

The Southern Deltas

Protecting the lands, waters, and coast
across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama



The Nature Conservancy
is a global conservation
nonprofit working to create
a world where people and
nature can thrive.

Our Work

Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama constitute one of the most ecologically important regions on the planet and are a strategic priority for The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy is working with communities to provide science-based solutions to complex conservation problems so both people and nature can thrive. Across these states, we focus on the lands, waters, and coast to frame a comprehensive, integrated, and effective conservation strategy, from the Atchafalaya River Basin Initiative in Louisiana, to floodplain reconnection projects in Mississippi, and land protection efforts in Alabama.

For more than four decades, the Conservancy has directly protected more than 500,000 acres of land across these states, helped reforest over 750,000 acres of former agricultural land, and used prescribed fire to restore hundreds of thousands of acres of forest habitat. During that time, our coastal efforts have built over 200 acres of oyster reefs, completed more than 100 restoration projects, restored and built barrier islands, and created more than 300 jobs for young adults across the three states.

Connecting our coast to our lands, TNC's freshwater teams have reconnected hundreds of miles of freshwater systems, restored ancient floodplain connections of thousands of wetland acres to rivers like the Mississippi, and protected hundreds of endangered species found nowhere else on Earth.

In this region, the health and livelihoods of communities are intertwined with the health of the natural environment. Protecting both requires restoring the function of natural systems while maintaining and enhancing the healthy and productive relationship of the region's communities to the land and water.

TNC believes in the conservation potential and opportunities in these states, and together with our partners and supporters, is committed to ensuring that the human and natural communities of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama continue to prosper and thrive.

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. We envision a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.

Founded in the U.S. through grassroots action in 1951, TNC has grown to become one of the most effective and wide-reaching environmental organizations in the world. Thanks to more than a million members and the dedicated efforts of our diverse staff and more than 1,000 scientists, we work in all 50 states and 81 countries and territories.

TNC's history in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama

The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama has worked for nearly 50 years to protect the region's cherished landscapes for people and nature. We employ more than 70 passionate and talented staff and have an operating budget of \$8 million and a total conservation budget of over \$36 million in fiscal year 2027. Our team completed a \$30 million capital campaign in 2026 and has a robust conservation agenda for 2030 framed by a carefully crafted Strategic Plan.

Our core values include commitment to diversity and respect for people, communities, and cultures. Our work is highly collaborative in pursuit of vital goals to slow biodiversity loss and tackle climate challenges while providing equitable benefits to people.

A 2030 Vision for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama

The Nature Conservancy envisions a world where people and nature flourish together—but we have only a short time to get it right. You can join us as we work to solve our most pressing environmental challenges. The Nature Conservancy is committed to:

Securing clean water for our rivers so those who call the Southern Deltas home can safely eat our native fish and seafood, enjoy swimming and boating, and trust the water we drink.

Building healthy and resilient lands from north to south that filter our water and providing wildlife habitat that can endure as our climate changes.

Leveraging deeper investments to restore living habitats like natural channels, oyster reefs, and marshes that serve as a first line of defense for coastal communities.

Inspiring and mobilizing our partners, neighbors, and friends to advance conservation in communities across the Southern Deltas.

Lands

From the sandy Gulf Coast to the alluvial plains of the Mississippi Delta and the foothills of the Appalachians, our lands across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are the places where we camp, hike, hunt, and spend time with our families. These places provide food and shelter for millions of birds on their annual migration through our state. They also provide a home for the gopher tortoise, the red-cockaded woodpecker and thousands of other species, including more than 125 that are critically threatened or endangered.

These lands are in peril. Climate change, demand for food and energy production, invasive species, development and other pressures are straining nature's ability to remain in balance and to support our communities.

TNC works with agency partners, conservation organizations, private landowners and local communities to protect, restore, and manage lands key to supporting native plants and animals and providing natural resilience to climate change. This type of work includes a variety of tools and approaches, from planting trees and returning disturbances like fire to the landscape, to eliminating invasive, non-native species and pests, and pursuing other natural solutions for securing healthy, connected, and resilient lands for all.



Waters

With over 50% of the freshwater resources of the continental United States flowing through our landscape, our rivers, streams and wetlands form a vast circulatory system stretching across Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. They provide habitat for species that live in both fresh and salt water and connect our human and natural communities from the Gulf Coast to the Mississippi and beyond.

These waterways are also choked by dams and sediment runoff that block the veins and arteries of this complex natural system. These are the most ecologically diverse rivers, streams, and wetlands in the United States, but they also lead the nation in aquatic extinctions.

TNC is reconnecting and restoring the waterways of this globally unique system. We are delivering on ambitious plans to pursue natural solutions for securing clean and abundant water for all. Our whole-system approach means working across the states in a range of environments. From our urban conservation efforts in Alabama and Louisiana, to supporting farmers, restoring longleaf pine forests, and building fish bypasses across all three states, our strategies support a system that is by definition interconnected.

Coasts

Every year, millions of birds return home to the Gulf, landing on our beaches, savannas, and marshes from Venice, Louisiana; to Ship Island, Mississippi; and Dauphin Island, Alabama. The region remains home to human and natural communities forever rooted to this unique landscape.

Our coastal ecosystems are among these three states’ most precious resources — and also among its most endangered. The impacts of offshore oil production, frequent and more severe storms, climate change, and pollution from cities and farms are compounding.

The Nature Conservancy is stewarding relationships built over time and applying lessons learned from projects on the ground and in the water to secure a sustainable future for coastal and marine habitats. Our ambitious plans focus on connectivity because what happens upstream has a direct impact on the coast and the Gulf.

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LOUISIANA
Nature.org/Louisiana

P.O. Box 4125
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
lafo@tnc.org
225-338-1040

MISSISSIPPI
Nature.org/Mississippi

P. O. Box 1034
Ocean Springs, MS 39566
228-219-4580

ALABAMA
Nature.org/Alabama

3700 First Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35222
Give.alabama@tnc.org
205-251-1155