



# Boeuf River Wildlife Management Area Tensas Delta Tract / Crowe Field Unit



Cleared for agricultural development in the late 1960's, the bottomland area known as the Tensas Delta Tract, or Crowe Field Unit, was historically subjected to frequent flooding, and its infertile soils soon added discouragement to the farming endeavor. Internal drainage systems designed by the farming operation offered little relief from the area's susceptibility to backwater flooding from the Boeuf and Ouachita Rivers.

Purchased by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) in 1993 as an addition to the Boeuf River WMA, the "Crowe Field," as it is now known locally, had retained the topographic features of the numerous lakes, brakes, bayous, and low swamp areas which once encompassed the site's 9,000-plus acres.



Knowing the need to restore this bottomland ecosystem to its best use (wildlife habitat) and the enormity of the undertaking, the LDWF sought a coalition of partners to undertake the restoration process.

In 1995 the LDWF contacted Ducks Unlimited (DU) and its volunteers concerning development of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant proposal to secure funding for the project.



To secure NAWCA grants for the restoration process, DU and the LDWF put together a coalition of partners, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Tensas Delta Land Company, the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.



Collectively the partners and the grants provided funding to create moist soil management areas and reforest bottomland hardwoods.



Now complete, their success can be measured in the restoration of over 4,400 acres to mast producing hardwoods common to southern bottomland hardwood forests and the creation of managed wetland cells on approximately 3,400 acres.

The "Crowe Field" has historically been an important wintering area capable of supporting large numbers of waterfowl, in addition to providing habitat for shorebirds, wading birds, and neotropical migrants. With the restoration of this bottomland ecosystem, the future of the area is now secure, benefiting both the hunting and non-hunting public alike.

