

Alabama Wildlife Action Plan

What is a wildlife action plan?

Congress asked each state to develop a wildlife action plan, known technically as a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy. These proactive plans examine the health of wildlife and prescribe actions to conserve wildlife and vital habitat before they become more rare and more costly to protect.

Alabama snapshot

Landscape: Alabama owes its biological wealth to an abundance of water, moderate climate and complex terrain, varying from the Cumberland Plateau in the north to the Coastal Plain in the south. Significant rainfall feeds more than 77,000 miles of rivers and streams.

Management: A variety of state and federal agencies, including the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Alabama Forestry Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Tennessee Valley Authority, manage Alabama's widespread public lands.

Wildlife highlights: Alabama surpasses all eastern states in plant and animal diversity and exceeds any other state in diversity of freshwater fish and invertebrates.



Turkey creek/ADWFF

Alabama's planning approach

Completing and implementing the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy gives the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources a historic opportunity to assess and address Alabama's wildlife diversity on a statewide scale. To develop

the Strategy, the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries compiled, coordinated and integrated the best available scientific information on the status of Alabama's wildlife populations, and incorporated the concerns, recommendations and existing conservation priorities of an array of public and private stakeholders. The Strategy puts particular emphasis on the needs of

"We intend to use the Alabama Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and the associated State Wildlife Grants funding to guide our efforts and those of our many conservation partners. This proactive approach is the most practical and cost effective way to address long-term wildlife conservation issues."

*- Corky Pugh, Director,
Alabama Division of Wildlife
and Freshwater Fisheries*



Snowy Plover/Bill Summerour

species whose populations are declining from habitat loss and fragmentation. The Department intends to work proactively to stop such declines and to minimize the need to protect additional species under the Endangered Species Act.



Pine Barrens Treefrog/John Jensen

distribution and status, as well as various aspects of life history and biology, are poorly understood in most habitats. Insufficient conservation-related education, as well as inadequate outreach about biologically significant areas and species, also threatens many habitats and species.

Working together for Alabama's wildlife

Throughout this two-year effort, the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries built upon the solid framework of the 2002 Non-game Symposium which assembled scientific experts and stake-



Anthony's Riversnail/Art Bogan

Primary challenges to conserving wildlife in Alabama

Alabama's land and waterscapes are threatened by habitat loss and fragmentation, loss of natural community integrity, impacts from disturbance and exotic species, and lack of adequate protection and/or information. For most species of conservation concern, the current species

Wildlife	Total number of species	Species of conservation concern*	Threatened/Endangered listed species
Freshwater Mussels	153	92	43
Freshwater Snails	135	34	10
Crayfish	83	28	
Freshwater Fish	306	57	14
Amphibians	73	14	3
Reptiles	93	26	9
Birds	244	28	6
Mammals	64	24	5
Totals	1151	303	90

* Species of concern are those meeting at least three of the four following criteria: rarity; very limited distribution; decreasing population trend; vulnerability of specialized habitat. Also included are extirpated species, those that historically occurred but no longer occur in Alabama.

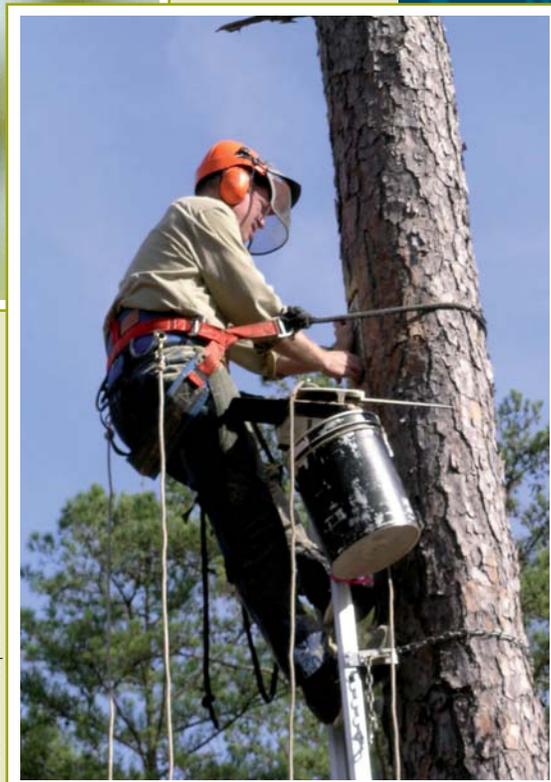
Wildlife highlights

Highlight habitats	Wildlife (examples)	Issue (examples)	Action (examples)
Tennessee River Basin	101 of the 303 Alabama species of concern are aquatic species of this basin	Loss and fragmentation of habitat due to impoundment	Restoration of high priority species to remaining river and large stream habitat
Dry Longleaf Pine Forest	Red-cockaded woodpecker Gopher tortoise Eastern indigo snake	Once Alabama's most abundant tree, now reduced to three percent of previous range throughout the southeast	Convert introduced pines back to longleaf and restore appropriate management including the use of prescribed burning
Glades and Prairies	Prairie kingsnake Henslow's sparrow Meadow jumping mouse	Exotic species: bermudagrass, bahia, tall fescue, cogon grass	Restore native grasses and maintain through prescribed burning

Recommended actions to conserve Alabama's wildlife



Red Cockaded Woodpecker/USFWS



Red Cockaded Woodpecker insert installation/ADWFF

holders to compile the best data on the full array of Alabama's wildlife species. Using that data, the Division identified those species with the greatest conservation needs. In order to identify priority conservation targets and actions for the next decade, the Strategy updated and expanded the symposium proceedings, Alabama Wildlife, by engaging public and private stakeholders, including local, regional, state and federal agencies, and tribes.



Bear Den Hollow/Eric Soehren



Eastern Diamondback/ADWFF

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