



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.

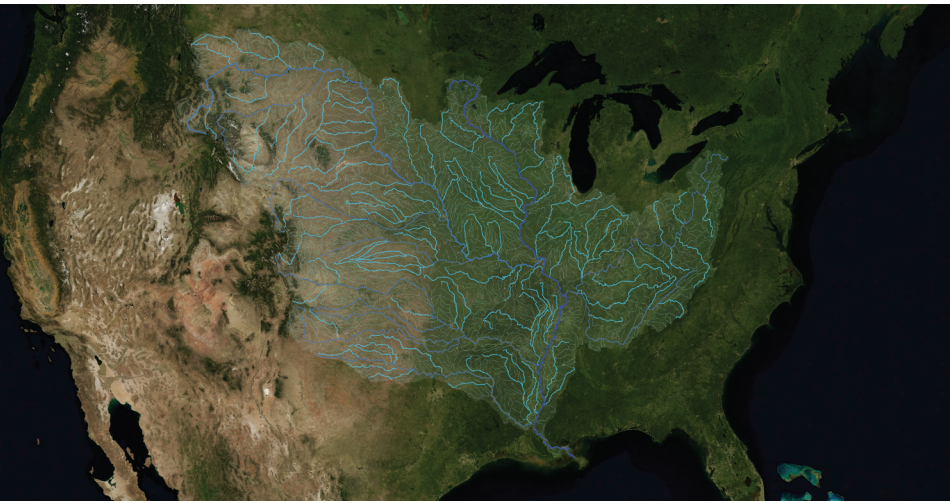
Our rivers flow from one state to the next, and our forests grow in a steady line from the banks of the Mississippi River to the mountains of Appalachia. Our Gulf waters ebb and flow from Florida's forgotten coast past the marshlands of Louisiana. We have long recognized this interconnectivity and have 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.



Rivers and streams from 31 states drain into the Mississippi River Basin. © NASA

Restoring America's River

The Mississippi River belongs to many beyond our own state's borders

The Mississippi River Basin stretches far beyond the river's banks. The basin, or watershed, is the vast area of land where rainfall feeds an interconnected system of more than 7,000 rivers and streams across 31 states, all flowing into the Mississippi River. Stretching from the Missouri River in Montana to the Allegheny in Pennsylvania and south to the Atchafalaya in Louisiana, this vast system provides drinking water, nourishes crops and offers critical wildlife habitat. Yet the Mississippi River Basin has been dramatically reshaped over time, and those changes have caused serious consequences.

Decades of draining wetlands, tilling grasslands, straightening rivers and disconnecting floodplains have increased nutrient pollution, worsened flooding and led to widespread habitat loss.

Every farm field, prairie, forest, city and floodplain shapes the health of the Mississippi River.

Nick Ohde, Coordinating Director, TNC's Mississippi River Basin program

"What happens on the land doesn't stay on the land. Every farm field, prairie, forest, city and floodplain in the basin is part of a living system that shapes the health of the Mississippi River," says Nick Ohde, coordinating director of TNC's Mississippi River Basin program.

By caring for local lands and waters, we improve the entire system. What does this look like? Planting trees and restoring prairies and grasslands to keep roots in the ground. Employing regenerative agriculture practices that mimic natural ecosystems to hold onto nutrients, soil and water. And protecting wetlands that absorb floodwaters and provide wildlife habitat. This is why TNC partners across sectors and state lines to improve water quality, restore habitat and strengthen climate resilience. The work adds up across landscapes to create a healthier river and a more sustainable future.

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By the Numbers



© Rory Doyle

~7,000

Rivers and streams are located in the basin.

20 million

People depend on the Mississippi River for drinking water.

325

Bird species migrate through the Mississippi Flyway.



Learn more about the Mississippi River Basin