

2025 Legislative Session

# TNC in Alabama



## Executive Summary

As Alabama prepares to convene its legislative session for 2025, The Nature Conservancy in Alabama aims to work with the Alabama Legislature to fund conservation acquisitions and easements, support wildlife habitat stewardship, reimagine and innovate conservation solutions, empower local and rural communities, and draw attention to the connection between Alabamians, our visitors, and our businesses with nature and outdoor recreation.

# Goal

Our goal is to advance the legislative conversation towards long-term commitments that serve the Alabama Strategic Plan and TNC's 2030 goals. These long-term priorities include funding for the Forever Wild Land Trust, coastal restoration, and freshwater protections across the state.

## Legislative Priorities

### **Lower Alabama River Fish Passage Project**

- Grow Alabama legislative awareness and support for the project.
- Secure Congressional authorization of the project in Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) and initiation of planning, design and implementation.
- Secure support of federal, state, and local government agencies and private partners for the project.

### **Land Protection** additional public funding strategies

- Support Forever Wild Land Trust and grow resources that can fund additional conservation land acquisition and stewardship.
- Secure federal appropriations funding for priority projects in Alabama with partners, including Forest Legacy Program funds for the Dugdown Corridor (Alabama Forestry Commission & Forever Wild) and Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding for the National Forests in Alabama (US Forest Service).

### **Waters of the State**

- With the recent changes to Waters of the United States via Sackett v. EPA, there is much uncertainty for how this unfolds under state authority.
- TNC will support policies that allow for continued protection of our state's water resources, as they are essential for all aspects of life, without unreasonable limitations that negatively impact economic sustainability.

### **Coastal Protection and Restoration**

- Secure support for TNC proposed coastal restoration projects and associated grant submissions.
- Support the establishment of estuary programs that benefit the Perdido River Watershed.

### **Renewable Energy**

- Support policies that incentivize the use of renewable energy technologies and economic opportunities in Alabama communities while using science as a guide for site selection.
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