

# ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES



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## RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

### AL ASSN OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEV. (RC&D) COUNCILS

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#### MISSION

The mission of the Alabama Association of RC&D is to accelerate the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources; to improve the general level of economic activity; and to enhance the quality of life in Alabama. This association is an umbrella organization for the nine RC&D Councils, all 501-(c) 3 nonprofits that cover all 67 counties in the state. Each Council has a Board of Directors and adopts a plan of work for its area in cooperation with the USDA-NRCS and local partners.

### AL DEPT. OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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#### PURPOSE

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources exercises control over the Alabama's natural resources, including the management of fresh water fish, wildlife, marine resources, waterway safety, state lands, and state parks.

#### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Game and Fish Division serves as the governing agency for Alabama hunting and sport fishing laws and regulations. In this capacity, the Game and Fish Division designates public fishing lakes, establishes and supervises wildlife management areas, provides program information for hunter education, establishes bag and possession limits, and regulates licensing.

## **ALABAMA'S FOREVER WILD PROGRAM AND NATURAL RESOURCES STATE LANDS DIVISION**

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### **PURPOSE**

The Forever Wild program was adopted by Alabama voters in November 1992 to set aside land for permanent state ownership using a portion of the interest earned on profits from the sale of offshore natural gas. The land is to be used for hunting, fishing, camping, outdoor recreation, natural resource protection and research and preservation of unique sites, will be acquired from willing sellers at no taxpayer cost and will belong the public.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

- Marine Police - Help guard Alabama's precious aquatic resources for today's ethical recreational and commercial use and for tomorrow's enjoyment
- Marine Resources - Responsible for the management of Alabama's marine fisheries resources through research and enforcement programs
- State Lands - Manages undeveloped, state-owned trust lands that are specific as to their identity as well as to the income beneficiary
- State Parks - Acquire and preserve natural areas; to develop, furnish, operate and maintain recreational facilities; and to extend the public's knowledge of the state's natural environment
- Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries - Manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama

## **TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA)**

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### **PURPOSE**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) addresses the stewardship needs for 235,000 acres of TVA managed public lands around the Tennessee Valley. To date, approximately 1,114,000 acres of this land has been allocated for natural resource management. TVA is currently developing natural resource management for these lands based on public needs and concerns, with the goals of providing increased opportunities for public use and enjoyment of the forest, wildlife, and other natural resources. TVA seeks public involvement and partnership in the development and implementation of its natural resources management plans.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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The employees of TVA are involved in many corporate philanthropy, public participation, and volunteer activities. TVA Community Relations coordinates those activities as well as community investments and stakeholder outreach to help TVA strengthen and serve communities in the Tennessee Valley through:

- Corporate Contributions - make contributions of cash, supplies, equipment, or in-kind services
- Speakers Bureau - available to speak on a wide variety of topics
- Team TVA - volunteers assist with community service projects

## **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF ALABAMA**

Jeff Danter  
State Director  
Alabama Field Office  
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Birmingham, AL 35283

Phone: (205) 251-1155  
Web: <http://www.nature.org>

## **MISSION**

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The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. Alabama's natural heritage is second to none; the state is ranked by scientists as the fourth most biologically significant state in the nation. Yet it is the second most extinction prone state, behind only Hawaii.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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The Nature Conservancy of Alabama, a field office of The Nature Conservancy, opened in 1989, employs a professional staff and is overseen by a volunteer Board of Trustees. The Nature Conservancy has already protected over 101,000 acres in Alabama. It owns 14 preserves in the state, and has completed 27 projects with corporations, government and private partners.

## **USDA FOREST SERVICE - NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA**

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## **OVERVIEW**

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The Forest Service is an agency within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It manages the national forests for multiple use, including recreation, timber, wildlife and fish, water and soil, wilderness and range. The main focus of the Forest Service is the protection and conservation of natural resources on public lands.

## **USDA NATIONAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)**

Mr. Bob Jones, State Conservationist  
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### **PURPOSE**

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The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service is the federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the American people to conserve natural resources on private lands. The agency's recent name change from the Soil Conservation Service to the Natural Resources Conservation Service more accurately reflects what the agency does in its efforts to help people conserve natural resources on private lands.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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The NRCS provides information on farm programs, aerial mapping, and water quality is available from the USDA.



## WATER-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

### ALABAMA CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP

Scott Hughes  
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Phone: (800) 533-2336  
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#### PURPOSE

Alabama Clean Water Partnership is a project designed to bring point source and non-point source interests (public and private sectors, business, industry, and environmental interests) together, in order to protect and enhance the natural resources of Alabama.

#### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Partnership works with watershed facilitators, business and industry representatives and citizen groups to facilitate the sharing of ideas and information, forming partnerships to protect and restore waterways across Alabama.

### ALABAMA WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (AWRRI)

*Auburn University*  
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#### OVERVIEW

AWRRI coordinates research programs which are applicable to the solution of present and emerging water resources problems. The Institute has developed a broadly based research, training, information transfer, and public service program involving personnel from many academic disciplines in the state's research universities. AWRRI is one of 54 water resources institutes nationwide authorized by the federal Water Resources Research Act. The state-based WRRIs are located at land grant universities and promote research and information dissemination on the state's and nation's water resources problems.

#### PURPOSE

The Institute is a university-based interdisciplinary, problem-oriented research and technology center with support from the Federal government that enables the program to address broad national needs and relevant industrial technology. Its goal is to support research and training that is responsive to the identified priority problems of our State and the Southeastern Region of the United States. Virtually all "national" water resources problems are thereby covered. The Institute focuses on research proposals that have a high probability of producing useful results and/or attracting more adequate funding based on positive results.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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- **Research:** The essential ingredient for determining proper policies and practices is factual information. Often such information must be obtained by means of scientific research. The Institute conducts a program that stimulates, sponsors, and provides for research, investigation, and experimentation in the fields of water and of resources as they affect water, and encourages the training of scientists in the fields related to water.
- **Project Planning Assistance:** Successful management requires planning that not only has access to the best available scientific information, but also involves effective communication and coordination between individuals and groups. A hallmark of the Institute is its commitment to program management. Continuing fiscal management to the project level and frequent contact with principal investigators and their Department Heads and Deans is bolstered by midyear detailed project reviews. Principal Investigators are specifically advised about information needs and schedules to meet reporting requirements of the granting agencies. The Institute provides financial, editorial, and other assistance to insure that publishable results are made available and known through appropriate media.
- **Education and Training:** Students are an integral part of the Institute's research program as one of the Institute's primary goals is to transmit, store, and use knowledge to train future scientists. Although the Institute does not have the responsibility for course instruction leading to a specific degree, it supplements and extends existing programs. It provides a variety of educational opportunities for students and helps them to develop an understanding of the problems of natural resource management at theoretical and practical levels. In many cases, students work on a particular aspect of a research project which then becomes the basis for their Master's theses or Doctoral dissertations. The process of having a high level of activity by many people interactively engaged in advancing water science and solving water resources problems is an accumulating investment in human capital. People are training and being trained to deal with the even greater problems of the future. Education is an investment in a trained cadre of experts for the future.

## **ALABAMA WATER WATCH**

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### **PURPOSE**

Alabama Water Watch Association is a network of citizen volunteer water quality monitors operating throughout Alabama and in the shared watersheds of neighboring states, monitoring for seven basic chemical parameters, bacteriological colonies and benthic communities.

### **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The program personnel oversees the day-to-day operations of the AWW Office and provides a wide range of services to monitors, including: conduct training sessions; compile and maintain a massive collection of data on citizen volunteers, monitoring sites, and water quality data; interpret technical data gathered by monitors; produce a variety of media; and provide online summary graphs and maps.



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT & PROTECTION

## ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (ADEM)

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### MISSION

ADEM seeks to responsibly adopt and fairly enforce rules and regulations consistent with the statutory authority granted to the Alabama Environmental Management Commission (AEMC) and the Department to protect and improve the quality of Alabama's environment and the health of all its citizens. ADEM monitors environmental conditions in Alabama and recommends changes in state laws or revises regulations as needed to respond appropriately to changing environmental conditions.

### PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

ADEM is responsible for protecting and maintaining air and water quality in Alabama. The agency regulates public water and sanitary sewer systems, the disposal of solid and hazardous wastes and industrial air pollution emissions as well as the establishment of other environmental protection standards. The agency assists companies by identifying environmental permits, timeframes, etc. and any environmental constraints or assets. The department provides numerous programs and services through the following divisions.

- Air Division
  - Permitting
  - Air Quality
  - Ozone
  - Visible Emission
  - Air Forms
  - Other Air Information
- Land Division
  - Hazardous Waste
  - Solid Waste
- Special Services
- Water Division
  - Industrial Water
  - Municipal Water
  - Groundwater
  - Monitoring Information
  - Fish Tissue Information
  - Permitting
  - TRI Information
  - Other Field Activities
- Water Quality
- Drinking Water
- SRF
- Operator Certification
- Field Operations Division
  - Coastal Program
  - Laboratories

## US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT

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## **MISSION**

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The two primary missions of the District are military construction and civil works. However, the District is quick to embrace the needs of the nation and today plays a key environmental role from protecting wetlands to clean-up programs. Environmental sustainment is their creed - balancing the nation's environmental needs with economic well being.

## **BACKGROUND**

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Through the years, Mobile District has responded in peace and war to meet the needs of our growing nation. In 1957 the space race began with the Russian launch of Sputnik I. The U.S. responded with the formation of the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) and Mobile District began an engineering /construction partnership with the agency, which exists today.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

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- Planning, designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects (Navigation, Flood Control, Environmental Protection, Disaster Response, etc.)
- Designing and managing the construction of military facilities for the Army and Air Force. (Military Construction)
- Providing design and construction management support for other Defense and federal agencies. (Interagency and International Services)

## **US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (REGION 4)**

### **OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY DIVISION**

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## **OVERVIEW**

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The Office of the Environmental Assessment in Environmental Accountability Division has responsibilities for the three major program areas. These are:

- Environmental Review Activities under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and section 309 of the Clean Air Act. Activities include: coordination, early involvement, site inspection, project review and rating, permit coordination and follow up for all major federal actions covered by NEPA and section 309 CAA.
- NEPA Compliance and Preparation of EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) under EPA's NEPA Regulations at 40 CFR part 6. Activities include: oversight and technical assistance to regional programs to ensure compliance with NEPA and other crosscutting statutes i.e. endangered species and historic preservation acts and preparation of environmental assessments (EA) and environmental impact statements (EIS) in support of regional actions.
- Environmental Studies and Technical Support for Cross Program Regional Initiatives- Activities include: participation on regional geographic initiatives, South Florida ecosystem studies, forestry ecosystem studies, coordination of regional endangered species act activities, regional noise issues/ concerns coordination, etc.