOLS

Educators can help children connect with nature by using the outdoors as a classroom. Since 1991, NWF has worked with thousands of schools across the country to create outdoor nature study areas—Schoolyard Habitats—where children can learn about science, math, and local ecology without leaving the school grounds. We've also trained thousands of teachers to use our award-winning curriculum, Access Nature, to meet their learning objectives. In the South Central region we are working with major urban school districts—Houston, Austin, and others—to incorporate outdoor environmental education into their regular curriculum, establish Schoolyard Habitats on all campuses, and prepare teachers to teach outside. And through our national Eco-Schools program, we are helping schools throughout the region “green up” their facilities, school grounds, and curriculum.

