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Dear Friends in Conservation,

Carl Sagan famously described the Earth, our home in space, as a "pale blue dot...a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam." Protecting this little harbor of life has been the priority of The Nature Conservancy for 75 years. In Alabama, we have built a legacy of cooperation and collaboration that has resulted in successes across our state, from restored islands in the Gulf to reconnected landscapes across our forested mountains.

These successes were not happenstance. They are the culmination of a comprehensive strategy powered by your sustained support. At the end of fiscal year 2025, we passed the two-thirds mark in our ongoing \$30 million capital campaign, and we can see the path forward to reaching our goal.

Your support has made it possible to tackle projects that will ensure that future generations of Alabamians can rely on our resilient lands, our healthy freshwater and our thriving coast.

Looking forward, we find ourselves at a precipice where the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are disrupting our planet's life support systems. As Alabama's own Dr. E.O. Wilson said, "The earth is our home. Unless we preserve the rest of life, as a sacred duty, we will be endangering ourselves by destroying the home in which we evolved, and on which we completely depend."

At TNC, we stand committed to tackling these challenges head on. We have set ambitious goals that will allow life to thrive. We will continue to increase collaborations past political lines and reduce both internal and external barriers to our work. Over the years, our structures have evolved, but our commitment has never wavered. Despite whatever challenges we face, together, we will find a way.

Thank you for your support,

Mitch Reid, Alabama State Director



COVER: Green lynx spider (Peucetia viridans) in a pitcher plant at the Ruth McClellan Abronski Splinter Hill Bog Preserve near Bay Minette, Alabama © Mac Stone / TNC

ABOVE: Cahaba lilies (Hymenocallis coronaria) on white background, Alabama © Mac Stone



Alabama is celebrated for its unique biodiversity, for serving as a vital corridor for many species, and for being a cornerstone of ecological resilience. As I begin my term as President of the Alabama Chapter, I am excited to build on the tremendous work that has established our state as a leader in conservation.

The Nature Conservancy is continuing to make significant strides with our prescribed fire program, the crucial coastal restoration of the Perdido and Coffee Islands, and the Alabama River Fish Passage Project. We are also committed to strategic land acquisition that protects our most important and irreplaceable ecosystems. A major milestone this year was the dedication of the E.O. Wilson Land Between the Rivers Preserve, an 8,000-acre testament to what we accomplished together.

The success of these projects is directly tied to our talented staff and your support that makes the work possible. We are on track to reach Our Alabama Capital Campaign \$30 million goal by 2027, and with your help, we can accelerate our progress. Your financial support is key to securing the future of our most critical work and building a landscape of resilience for our state.

I invite you to help us carry our success forward. There are many ways to contribute to this effort, from direct donations to gifts from a donor-advised fund or through tax-wise estate planning. Your support ensures that the rivers that provide our drinking water and the forests where we hike and explore remain a part of our legacy for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued commitment to The Nature Conservancy in Alabama.

Sincerely,

Tom Yeilding, Board Chair





Our Thriving Coast

Alabama's coast is home to unique and diverse human and natural communities. It also hosts millions of visitors each year. Some arrive by boat and others by air, stopping after a long flight over the Gulf, usually in the spring or fall. All visitors are welcome and deserve a place to rest and relax after their long journey. Our team is working with many partners to ensure that all of our visitors have a thriving coast to come home to.

Restoring a community jewel

In under eight months, from first shovels in the ground to ribbon cutting, TNC's coastal team restored more than 30 acres of coastal habitat at one of Alabama's most important economic and environmental locations, the Lower Perdido Islands.

These islands are one of Alabama's crown jewels. They can attract as many as 1,000 boats at a time to their white sands and support a tourism industry that contributes \$6.7 billion to the local economy, with more than 55,000 jobs.

The islands are also loved by birds. During peak migration, between 10 and 30 million birds fly over Baldwin County and the islands each night. Tricolored herons, reddish egrets, little blue herons, snowy egrets, clapper rails, willets, and woodcocks forage in the marsh and waters in this popular coastal spot.

TNC worked with the City of Orange Beach for more than a decade to plan this restoration project. Funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Habitat Conservation and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Natural Resources Damage Assessment funds helped make it a reality. In addition to restoring habitat, the project supported the local economy. Seven local and two regional contractors, along with more than 130 local workers including engineers, scientists and construction crews-contributed to the effort.

"We know that our revenue is generated from our natural resources, our ecosystems, and environment. What fool would destroy that?

-TONY KENNON

ORANGE BEACH MAYOR, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF RESTORING THE LOWER PERDIDO ISLANDS



Redirecting stormwater to protect communities

South Alabama is known for Mardi Gras, beaches and a tremendous amount of rain. Two projects this year are helping communities alleviate flooding and stormwater impacts.

A nearly \$500,000 mapping and demonstration project in Bayou La Batre mapped flood-prone areas throughout the coastal community and identified remedial actions, including a demonstration project. This effort will guide future projects—already funded—to build resilience in this community.

In Mobile, another \$500,000 project focused on implementing green stormwater infrastructure to increase resilience and implement effective adaptation efforts at the downtown airport and the Brookley Aeroplex. Mobile is one of the rainiest cities in the country, and the airport complex is a central feature in the city's ongoing development plans. The project upgraded legacy infrastructure to help protect the city's investments while improving water quality and reducing flooding.

By the Numbers

200,000

More than 200,000 native plants planted to stabilize habitat

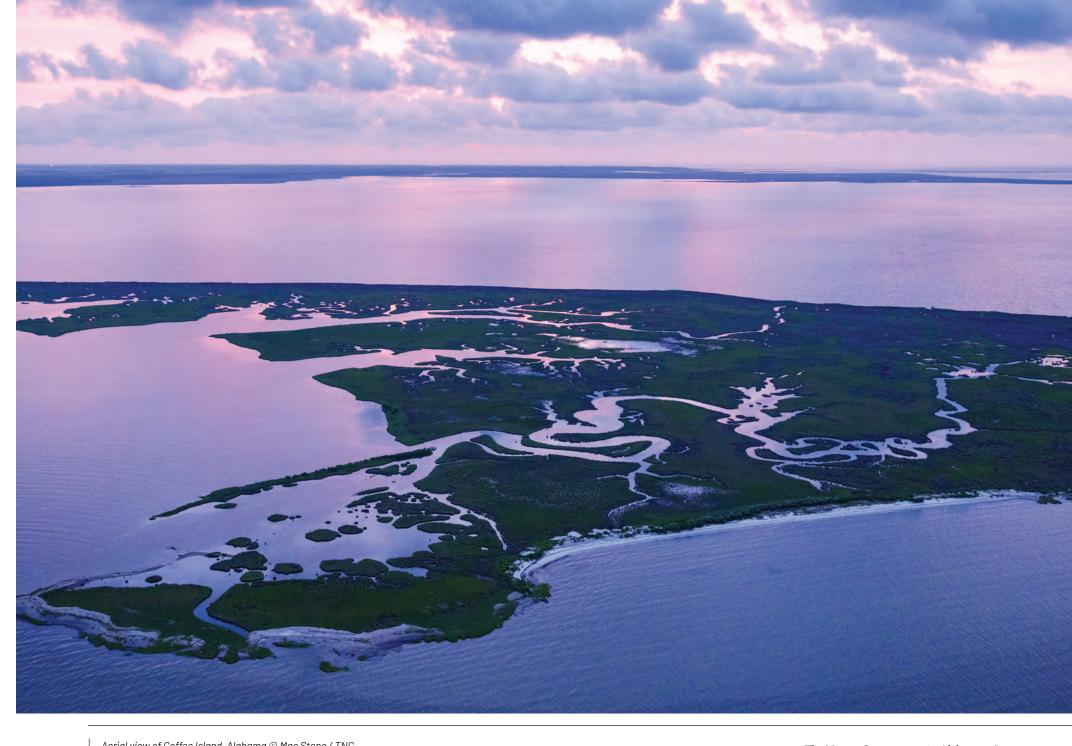
30 acres

Nearly 30 acres of barrier island habitat on Robinson and Walker Islands restored

4,600

More than 4,600 stormwater infrastructure features mapped in the City of Bayou La Batre

Over 100 students at Alma Bryant High School participated in water quality monitoring sampling events over the last three years





Our Resilient Lands

You have helped TNC protect hundreds of thousands of acres in our more than 40-year history in Alabama. In 2025, we continued to add to that legacy through land acquisition, property transfers and prescribed fire. This work helps to build a resilient and connected network of lands and waters that will sustain Alabama's rich biodiversity.

Expanding Protection Across Alabama

Over the past year, significant public and private partnerships allowed TNC to expand protections at three important landscapes across the state.

245 ACRES AT TURKEY CREEK: TNC was able to transfer 245 acres purchased in 2024 to the Forever Wild program. The tract is immediately adjacent to the Turkey Creek Nature Preserve and its addition brings the preserve to a total of more than 1,000 acres.

The acquisition is an example of the role TNC can play in protecting Alabama lands for the long term. Our team acquired the property when it became available, moving quickly to ensure that it was not purchased by developers. We were then able to hold the land until it could be purchased by and transferred to Forever Wild this fall.

EXPANDING A NATIONAL FOREST: In Cleburne County, our staff worked to secure a generous donation of a 116-acre property, known as the Anderston Tract, which borders the Talladega National Forest, and also has Terrapin Creek running through it. Plans for the land call for it to be acquired by the United States Forest Service to formally become part of the national forest.

The land is also located in the biologically diverse and climate-resilient Dugdown Corridor, which is home to one of the last remaining vestiges of rare montane (mountain) longleaf. This ecosystem is only found here in northeast Alabama and northwest Georgia, making restoration and replanting critical to The Nature Conservancy. The Corridor's rivers, creeks and streams—including the Tallapoosa River at its southern border—harbor unique and imperiled fish, mussels and amphibians.

ADDING 715 ACRES TO A LEGACY: At the close of last year, our teams completed the acquisition of 715 acres adjacent to the Fenvkvcēkv Creek Preserve at Flagg Mountain. The preserve now covers approximately 1,800 acres at the very start of the Appalachian Mountains. The land is at the heart of TNC's efforts to protect a critical natural corridor from the Gulf up to and through the Appalachian Mountains.

A fitting dedication for a conservation hero

On June 10, on what would have been his 96th birthday, TNC and the E.O. Wilson Foundation announced plans to name nearly 8,000 acres in the Mobile Tensaw Delta after the famed naturalist. The preserve's new name, the E.O. Wilson Land Between the Rivers Preserve, is a fitting legacy for Wilson, who first explored his fascination with the natural world here and later left an unmatched legacy of education and conservation.

The Mobile-Tensaw Delta is the second-largest intact delta system in North America and one of the most ecologically diverse places on the planet. Wilson said the magic of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta and its uplands stayed with him all his life.

The vast expanse of wetlands and bottomland forests is a critical migratory corridor for birds and is home to Delta sawbacks, red-bellied turtles, the Alabama sturgeon and the state's largest population of the American alligator. In addition, the last breeding population of black bear in Alabama is found here.

A quarter-century of fire

2025 marked 25 years of prescribed fire for The Nature Conservancy in Alabama. This year, our team led burns on more than 8,500 acres and assisted partners with more than 43,000 acres of burns.

For the past quarter century, our efforts have proven the benefits of good fire, and we are fortunate to be able to continue that work today. Fire plays an important role in the health of our habitats and, without it, many plant and animal species that depend on periodic fire would disappear. Prescribed burns have been shown to increase biodiversity and maintain the health and sustainability of many natural habitats.

Longleaf restoration on Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge

TNC in Alabama continues to expand our partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2025, we implemented the first timber harvest on the Cahaba River National Wildlife Refuge—thinning 225 acres of industrial loblolly pine plantations. This thinning treatment was the first step toward longleaf pine restoration on the refuge. This winter, we plan to plant 106 acres of longleaf pine on the refuge.

In addition to timber management, TNC has provided a suite of management services at the refuge, including prescribed fire treatment of 2,336 acres and invasive species treatment.

"[The Turkey Creek Nature Preserve expansion] would not have been possible without TNC stepping in and negotiating that transaction with the previous property owners and holding the property so it could be nominated. They put in a lot of work to make this happen. They recognized the potential of this property. Would not have happened without them."

-CHARLES YEAGER

DIRECTOR OF LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION, JEFFERSON COUNTY GREENWAYS

Pitcher Plants of the Splinter Hill Preserve

The Nature Conservancy's 3,000+ acre Splinter Hill Bog Preserve is home to scattered stands of sandy upland longleaf pine forest and coastal blackwater streams. It also includes some of the most intact seepage bogs remaining along the Gulf Coast. These bogs boast an impressive 12 species of carnivorous plants, including some of the largest and most visually impressive whitetopped pitcher plant (Sarracenia leucophylla) bogs in the world and healthy populations of Wherryi's Sweet Red Pitcher Plant (Sarracenia rubra ssp. wherryi), a species found in only a small portion of the Gulf Coastal Plain.





Our Healthy Waters

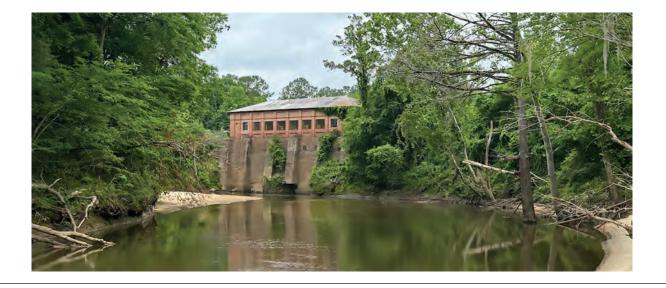
From the foothills of the Appalachians in the northeast to the Mobile–Tensaw Delta and the marshes of the Gulf Coast in the south, Alabama is a tapestry of mountains, rivers, forests, bogs, swamps and wetlands. These ecosystems are stitched together by more than 132,000 miles of rivers and streams, including the **Cahaba, Coosa, Tennessee, Alabama and Mobile Rivers.** These waterways carve canyons, feed floodplains and nourish coastal estuaries—creating habitats for myriad species, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth.

We are working on the whole of Alabama's freshwater system, from the rural streams in north Alabama, through Birmingham's urban heart, to the southern deltas.

"The Nature Conservancy in Alabama has a truly passionate freshwater team who demonstrate a daily commitment to ensuring water quality, both for the ecosystems that our freshwater supports, and also to guarantee water quality for all of us."

-KATHERINE AVANTS

MANAGER OF PRODUCTION OPERATIONS HONDA MANUFACTURING OF ALABAMA, LLC



A huge step to reconnect a river

In September, The Nature Conservancy closed on our acquisition of 22 acres along the Elba River in Coffee County as part of our Elba dam project. Completed in 2013, the dam has been inoperable since a severe flooding event in 2015. This acquisition, which includes the dam site itself, has been a longtime target for conservation efforts in south Alabama.

The dam is the only major barrier in the Choctawhatchee and Pea River system between the headwaters and the Gulf. When the dam is removed, it will reconnect approximately 100 river miles and support unimpeded river access for a range of species, including Gulf sturgeon, Alabama shad and the American eel.

Partners on the project include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Troy University and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Supporting our farmers and protecting our waters

A \$270,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation allowed our team to continue providing technical capacity to local Natural Resources Conservation Service field offices in the Locust Fork, Big Canoe Creek and Terrapin Creek watersheds. Our team is working with farmers to implement grazing practices that will reduce sedimentation, enhance riparian buffers, and improve water quality and in-stream conditions for focal species.

On the Larkin Fork, our team stabilized approximately 375 linear feet of eroding streambank to prevent excess sedimentation and improve in-stream habitat conditions in this biologically important tributary to the Paint Rock River. In addition, at Bruce Phillips River Park, TNC partnered with Friends of the Locust Fork River to help stabilize and restore approximately 115 linear feet of eroding stream bank at a frequently used canoe access. These projects were part of a \$1 million Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant wrapping up this year which supported significant work within priority watersheds.

This work has had tremendous recreational benefits for people and will enhance the recovery of many species, including the trispot darter, tricolor shiner,

Alabama shiner, Coosa shiner, Coosa darter, banded sculpin, greenbreast darter, flattened musk turtle, black warrior waterdog, Coosa creekshell and Canoe Creek clubshell.

Addressing urban stormwater and erosion challenges

TNC partnered with the City of Springville, the Big Canoe Creek Nature Preserve and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to reduce flood impacts on a youth sports complex and to protect aquatic habitat in the Big Canoe Creek watershed.

We designed and implemented projects that stabilized the streambank from erosion, planted trees and pollinator-friendly flowers and grasses, restored instream habitat to benefit aquatic species, and used nature-based stormwater solutions to encourage infiltration of runoff in the stream. Combined, these practices protect aquatic habitat from sedimentation and benefit people by reducing flood impacts and improving aesthetics. These public-facing projects are an opportunity to educate visitors on the many ways that communities can reduce their impact on local water resources and be resilient to flooding.

By the Numbers

1,900 feet of streambank

2.5 acres 2.5 acres of riparian buffer planted

18 miles of Upper Shades Creek watershed surveyed

20 miles of the Upper Locust Fork surveyed



The Nature Conservancy is working to reconnect hundreds of miles of freshwater systems in Alabama. This includes work around the Claiborne Dam on the Alabama River. © Mac Stone / TNC





Our Accomplishments

Connecting to Our Community

From Birmingham to Bayou La Batre, our work depends on the communities that benefit from conservation. This means ensuring that communities not only know the work that is happening in their backyards, but play an active role in the work itself.

During the restoration of the Lower Perdido Islands, for example, most of the work was done by MD Thomas Construction, a company based in Orange Beach. Their staff share stories of their pride in restoring the beaches they enjoy with their kids on weekends.

On the other side of Mobile Bay, our coastal team works closely with Alma Bryant High School's environmental science students to plant native trees and shrubs at the Lightning Point project and to monitor water quality in the Bayou La Batre Watershed. Not only are the students gaining real, hands-on experience, but they are making meaningful contributions to protect and restore their community.

"We strive for equitable conservation across our landscape," says Ben Wegleitner, TNC's urban watershed specialist. "That means relationship building, it means trust building, and it means participating and collaborating in each other's events and supporting each other's projects. This model has led to the completion of more and better projects, successful funding proposals, and better support from local governments. We are far more successful when we are working together."

A new home for a creep

The Nature Conservancy's Ruth McClellan Abronski Splinter Hill Bog Preserve is a 1,900-acre home where plants and animals thrive. This year, the preserve welcomed a group of gopher tortoises (called a creep) that needed a new home due to a nearby construction project.

The new tortoises joined an existing population that has a long history in the area. The preserve offers ideal conditions for them: an open, grassy landscape interspersed with longleaf pines growing in sandy soils, where the tortoises can dig the extensive burrows in which they spend most of their time.

Judy Crittenden Endowment for the Alabama Conservation Center

Thanks to very generous donors, the Alabama Conservation Center is now debt free! In addition, we recently set up an endowment for its continuing operation in honor of our late trustee, Judith S. Crittenden. Judy was passionate about nature all of her life and participated in conservation efforts across the state and around the globe. She was especially proud of TNC's efforts to protect the wild and scenic land along the Little River near her beloved Mentone. According to Judy, "Preserving nature is the most consequential project possible. It has to be done!"

You can help further conservation in Alabama by contributing to the Crittenden Endowment, which supports the day-to-day operation of our remarkable Alabama Conservation Center.

Did you know that the Center is almost fully solar and is powered by the largest commercial battery in the Birmingham Metro Area? Other green features include high-tech skylights, carpeting made of recycled fishing nets, and dotted windows to prevent bird collisions. Outside, our landscape of native plants, permeable parking areas, and a 4,400-gallon cistern that collects rainwater from the roof help manage the site's stormwater and reduce neighborhood flooding.

Best of all, the Alabama Conservation Center has proven to be a wonderful new home for our staff and equipment and a welcoming gathering place for all sorts of groups. It is truly the community hub that we envisioned. Please consider supporting the Center through a gift to the Crittenden Endowment. Call (205) 251-1155 for more information.

Our Shared Home

From the beginning, we envisioned the Alabama Conservation Center, our Birmingham headquarters, as a community gathering space where we could share our commitment to conservation in Alabama.

Over the past year, we have been able to fulfill that vision. We have welcomed partners from across Birmingham, Alabama, and the country to share this incredible space. The Center offers office space, meeting rooms, a conservation warehouse and the Carolyn King Conservation Hub, an event and collaboration space that seats up to 50 people.

The Center was recognized this year for its special contribution to the Birmingham community. At the 2025 American Institute of Architects Birmingham Design Awards, the project was selected by Randall Woodfin for the Mayor's Choice Award. The awards recognize excellence in design and the collaborative efforts of architects, clients, consultants and contractors in shaping a better built environment.

This is exactly what the Conservation Center embodies. We look forward to hosting many more community gatherings at our new home.





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Various plants found in the pitcher plant bogs at Ruth McClellan Abronski Splinter Hill Bog Preserve near Bay Minette, Alabama © Mac Stone / TNC

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Various plants found in the pitcher plant bogs at Ruth McClellan Abronski Splinter Hill Bog Preserve near Bay Minette, Alabama © Mac Stone / TNC