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American Electric Power/Conservation Fund/U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Partnership: Wetlands/Forestland Added to the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)

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The Conservation Fund, American Electric Power, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (collectively "Organizations") issued a news release announcing the addition of 4,113 acres of Louisiana wetlands and forestland to the Catahoula National Wildlife Refuge ("NWR").

The Organizations state that American Electric Power had undertaken reforestation in 2001 in which over two million trees were planted.

The acreage is stated to be adjacent to Catahoula Lake.

The Organizations state that it constitutes one of the most important natural wintering waterfowl areas in North America. More than 175 wetland-dependent birds are referenced which include:

- Mallards
- Greater white-fronted geese
- Mottled ducks
- Northern pintails

The acreage is referenced as a permanent access for birdwatching, hunting, and fishing. The acreage includes hardwood forests, field, and wooded swamp habitat. The hardwoods are also cited as a carbon sink which can capture and retain CO₂ as the trees mature.

The Organizations partnership is stated to constitute a collective effort to protect and restore more than 18,000 acres of forest and wetlands at Catahoula NWR.

A copy of the news release can be downloaded [here](#).