



Shorebirds congregate around the Gulf Coast in the southeastern United States © Mac Stone

Conservation Across Borders

We are greater than the sum of our parts in
Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi

The Nature Conservancy has been protecting the places that matter across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama since the 1960s. Through the years, our work has always focused on the mission of conservation and has been guided by a spirit of collaboration that blends local expertise and stewardship with state, federal and global resources.

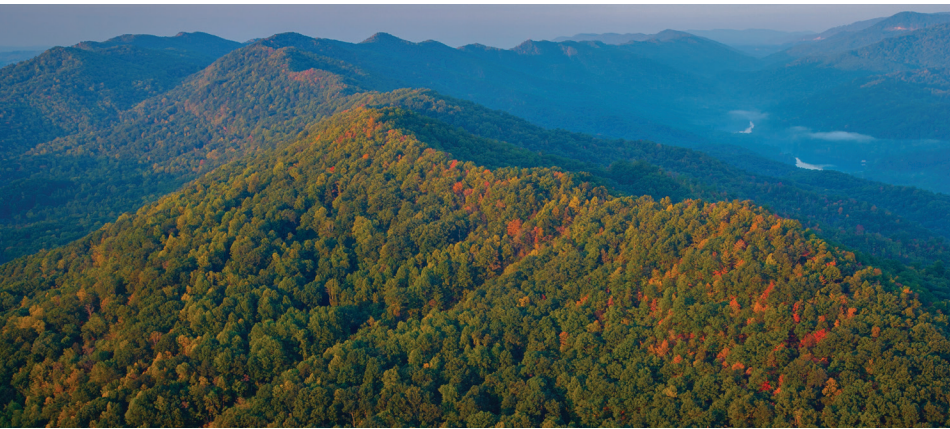
Our rivers flow from one state to the next, and our forests grow in a steady line from the banks of the Mississippi River to the mountains of Appalachia. Our Gulf waters ebb and flow from Florida's forgotten coast past the marshlands of Louisiana. We have long recognized this interconnectivity and have worked to build ties of mutual support and collaboration across this region. It is a driving force behind the region's conservation potential.



Mitch Reid, TNC Director for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama
© Mike Dumas/TNC

More than 50 percent of all freshwater resources in North America flow through these three states, including both the work horses of the mighty Mississippi and North America's Amazon in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. We are protecting these waters. We are also expanding management across the longest remaining stretches of longleaf in the South to protect a true corridor of nature to sustain lives and livelihoods from the coast to the mountains.

Nature doesn't recognize state boundaries. At The Nature Conservancy, we believe that in order to be successful we must approach conservation in the same way. This is how we will ensure that the human and natural communities of the Deep South prosper and thrive. Thank you for your support and for joining us in our efforts.



The Appalachian Mountains running through Alabama are part of a 2,000-mile range stretching from Alabama to Canada. © Byron Jorjorian

A New Appalachian Economy

Investing in our mountains offers reward of a brighter future

The Appalachians form one of North America's most quietly powerful natural economies. Stretching 2,000 miles from Alabama to Canada, their forests, rivers and working lands sustain diverse wildlife and millions of people. Those who call these mountains home continue to shape this corridor of rich nature, cultural heritage and community resilience.

Appalachian communities are building economic futures that center nature, and The Nature Conservancy is proud to partner with them. Locally driven, nature-based solutions are redefining what's possible— from innovative forest management and clean energy development to outdoor recreation and cultural tourism. TNC works with local towns and Indigenous partners to ensure their voices guide decisions about the region's resources.

Protecting and restoring land and water remain key to a brighter future for the Appalachians. Conserved lands safeguard traditional uses, support wildlife and draw visitor dollars that bolster local economies. We also connect communities with public-

Tourism and recreation generate \$25 billion for the region's economy every year.

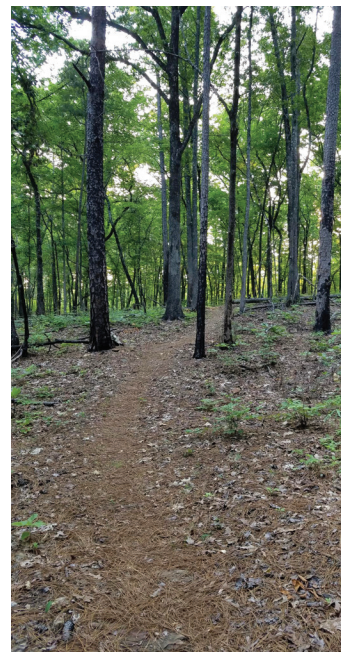
private funding for revitalization efforts, clean-energy development and workforce training. Our largest initiative, the 253,000-acre tri-state Cumberland Forest Project, generates grants that are

reinvested into community-driven, nature-based development projects such as trails, outdoor community spaces and new business opportunities.

Investing in nature also reduces long-term costs from severe storms and other climate-driven events, as healthy floodplains, intact forests and restored wetlands help shield communities. A recent TNC-commissioned study, Nature's Dividends, shows that every federal dollar spent strengthening natural systems can save up to \$7 in future disaster-recovery expenses. State-level returns are often greater.

Investing in Appalachians conservation is one of the greatest opportunities of our time. It's a chance to honor the region's heritage, strengthen local economies and build climate adaptability for generations to come.

NATURE ALABAMA



The Pinhoti Trail © Keith Tassin/TNC

The Appalachian Trail begins (or ends) in Alabama

At 1,152 feet, Flagg Mountain in Alabama represents the first mountain in the nearly 2,000-mile-long Appalachian Mountain range. More specifically, this area serves as the southern terminus for the 335-mile Pinhoti Trail, which traverses the Talladega Mountains in Alabama and connects to the Appalachian Trail through the Benton Mackaye Trail in Georgia. For more than a decade, TNC has worked with the Alabama Forestry Commission, Forever Wild, The Conservation Fund and other partners to protect and nurture Flagg Mountain's precious forest habitat, including 240 acres of rare, old-growth montane longleaf pines. Most recently, these efforts included acquiring two important tracts adjacent to Flagg Mountain to establish TNC's 1,000-acre Fenvkvčėkv Creek Preserve, a property that adds to a growing network of protected habitat—more than 4,000 acres—in the region.