

Alabama State Wildlife Grant Success Stories

In the five years since its inception, the State Wildlife Grant Program has played an important role in the conservation of Alabama's wildlife. The following are some projects funded through State Wildlife Grants:



Stream Gauging, Photo Courtesy of USGS

Restoration: Working with Partners to Bring Back Wildlife and Natural Areas **Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center**

Alabama is home to the most diverse population of aquatic wildlife in North America. Stream restoration projects currently underway will help benefit Alabama's wildlife and people by cleaning the water and restoring a natural balance. As the habitat for aquatic animals improves, wildlife can be reintroduced to the streams. State Wildlife Grants are helping this effort by funding the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, a facility dedicated to the conservation and propagation of fish, mussels, snail, and crayfish species. This is a proactive way to conserve wildlife and vital natural areas for future generations.



Red Hill Salamander, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Research: Gathering Information to Take Action **Red Hill Salamander Conservation**

Conservation easements benefit both people and wildlife by preventing development that fragments habitat while at the same time allowing limited activities such as timber harvesting. In Alabama, conservation easements between the International Paper Company and The Nature Conservancy are being considered in order to protect the Red Hills salamander. In order to decide where to place conservation easements, it is important to know exactly where salamander habitat exists. The State Wildlife Grants Program is funding a survey of red hills salamander populations and habitat to inform this effort. Better knowledge will result in the most cost-effective and proactive decisions.



Birdwatchers, Photo Courtesy of USFWS

Conservation: Protecting Imperiled Land, Water, and Wildlife **Breeding Bird Atlas**

Alabama is now close to completing its first Breeding Bird Atlas, which documents the distribution of breeding birds in the state. Scheduled to culminate in 2006, this effort has been lead by the Alabama Ornithological Society with the active participation of hundreds of volunteers. *The Alabama Breeding Bird Atlas* will include detailed distribution maps for 165 species of birds breeding in Alabama and will be a significant planning resource to scientists, conservationists, land managers, and government agencies. State Wildlife Grant funds will provide logistical support during this final critical year.

Congress has appropriated \$5.7 million in State Wildlife Grants to Alabama since 2001. This has been matched with at least \$3.2 million state and partner dollars.