

May 16, 2010

The USDA announced last week that they would be expanding funding for wetland conservation in 22 states and Puerto Rico. Nearly \$175,000 million will be distributed in order to extend wetland conservation by 75,000 acres. This is great news in my home state of South Carolina where so much of our land is made up of gorgeous wetlands.

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack announced a plan to extend \$175 million to our nation's wetland conservation. This is another step in the right direction for an administration that announced last month that it would permanently protect private forestland in 33 states and U.S. territories, 2 million acres of land in all.

Such wetland protection is crucial because the wetlands are the life blood for so many species. In fact, wetlands are comparable to rain forests in terms of native biodiversity. Wetlands also slow down the water as it reaches shore and prevent the erosion of the land. Wetlands can store up to 60 days worth of floodwater. Even more than that, they act a high tech filtration system, keeping pollution out of our water supply. Their protection is critical.

**The funds will be distributed to the following states:**

Alabama \$ 4,925,233  
Arkansas \$ 10,177,680  
California \$ 10,177,680  
Florida \$ 29,400,977  
Georgia \$ 1,881,920  
Indiana \$ 4,071,072  
Iowa \$ 6,106,608  
Kansas \$ 594,885  
Kentucky \$ 3,053,304  
Louisiana \$ 11,124,510  
Minnesota \$ 5,088,840  
Mississippi \$ 4,071,072  
Missouri \$ 20,864,244  
Nebraska \$ 18,319,824  
New Hampshire \$ 1,781,094  
North Carolina \$ 3,781,008  
Oregon \$ 6,680,754  
Puerto Rico \$ 668,202  
South Carolina \$ 4,071,072  
South Dakota \$ 4,071,072  
Tennessee \$ 6,106,608  
Texas \$ 14,738,553  
Wisconsin \$ 3,053,304  
Total \$ 174,809,516