

Comments received by the CCBA during the validation audit.

CCB Standards Second Edition

Project: **Restoring a Forest Legacy at Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge**

Comment 1

Date: 20 April 2011

Sent by: Harris Brown, President, Tensas Basin Levee District, Monroe, LA

I am writing in support of the Go Zero program that is currently being undertaken in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana. The restoration of the 2,600 acres with bottomland hardwoods increases the land's water storage capacity and will minimize flooding downstream, and the water quality in the Ouachita River will improve as the restored forest filters out excess nutrients such as nitrogen and other fertilizers. The Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge restoration project, implemented by The Conservation Fund's Go Zero program, is an excellent example of a carbon sequestration project that provides incredible co-benefits to the surrounding community. The restoration of these bottomland hardwoods adjoins a larger project which has returned roughly 30,000 acres of land to the floodplain of the Ouachita River. This co-benefit alone has had a positive impact on the storage ability of the system. It has been suggested, and stands to reason, that the addition of this acreage has lowered the 100 year flow line, as calculated by the US Corps of Engineers giving us a higher capacity for extreme events. This project deserves recognition and praise, as a cooperative effort between multiple agencies which delivers wide ranging benefits which include recreational opportunities and habitat, improved water quality, as well as reducing the impact and likelihood of flooding. For all of these reasons, I fully support the Go Zero restoration at Upper Ouachita NWR.

Comment 2

Date: 10 May 2011

Sent by: Pete Jerome, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Service, we'd like to endorse this significant bottomland hardwood forest restoration project at Upper Ouachita National Wildlife Refuge. This project was accomplished through a partnership with The Conservation Fund by donations to the Go Zero program. This 2600 acre project represents a significant contribution to the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Besides carbon sequestration benefits, this project supports the ecosystem restoration goals for the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture Partnership. These goals support recovery efforts for forest breeding birds, the Louisiana black bear, and other important species. In addition; the project will support the Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Plan for addressing climate change and will help mitigate flooding impacts on downstream communities. By creating important landscape linkages and decreasing habitat fragmentation, key species will be able to better adapt to changing climate in the Mississippi River Valley. Finally, this project will provide additional opportunities for the public to enjoy and appreciate wildlife related recreation. For all these reasons, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fully supports this project and looks forward to additional partnership projects with The Conservation Fund in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
