

Hatchie River

Conservation Opportunity Area



The Hatchie River was designated a State Scenic River in 1970 and is an important aquatic and terrestrial area. It is the longest free-flowing tributary of the lower Mississippi River and is the largest forested floodplain remaining in Tennessee. Because it has remained unimpounded and unchannelized, the natural flood processes that drive the ecosystem are intact.

The Hatchie River is a complex ecosystem encompassing bottomland hardwood forests, canebreaks, swamps, sloughs, rivers, and lakes. These habitats support one of the most diverse systems in Tennessee with more than 100 species of fish and 35 species of mussels. With 11 species of catfish, the Hatchie probably contains more species of catfish than any other river in North America. Currently, the Hatchie River is the main site in Tennessee for Alligator Gar restoration efforts. Excessive sedimentation, contaminants, development, and habitat fragmentation are all threatening the Hatchie River.

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 strips along the river. TWRA will also seek partnerships with other agencies and landowners to implement many of these management strategies on private lands within the COA to reduce soil erosion.

Public Lands within the COA

Big Hill Pond State Park (SP), Chickasaw State Forest & Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Chickasaw SP, Davis Ridge State Historic Area, Grays Creek Wetland, Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Hatchie River State Scenic River, John Tully State Forest & WMA, Lower Hatchie NWR



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Top to bottom: Oxbow off the Hatchie River, Hatchie NWR - Rob Colvin, TWRA; Stocking Alligator Gar at Hatchie NWR - Rob Colvin, TWRA/next page: Blackburnian Warbler - Chris Sloan

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Partnerships

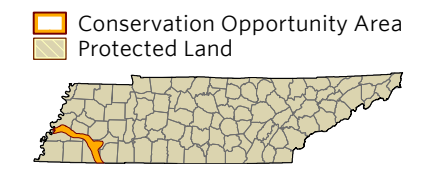
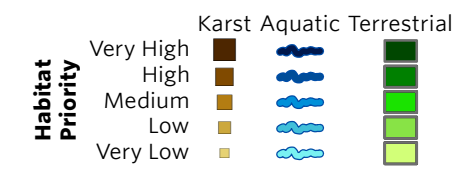
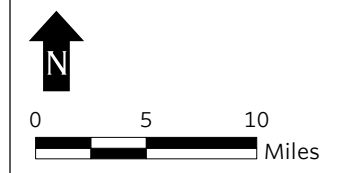
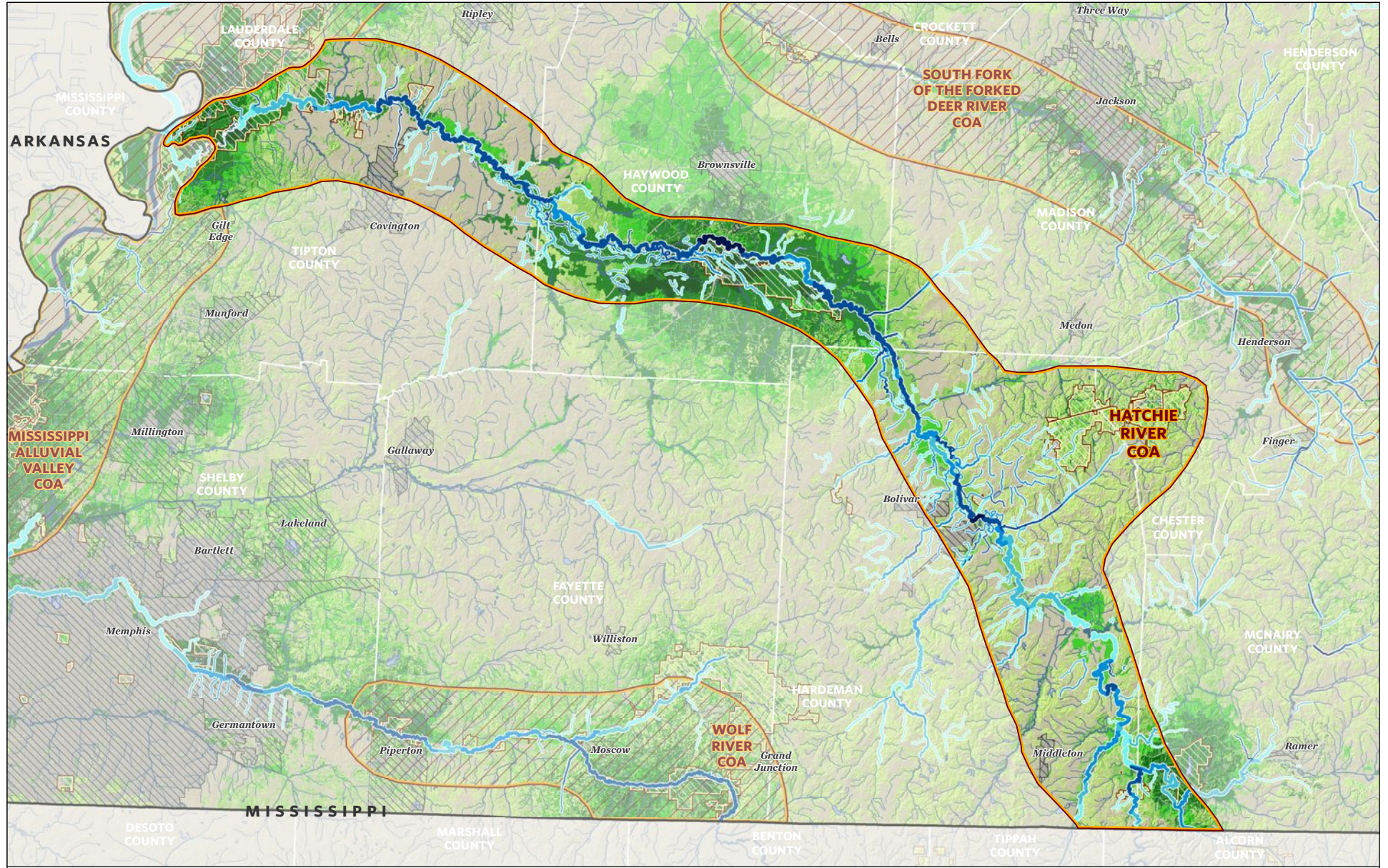
TWRA will develop and foster partnerships with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Bureau, Tennessee Department of Forestry, Ducks Unlimited, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Lower Hatchie National Wildlife Refuge volunteers, Farm Bureau, UT Agricultural Extension, Cooperative Extensions, Freed-Hardeman University, other universities and local governments (Haywood, Tipton, Hardeman, McNairy, and Lauderdale counties).



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
+ Enhance water management to provide moist soil/mudflat habitat for migrating birds.	acres
✓ Protect existing riparian zones and bottomland hardwood forests.	acres
+ Increase and improve the awareness, education, and cooperation of stakeholders/citizens concerning future water quality impacts to the Hatchie river.	number
+ Increase the number of alligator snapping turtles via propagation and reintroduction.	animals

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

Hatchie River Conservation Opportunity Area



HATCHIE RIVER COA GCN SPECIES (TN)	
Taxa group	Scientific & Common names
Amphibian	<i>Acris gryllus</i> (Southern Cricket Frog)
Amphibian	<i>Hyla gratiosa</i> (Barking Treefrog)
Bat	<i>Corynorhinus rafinesquii</i> (Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat)
Bat	<i>Myotis austroriparius</i> (Southeastern Bat)
Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> (Tri-colored Bat)
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>Ardea alba</i> (Great Egret)
Bird	<i>Asio flammeus</i> (Short-eared Owl)
Bird	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i> (American Bittern)
Bird	<i>Calidris himantopus</i> (Stilt Sandpiper)
Bird	<i>Calidris pusilla</i> (Semipalmated 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>Cistothorus platensis</i> (Sedge Wren)
Bird	<i>Colinus virginianus</i> (Northern Bobwhite)
Bird	<i>Egretta caerulea</i> (Little Blue Heron)
Bird	<i>Empidonax minimus</i> (Least Flycatcher)
Bird	<i>Empidonax traillii</i> (Willow Flycatcher)
Bird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i> (Rusty Blackbird)
Bird	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine Falcon)
Bird	<i>Geothlypis formosa</i> (Kentucky Warbler)
Bird	<i>Grus americana</i> (Whooping Crane)
Bird	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> (Bald Eagle)
Bird	<i>Helmitheros vermivorum</i> (Worm-eating Warbler)
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>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i> (Swainson's Warbler)
Bird	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> (Red-headed Woodpecker)
Bird	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i> (Whimbrel)
Bird	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Black-crowned Night-heron)
Bird	<i>Parkesia motacilla</i> (Louisiana Waterthrush)
Bird	<i>Peucaea aestivalis</i> (Bachman's Sparrow)
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>Sternula antillarum athalassos</i> (Interior Least Tern)
Bird	<i>Sturnella magna</i> (Eastern Meadowlark)
Bird	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i> (Bewick's Wren)
Bird	<i>Tyto alba</i> (Barn Owl)
Bird	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i> (Golden-winged Warbler)
Bird	<i>Vermivora cyanoptera</i> (Blue-winged Warbler)
Bivalve	<i>Lampsilis siliquoidea</i> (Fatmucket)
Bivalve	<i>Lasmigona complanata complanata</i> (White Heelsplitter)

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Bivalve	<i>Pleurobema cordatum</i> (Ohio Pigtoe)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa lienosa</i> (Little Spectaclecase)
Bivalve	<i>Villosa vibex</i> (Southern Rainbow)
Crustacean	<i>Fallicambarus hortoni</i> (Hatchie Burrowing Crayfish)
Fish	<i>Ammocrypta beanii</i> (Naked Sand Darter)
Fish	<i>Ammocrypta vivax</i> (Scaly Sand Darter)
Fish	<i>Atractosteus spatula</i> (Alligator Gar)
Fish	<i>Cyprinella elongatus</i> (Blue sucker)
Fish	<i>Hybognathus placitus</i> (Plains Minnow)
Fish	<i>Noturus gladiator</i> (Piebald Madtom)
Insect	<i>Ophiogomphus howei</i> (Howe's Dragonfly)
Mammal	<i>Neotoma floridana illinoensis</i> (Eastern Woodrat)
Mammal	<i>Ochrotomys nuttalli</i> (Golden Mouse)
Mammal	<i>Sorex longirostris</i> (Southeastern Shrew)
Plant	<i>Carex hyalina</i> (Tissue Sedge)
Plant	<i>Carex reniformis</i> (Reniform Sedge)
Plant	<i>Polygonum arifolium</i> (Halberd-leaf Tearthumb)
Plant	<i>Sagittaria platyphylla</i> (Ovate-leaved Arrowhead)
Plant	<i>Schisandra glabra</i> (Red Starvine)
Reptile	<i>Crotalus horridus</i> (Timber Rattlesnake)
Reptile	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i> (Alligator Snapping Turtle)
Reptile	<i>Nerodia erythrogaster flavigaster</i> (Yellowbelly Water Snake)
Reptile	<i>Ophisaurus attenuatus longicaudus</i> (Eastern Slender Glass Lizard)
Reptile	<i>Terrapene carolina</i> (Eastern Box Turtle)

HATCHIE RIVER COA HABITATS (TN)	
Terrestrial Habitat Type	Total acres of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Natural habitats	
East Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream and River Floodplain Forest	85,819
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Mesic Hardwood Slope Forest	4,892
East Gulf Coastal Plain Interior Shortleaf Pine-Oak Forest	4,533
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Bluff Forest	3,950
Mississippi River Low Floodplain (Bottomland) Forest	3,026
Mississippi River Riparian Forest	1,210
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Loess Plain Oak-Hickory Upland	1,085
East Gulf Coastal Plain Northern Dry Upland Hardwood Forest	864
East Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest	61
South-Central Interior / Upper Coastal Plain Flatwoods	3
Semi-natural habitats	
Cropland	32,109
Old Field / Successional	8,265
Pasture	7,934
Forest Plantation	68
Aquatic Habitat Type	Total stream miles of very high, high, and medium ranked habitat
Headwaters and Streams	138
Small River	23
Medium River	107