

Annual Report

Alabama Department of
Conservation & Natural Resources

2010



Honorable Robert Bentley
Governor of Alabama
State Capitol
Montgomery, AL 36130



Dear Governor Bentley:

I am pleased to submit the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. As you will see, the Department was involved in many diverse projects during the year.

Renovations to Gulf State Park's campground facilities, which include a 5,000-square-foot swimming pool, splash pad and a new nature center were completed this past fiscal year. This is just one more step toward bringing back Gulf State Park to its prime.

Two new community archery parks were completed in the communities of Dothan and the Demopolis. These projects are collaborative efforts between the Department's Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, the Archery Trade Association and local entities.

The State Lands Division facilitated 10 purchases totaling 13,071 acres for the Forever Wild Land Trust. Forever Wild continues to be Alabama's most successful program to purchase land for public use.

Marine Police officers spent 29,586 hours patrolling Alabama's waterways during FY 2009-2010.

Enforcement officers with the Marine Resources Division conducted 18,294 hours of boat and shore patrol.

I look forward to working with you in the next few years to help manage and promote Alabama's wonderful natural resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Gunter Guy Jr.". The signature is stylized and cursive.

N. Gunter Guy Jr.
Commissioner

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Department Overview

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is an executive and administrative department of the State of Alabama created by statute. The Commissioner, appointed by the Governor as a member of his cabinet, advises the Governor and Legislature on management of freshwater fish, wildlife, marine resources, waterway safety, state lands, state parks, and other natural resources.

SCOPE OF OPERATIONS

The Department's scope of operations includes the administration, management and maintenance of 22 state parks, 23 public fishing lakes, three freshwater fish hatcheries, 35 wildlife management areas, two waterfowl refuges, two wildlife sanctuaries, a mariculture center with 35 ponds, and 645,000 acres of trust lands managed for the benefit of several state agencies, the General Fund and Alabama Trust Fund. Other departmental functions include maintenance of a State Land Resource Information Center and administration of the Forever Wild land acquisition program.

ORGANIZATION

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Department had five operational divisions and seven support sections. The operational divisions were Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. Support sections were Accounting, Diversity and Recruiting, Engineering, Information and Education, Information Technology, Legal, Personnel and Payroll.

The Commissioner was advised by a 10-member Conservation Advisory Board appointed by the Governor.

Division directors managed the Department's programs under their jurisdiction through authority delegated by the Legislature and the Commissioner. Concerted efforts were made to balance needs and requirements against resources and available funding to satisfy present and future public and resource requirements. Active public education and voluntary participation programs were expanded and new plans were implemented to achieve maximum multiple-use benefits consistent with resource conservation.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

The Department's major goal is to promote the statewide stewardship and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources, and to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy these resources.

FUNDING

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources receives no General Fund support. Funding for the Department is generated through special revenues, which include federal money, cigarette taxes, user and

license fees, and mandated interest from endowment and federal regulations. The Forever Wild Program receives interest income from the Alabama Trust Fund. Specific revenue sources for the five operational divisions are as follows:

Marine Police: Boat registration fees, fines, marine gas tax and federal grants.

Marine Resources: Saltwater fishing licenses, fines, marine gas tax and federal grants. Marine Resources also has an endowment but it has not grown enough to enhance operations.

State Lands: Management fees from the sale of timber, minerals and various leases on state lands administered under the Land Based Asset Management Program. Further, the division receives additional federal grants which support specific programs.

State Parks: User-generated funds in the form of entrance, rental, lodging, golf and other recreational fees. State Parks received a modest amount of funding from cigarette tax revenue.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: Fishing and hunting licenses and permits; fines; waterfowl stamps; federal allocations from excise taxes on sporting arms, ammunition, archery gear and some fishing tackle; and federal grants. Interest income, although at slightly declining interest rates, continues to be generated by the Game and Fish endowment fund for resident lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. Direct donations and voluntary state income tax refund check-offs for the Nongame Wildlife Program continue to decrease from previous fiscal years.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Conservation Advisory Board, created by statute, is composed of 10 members appointed by the governor for alternating terms of six years, and three ex-officio members in the persons of the Governor, the Commissioner of Agriculture and Industries, and the Director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. The Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources serves as the ex-officio secretary of the board.

The Advisory Board assists in formulating policies for the Department of Conservation, examines all rules and regulations and makes recommendations for their change or amendment. By a two-thirds vote of the members present and with the Governor's approval, the board can amend, make any changes, repeal or create and promulgate additional rules and regulations. The Board also assists in publicizing the Department's programs and activities.

MEETINGS

The Advisory Board met four times during FY 2010:

- February 6, 2010 at the Capitol Auditorium in Montgomery.
- March 13, 2010 at the Elliott Community Center in Gadsden.
- May 15, 2009 at Lakepoint State Park in Eufaula.
- August 25, 2010 at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Dauphin Island.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

<u>Members</u>	<u>Home Town</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Dan Moultrie, Chairman	Birmingham	March 27, 2015
George Harbin	Gadsden	May 20, 2011
Bill Hatley	Gulf Shores	May 20, 2011
W. Grant Lynch	Talladega	May 9, 2013
Raymond Jones, Jr.	Huntsville	May 9, 2013
Warren Strickland	Huntsville	May 20, 2011
Grady Hartzog	Eufaula	March 27, 2015
Brock Jones	Tuscaloosa	March 27, 2015
Dr. Bob Shipp	Mobile	March 28, 2015
Wayne May	Eutaw	March 27, 2015

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Robert Bentley, Governor

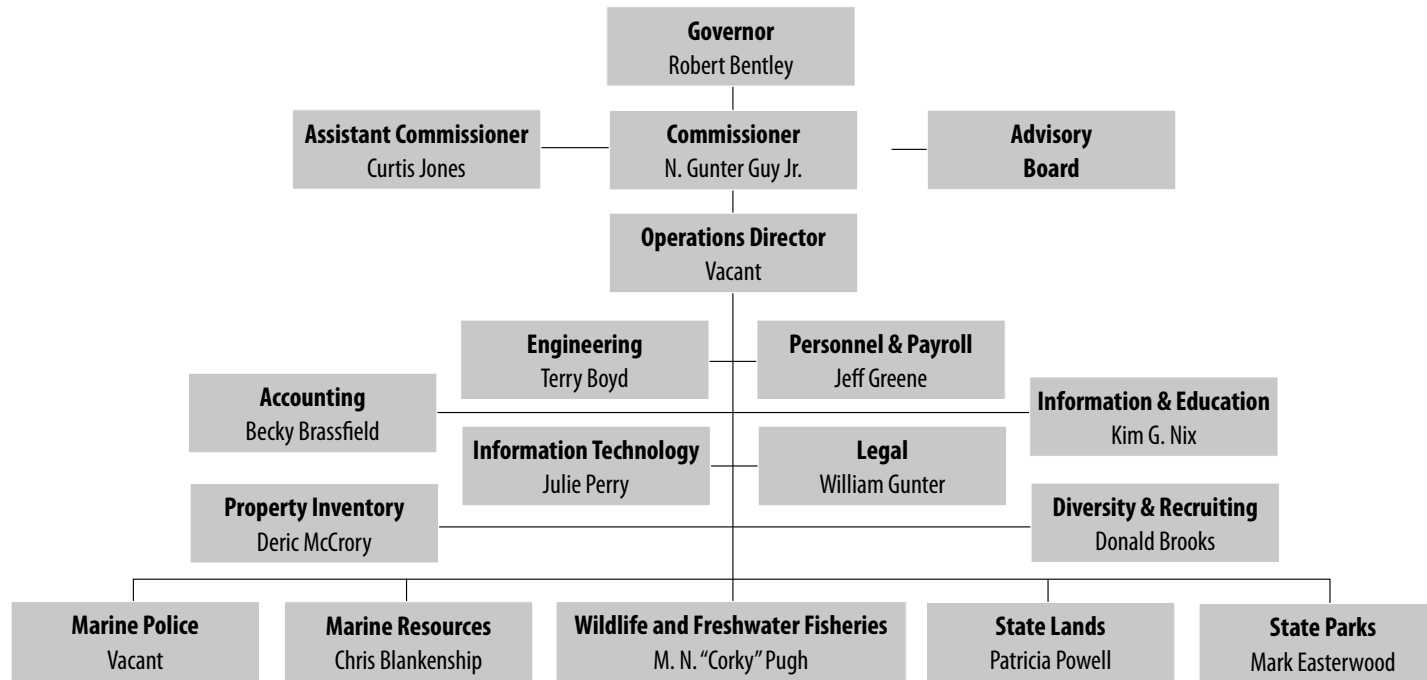
Gaines Smith, Auburn University Cooperative Extension System Director

John McMillian, Department of Agriculture and Industries Commissioner

EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

N. Gunter Guy, Jr., Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES



FY 2010 BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Section	Budgeted Amounts	Actual Expenditures
Accounting	\$1,122,970	\$985,577
Auditing	\$295,211	\$305,863
Boat Registration	\$303,699	\$227,047
Commissioner's Office	\$1,176,362	\$956,399
Diversity	\$259,790	\$170,546
Engineering	\$2,996,474	\$2,022,272
Information & Education	\$1,277,154	\$1,094,883
Information Technology	\$1,811,349	\$1,559,795
Legal	\$1,019,504	\$531,617
License	\$313,956	\$245,418
Personnel & Payroll	\$846,926	\$821,468
Property Inventory	\$231,288	\$168,024
Totals	\$11,654,683	\$9,088,909



Administrative Division

FY 2010 ADMINISTRATIVE STATISTICS

- Hunting and Fishing License Sales and Reporting is responsible for revenues totaling over \$20 million annually.
- Boat Registration is responsible for revenues totaling over \$6 million annually.
- Property Inventory is responsible for ADCNR's personal property valued at over \$51.7 million.
- The Internet and agent point-of-sale system for hunting and fishing licenses continues to be a success.
- 67% of our 433 license agents are electronic and sell 85 percent of our licenses.
- The IT Section continues work on a point-of-sale system for boat registration.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

The Commissioner is the executive officer of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and provides overall management and guidance for carrying out the Governor's directives and implementing enacted legislation. The Commissioner establishes goals, policies and directions; approves programs and budgets; delegates authority; and provides support to administer the Department efficiently and effectively.

The Commissioner's administrative staff includes an Assistant Commissioner and seven sections that provide administrative support. The administrative support sections are Accounting, Diversity and Recruiting, Engineering, Information and Education, Information Technology, Legal, and Personnel and Payroll. The operational divisions fund the Commissioner's office and administrative staff.

ACCOUNTING

The Accounting Section is the central clearinghouse for all departmental financial data. Accounting maintains and records all receipts and disbursements for the commissioner's office, staff sections and each of the five operating divisions. Accounting is responsible for eight internal functions: General Accounting, Auditing, Budgeting, Administrative Procurement, Hunting and Fishing License Sales and Reporting, Boater Registration, Property Inventory and Agency Office Supplies/Central Mail.

General Accounting includes daily deposits of departmental funds, recording of all expenditures, preparation of monthly financial reports and statements, development of fiscal policies and procedures, reconciliation, coordination and preparation of the annual budget request.

Auditing is responsible for auditing all Conservation Department funds, including royalty and commission contracts. Additionally, the section performs fiscal audits of the individual state parks.

Procurement provides purchasing assistance to each administrative section.

The Hunting and Fishing License Section is responsible for revenues totaling over \$19.5 million annually and certifying them into the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and Marine Resources funds.

Boat Registration is responsible for revenues totaling over \$6 million annually and certifying them into the Marine Police fund.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

An agreement on an energy services contract with Johnson Controls has been reached to perform approximately \$5.5 million in energy savings upgrades to the Alabama State Park system. This contract is pending the procurement of adequate financing by the Parks Division. This contract comes with a guarantee of \$500 annually in energy cost savings.

Central Accounting's audit personnel continue to work with State Parks in review of the new State Parks Megasys property management system. The operational and asset safeguarding controls that have been built into the system are being evaluated and a methodology to test the controls is being devised.

The Internet and agent point-of-sale system for hunting and fishing licenses continues to be a success. Seventy percent of our 416 license agents are electronic and sell 85 percent of our licenses.

The Information Technology Section continues work on a point-of-sale system for boat registration. Probate offices began using the system in April 2009 with six counties currently live. Because invalid data slows down the renewal process, work is underway to get the majority of the database cleaned up before other counties begin using the system. Efforts to reduce the amount of invalid data going into the database have proven successful because of the ability to enforce valid data requirements through the point-of-sale registration system.

FUTURE PLANS

Although the automated hunting and fishing license system is allowing the capture of demographic information of users of the state's recreational resources, consolidation of the information and retrieval mechanisms must be devised. Without such action, the automated system will be unable to provide timely valuable statistics for management, contact resources to find out what user needs or concerns are, and feedback on current and ongoing projects.

Efforts will continue on a point-of-sale system for boat registration. Without a fully functioning new system, boat registration data will continue to be compromised. The point-of-sale site is being streamlined to reduce the amount of time it takes to register a vessel.

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
& NATURAL RESOURCES**

**DCNR Total
ACTUAL
2009**

**DCNR Total
BUDGETED
2010**

**DCNR Total
REQUESTED
2011**

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES	1,159	1,267	1,288
UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE FORWARD	34,525,045	27,767,403	17,081,577
Total Federal Funding	31,220,250	60,032,334	49,251,304

Hunting/Fishing			
Licenses & Permits	17,915,967	19,132,046	19,128,131
Land Management Fees	4,128,697	5,000,000	8,200,000
User Fees	28,028,841	32,276,546	34,083,716
Boat Registration	6,257,437	6,000,000	6,000,000
Timber Sales	463,569	550,000	550,000
Fines	1,082,375	1,120,000	1,080,000
Trust Fund Interest	805,172	785,154	798,418
Other	6,462,623	1,435,771	2,191,700
Total Departmental Related Receipts	65,144,681	66,299,517	72,031,965

Cigarette Tax	3,301,737	3,000,000	3,300,000
Gasoline Tax, Would go to DOT if DCNR did not Receive	3,662,306	3,640,000	3,640,000
Use Tax Discount Cap, All but State Lands Required, State Lands Coastal Program discontinued if funding lost.	1,248,002	1,029,845	1,030,801
Sales Tax Discount Cap	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000
General Fund (Alabama Blackbelt Initiative)	562,500	362,500	562,500
GOMESA	6,179,076		
Marine Resources Restoration	425		
DCNR Transfers	50,000	50,000	50,000
Forever Wild Land	425,000	425,000	425,000
Total Other Receipts	15,020,056	13,507,345	13,445,801

Administrative Transfer	8,622,204	9,942,674	8,128,022
Actual All Receipts	120,007,191	149,781,870	142,857,092
BFY 2008-2010 Expenditures	126,764,833	160,467,696	145,018,107
Revenues verses Expenditures--Over(Under)	(6,757,642)	(10,685,826)	(2,161,015)

UNENCUMBERED CASH BALANCE	27,767,403	17,081,577	14,920,562
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DIVERSITY AND RECRUITING

The Diversity and Recruiting Section develops and implements programs designed to increase the pool of qualified applicants needed to hire and promote a work force that reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of the State of Alabama.

This section maintains the Department's Affirmative Employment Plan, does statewide recruiting, and contracts diversity and other training for the Department.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Statewide recruiting.
- Natural Resources Law Enforcement training program for colleges (Internet Classes).
- Regional partnership with Federal agencies.
- Adopt-a-School/Community program for elementary, junior high and high schools. Carver High School Culinary Arts and Tourism Program is our latest adoption.
- Statewide college internship program.
- Diversity and other training for managers and employees on a continuing basis.
- Development of an affirmative employment plan.
- Increased community input into the Conservation diversity committee working group, by including a policy review committee composed of legislators, community members and educators.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue developing statewide and regional recruiting.
- Enlarge partnerships with elementary, junior high and high schools through our Adopt-a-School/Community program; increase awareness in urban school districts of careers in conservation, and provide a link to outdoor recreational opportunities available in the state of Alabama.
- Working to develop a long-range mentoring community based program for minority youths to provide hands on water safety, firearms training, archery, and fishing skills, and provide outdoor recreational opportunities for these youth to participate with mentors. Three sections of the state have already started these programs.
- Enlarge our college internship program to include most four-year schools in Alabama where logistically possible.

- Maintain our commitment to the student aide program.
- Continuing the natural resources law enforcement training program to include instructors from Alabama State University, Auburn University Montgomery, Alabama A&M University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Region IV, U.S. Treasure Department's ATF Division, and instructors from the Department of Conservation's five operating divisions.

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

The Information and Education Section (I&E) provides a variety of creative services for the Department. These include print media such as Outdoor Alabama magazine for paid subscribers; news releases distributed to media outlets; brochures for various Department programs; Web and special video productions; and a weekly outdoors column on the Department's website, outdooralabama.com.

Educational services include K-12 conservation education curricula and teacher training programs; in-school conservation programs; and outdoor classroom assistance and certification in cooperation with the Alabama Wildlife Federation. Last year 544 educators completed in-service workshops offered by the Department.

Outreach services include two Becoming an Outdoors Woman weekend workshops a year, coordination of the Outdoor Alabama Expo, and exhibiting at various events.

In addition, I&E provided public relations and publishing consultation as well as editorial, proofreading, and copy writing service for departmental staff; responded to information requests from the public, media and other agencies; drafted documents for Department administrators and the Governor's office; coordinated special projects; and acted as liaison to the Governor's Press Office.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

Twelve positions are allocated to I&E and most were filled during FY 2009-2010: one Public Information Manager who served as section chief and editor; one Public Information Manager who wrote a weekly outdoors column for the website and print media; one Public Information Specialist who served as a staff writer and media liaison; one Photographer II who served as staff photographer and a graphic artist; one Artist-Illustrator II who served as graphic artist; one

Conservation Education Specialist who coordinated workshops and made educational presentations; one Audio-Visual Specialist III and one Audio-Visual Specialist II who served as videographers and video editors; one Administrative Support Assistant III who provided clerical support for the section; one Departmental Operations Specialist who served as office manager and handled special projects; and one Laborer.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

I&E provided service, material and coordination for promotion of many events during the year including the statewide Outdoor Alabama Expo, Becoming an Outdoors Woman workshops, and the Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest. Photographic and audiovisual services were provided as needed. One hundred and four press releases were written in support of Department activities.

Outdoor Alabama magazine published five issues including the annual Calendar and Conservation Directory. Currently approximately 23,000 paid subscribers are on the mailing list. The Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest drew a record number of entries. The annual publication of the photos in the February issue is extremely popular with readers. For the fourth year, the photos were exhibited in several venues across the state, giving them even more exposure.

The Outdoor Alabama Nature Shop is available online offering products that range from wildlife pins to t-shirts, caps, books and toys.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue the popular Outdoor Alabama photo contest with winners published in the magazine. The winning artwork is displayed in different venues around the state.
- Work with State Parks to develop promotional materials.
- Produce informational and instructional videos for the Department's website.
- Maintain a Department Facebook, Twitter and YouTube page, and explore promotional opportunities with social media outlets.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information Technology Section provides computer hardware, software, and networking services for the Department. Hardware services include set up and installation of new desktop and notebook

computers, management of Department servers, and installation and support for printers, monitors, and scanners.

Software services include new web-based application development, analysis, design and support for the Department's E-Gov applications, support for all mainframe applications, including ad hoc reporting from the accounting and personnel systems, and support and maintenance of the Department's website. GIS services are currently provided including software and licensing.

Networking services include support for all wired and wireless technologies used throughout the department. IT support is also provided for email through the state email system.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The staff of 11 includes an IT Manager, Programmer/Analysts, System Specialists and Technicians. During FY 2010, two contract positions were used to assist with E-Gov application design and support.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Information Technology provided service, coordination, consultation and support for many Department projects including the Hunting and Fishing License point-of-sale system, Harvest Data Collection, Alligator and Deer Hunt registrations, State Parks online reservation system, lapsed hunter and angler data analysis projects, the Conservation Officers Operations Reporting System, the Conservation Operations Reporting on Numerous Activities system, the Outdoor Alabama and AlaPark newsletters and websites. Significant improvements were made in streamlining production and ad hoc mainframe jobs. IT also supported projects throughout Alabama including regional archery tournaments, the annual National Archery in Schools tournament in Birmingham and public Advisory Board meetings. IT also provided support as needed during the oil spill.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to develop Web-based applications to provide better public access and reduce paper driven processes.
- Research possible uses of wireless technologies for Enforcement, and the district offices.
- Develop online Boat Registration Renewal systems and an agent point-of-sale system.
- Provide development and technical support for the online reservation system in Alabama State Parks.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Last year 544 educators completed in-service workshops offered by the Department. Two Becoming an Outdoors-Woman workshops were coordinated by I&E staff.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Section administered over \$10 million in contracts both initiated and coordinated in FY 2009-2010.

The Engineering Section continues to produce a digital archive of plans and maps which was previously only available in paper format. This digital archive includes files dating back to the early 1800s, through CCC plans to present day projects.

LEGAL

The Legal Section provides advice and counsel directly to the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner, and as a staff function, provides legal services to the directors of the five operational divisions and other ADCNR staff.

The drafting of contracts, inter-agency agreements, deeds, leases, patents, permits and attorney general opinions are also responsibilities of the Legal Section. Litigation against the ADCNR and employees as well as litigation initiated by the Department is also handled by the legal staff.

The Legal Section drafts, reviews and monitors legislation affecting the department, regulations for management and enforcement efforts of divisions are drafted and approved for execution and followed through the adoption process.

The section is responsible for real estate transactions involving land owned or managed by the Department and for the legal work associated with the state's oil and gas leasing activity and other natural resource management activities.

PERSONNEL AND PAYROLL

The Personnel and Payroll Section provides personnel-related support services to the Commissioner's office, Division Directors, and Section Chiefs.

The section serves as liaison to the State Personnel Department for Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' personnel actions and activities.

The section is responsible for processing all payrolls, as well as maintaining all employee files and payroll records, for the Department's hourly and semi-monthly personnel.

ENGINEERING

The Engineering Section provides professional planning, programming, engineering, architectural, landscape architectural, surveying, cartographic and related administrative services to the various divisions of the Department. These professional services best protect the state's natural resources by providing parks, recreational opportunities and services. The section's professional staff of engineers, architects, landscape architects and land surveyors ensures

that solutions to conservation planning and programming, design and construction problems and the development of departmental projects are integrated with ecologically functional and aesthetic aspects within the confines of economic feasibility.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The Engineering Section had 28 employees during FY 2009-2010: one Chief of Engineering Services, one Architect II, two Professional Land Surveyor III, one Landscape Architect, two Design Technician Supervisors, one Graduate Engineer, one Legal Research Assistant, one Clerk Stenographer III, one Conservation Construction, Inspector I, one Land Survey Technician, one Design Technicians, one Design Assistant two Survey Assistant, one Plant Maintenance Supervisor III, two Carpenter Supervisors, one Mason, one Electrician, six carpenters and one retired state employee. The section's facilities are located in Montgomery and Oak Mountain State Park. (Employees numbered 10 less at end of FY2009-2010) leaving a total of 18.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Engineering Section continued to provide on-site professional and technical support in the rebuilding of property and structures damaged or destroyed by storm activity from Category 3 Hurricanes Gustav and Ike and other declared events; coordinated all staging areas for Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill cleanup. Coordination with FEMA continues, along with work with local communities and other federal, state and local agencies. The Engineering Section administered approximately \$10 million in contracts both initiated and coordinated fiscal year 2009-2010

Engineering Section programs consist of providing the necessary professional expertise required to reach department goals. These programs include capital and improvement, using both out-sourced and in-house design and in-house construction, master planning and site planning for department facilities. General technical assistance is also performed including construction document preparation, project status reports, annual reports, replies to correspondence, feasibility studies, advisement on proper repair and operation manuals, providing file information, technical field assistance, emergency project involvement, dam inspections, specification writing for material and equipment purchases, field maintenance and training assistance.

Engineering was also involved with surveying assistance and technical advice on construction projects boundaries and property corners for State Parks, delineation and location of oyster reefs, public access areas, wildlife management areas, public lakes and other state managed property. Approximately 30 percent of Engineering Section time was spent on technical assistance of a general nature involving various Department activities requiring engineering input.

The Engineering Section continues to assist the Commissioner's Office and the State Parks Division in the advertising for, and selection of private architectural/engineering firms to prepare documents for the State Parks Restoration Program and State Lands Capital Improvement Program. The section remains as a coordinating liaison between the Department of Conservation and these private firms to communicate the needs of the Department and to ensure their inclusion into the completed plans.

ADMINISTRATIVE

General: Provided location maps; completed numerous banners, posters, retirement certificates and appreciation awards; provided assistance and support in the Parks renovation program; continued section's complete archival file scanning and production of digital format plan archives. Assisting in deed reviews and acreage estimation for the purchase of new lands and/or lease procurements; performed surveys of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill location of test wells for Alabama Geological Survey.

Marine Police:

- Completed Brookley Field Boat Slip project in Mobile County; coordinated renovations and repairs of the former Outcast building and docks in Baldwin County; performed contract administration for additional PWC/patrol boat berths at Guntersville Reservoir.

Marine Resources:

- Claude Peteet Mariculture Center canal dock facility, ongoing planning and permitting and preliminary designs; assisted and consulted with repair of various dock and boat facilities; performed RFQ and PFP review and interviews for new CPMC Laboratory and Office; performed RFQ and PFP review and interviews for new seawall at headquarters at Dauphin Island; coordinated dredging of boat basin and retrofitted rock jetty at Fort Morgan.

State Lands:

- AL-FL state line (mound line) survey. Grand Bay Tracts, Fort Morgan, Lillian Tracts Baldwin County: property line surveys, firelane construction; Bice Mt. property line survey, Madison County. Bullock County: Produced preliminary design for Wehle Nature Center Dining Hall; coordinated various construction projects with Engineering Construction Crew; State Cattle Farm: continued to provide recommendations for renovations to existing facilities at the State Cattle Farm in Greensboro; Five Rivers Environmental Center: completed construction of permeable pavements for this \$10 million facility; topographical surveys; produced plans, and constructed two new pavilions; did preliminary partial master planning at 5 Rivers Delta Center; general: assisted in navigability research and provided plats for oil and gas lease tracts with acreage estimation; Weeks Bay: performed design and coordinated construction of new seawall; continued coordinated administration of contract for site Master Plan; provided assistance to Department of Corrections in requested land management and performed inspections and produced baseline report to respond to Forever Wild leasing stipulations at the State Cattle Farm property in Greensboro.

State Parks:

- **DeSoto:** campground and bathhouses and reroofing work on park office completed.
- **Chewacla:** reviewed Shell Toomer Bikeway deficiencies and made recommendations for resolution.
- **Joe Wheeler:** completed renovation of 26 rooms and produced construction documents for next phase renovation work for 49 rooms at the hotel.
- **Lakepoint Resort:** completed reroofing project and renovations to the Camp Store; continued administration of work with consultants for renovation of lodge, cabins, marina, and site improvements; continued to work with consultant on campground renovation.
- **Floral:** construction administration and oversight of Assembly Building; produced site improvement and irrigation system plans.
- **Oak Mountain:** completed interior and exterior renovations to the Wildlife Rescue Center; coordinated construction of fishing pier; continued administration of work with consultants preparing design documents for master plan

and improvements; administered construction phase II of renovation to the Interpretive Center; campground project in design phase and on hold; continued evaluation of erosion and sediment control at fishing lake; worked on plans for ADA fishing lake and pier in cooperation with community partners; evaluated site drainage on golf course.

- **Lake Guntersville:** continued to administer contract work with ongoing overall lodge and park improvements; provided additional survey and topographic information for park improvement projects; performed property line surveys; completed golf course renovation coordination with consultant; completed contract administration of design of new chalet to replace one destroyed by fire; provided assistance with lawsuit brought about by lodge contractor against State and consulting architect; completed plans and construction of a new weigh-in dock at Bass Trail site.
- **Lake Lureen:** prepared documents and performed construction of new campground dump station.
- **Frank Jackson:** completed construction of 1.7 mile trail and opened to public use; Performed property line surveys.
- **Wind Creek:** assisted with creek access crossing to facilitate timber sales; trail topo survey completed.
- **Gulf Resort:** registration building/campground store/pool renovation/nature center contract continued and substantially complete; parking lot survey and topo; pier and beach survey and topo; Gulf State Park Pier project was completed and soon after damaged by Tropical Storm Ida; coordinated repair to pier; sand dune rehabilitation planning in conjunction with NOAA and FEMA, project permitted and completed; continued to administer/work with consultants preparing design documents for park improvements; continued to participate in master planning and lodge/conference center improvements; continued to provide survey and topographic information for park improvement projects; performed property line surveys; continued to work with local authorities by design, consultation and coordination for trail improvements and links to city trails and park trail systems.
- **General:** administered and coordinated energy analysis with Johnson Controls to assess and recommending cost saving measures throughout parks system; conducted research/plans for various other parks; performed preliminary investigations and project scope for various park improvement projects working with consultants; continued production/update of brochure maps; produced and administered aerial mapping project of all state parks and continued to provide assistance in consultant selection

for ongoing parks renovation program; provided assistance for Parks master planning program; check and mark property lines at Wind Creek, Chewacla, Gulf, Lake Guntersville and DeSoto; Numerous projects completed under \$50,000 in upgrading and repairing facilities throughout the State Park System; this required intensive participation by the chief of engineering services, the statewide construction crew and other engineering staff.

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries:

- **Consulted:** Future stream bank restoration projects and reviewed plans for Landowner Incentive Program.
- **Check and mark property lines at the following:** Freedom Hills, James D. Martin-Skyline, Barbour, Chambers County Lake, Lee County Lake, Madison County Lake, Fayette County Lake; Browns Creek boat ramp topo; Eastaboga fish hatchery boundary survey; Jordan Dam boat ramp topo; Selma boat ramp boundary survey; Eureka boat ramp boundary survey; Childersburg boat ramp boundary survey; Scottsboro Hwy. 35 boat ramp topo.
- **Bonner's Point Boat Ramp:** completed contract on new parking lot and boat ramp.
- **Cullman Archery Range:** project completed.
- **State Lakes:** assisted with campground improvements.
- **Hatcheries:** provided design assistance and construction administration for several projects at the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center.
- **Fisheries:** Elk River Boat Ramp, Lauderdale County, performed preliminary design; coordinated with consultant on completion of construction documents.
- **Law Enforcement:** provided digital files for hunter education and location maps; prepared updated management area maps; provided digital state WMA map for the Department of Transportation; performed property line surveys for numerous properties under the control of this division.
- **Wildlife:** continued GIS discussion and application work; updated/produced all state WMA maps; produced statewide management area map inserts; aided in other various projects for this section including digitizing and acreage determination.

FUTURE PLANS

The Engineering Section plans to continue assistance and coordination of ongoing Deepwater Horizon oil spill cleanup, storm related repairs, reconstruction and continue coordination with FEMA and insurance settlements.

Continue surveying property lines for State Parks, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and other critical locations involving the department. The section also plans to provide master planning, programming, design and contract administration for future construction projects including the ongoing renovation program of the State Parks Division and other divisions, surveys of public access areas, maintenance of existing department facilities, and design and construction of new facilities when possible.





Marine Police Division

The Marine Police Division's mission is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through enforcement, education and community activities for approximately one million boaters on the state's 1.3 million acres of recreational waters.

The Marine Police Division's mission is to enhance safety and promote responsible use of resources on Alabama's waterways through enforcement, education and community activities for approximately one million boaters on the state's 1.3 million acres of recreational waters. Functions of the Marine Police Division, in addition to routine safety patrol, include registration of all pleasure boats, licensing of all boat operators, boat and marine accessory theft, a statewide boating education program, and assisting other state, local and federal officers in enforcement activities relating to homeland security, maritime and waterway smuggling, drug interdiction, and other serious crimes committed in the marine environment. The Marine Police Division also administers the waterway hazard and control marking program, presently overseeing 1,639 hazard and control markers and zones.

This program is handled in the field by less than 60 Marine Police Officers using one-officer patrol craft who each cover over 23,000 surface acres. Field enforcement officers are responsible for all patrol activities, regulatory/navigational markers, and public education within their assigned areas. Administration of the Marine Police Division is the responsibility of its Director and staff. The chief law enforcement officer/chief of operations, oversees all activities of the patrol officers, district supervisors, and the day-to-day administrative activities of the Division. An enforcement section chief, an education/public information section chief, a supply/inventory officer, and the administrative unit, which provides budgetary, fiscal, logistical and maintenance support, comprise the administrative staff.

The boat registration unit assists the Marine Police Division by overseeing registration and records retention of approximately 400,000 boats. The boat registration unit, along with other administrative personnel, also supports the boat theft unit, which consists of two Marine Police officers assigned statewide. Recovery of stolen property such as boats, motors and accessory equipment is a function of the boat theft unit.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The Marine Police Division maintains a headquarters, a maintenance shop and warehouse in Montgomery. The state is divided into four districts for enforcement purposes. Four district headquarters are maintained at Lake Guntersville State Park, Alpine, Wind Creek State Park, and Alabama Point.

These headquarters provide contact sites for the boating public, education program locations, and training facilities for district personnel. In FY 2009-2010, the Marine Police Division operated with 74 employees statewide. This included 60 uniformed officers, 9 clerical personnel, two marine mechanics, one painter, two laborers, and the Division Director.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

For the fiscal year 2010, the Marine Police Division was authorized a budget of \$11,063,853. Total expenditures amounted to \$7,985,036. These funds were generated from boat registration fees, enforcement fines, marine fuel tax, and the boating safety assistance program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Coast Guard.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Marine Police Division won the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Innovations in Technology Award for its Conservation Officer Operations Reporting System (COORS). COORS, a partnership between the Department's IT Section and the enforcement sections of the various divisions, is an evolving online reporting system utilized by enforcement officers to document their daily activities, vehicle usage and associated costs and other division-specific information. The system generates financial reports and weekly, monthly and annual statistics which are turned into useful reports for the department staff and the entire division. The information generated by the system is used at all levels, including the fleet manager, accounting and personnel sections and radio dispatch.
- The Marine Police Division was an essential element in the statewide Homeland Security exercise, Operation Propeller Constellation.
- The Marine Police Division participated in the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Clean-Up and Recovery. The Division was primarily responsible for tracking and documenting boom locations, utilizing GPS coordinates and a mapping system for easy access by other agencies. The Division also provided security for boom location, staging areas, decontamination sites, and areas closed for waterway traffic.

- More than 39,746 persons successfully completed the online boating courses and the Basic Boating Course taught by Marine Police officers and 27,679 boat operator licenses were issued by the Dept. of Public Safety. By the end of fiscal year 2010, a total of 719,348 operator licenses were on file.
- Officer Freddie Ingram was named the Division's Officer of the Year.
- Melynda Moore, the Director's Assistant, was selected as the Marine Police Division's Administrative Employee of the Year.
- The Division implemented a Special Agent program to assist with marine sanitation device inspections. The Special Agents, usually affiliated with a marina, are trained and certified by the Division to conduct these inspections and issue yearly inspection decals to the boat owner.
- Awarded two Homeland Security grants for three patrol boats and three tow vehicles. One grant specifies two boats and two vehicles, one each for Baldwin and Mobile counties, while the other grant designated a vessel and vehicle for Lake Eufaula.
- Purchased new body armour, half of which was paid by a Department of Justice grant.
- Alabama Power Company contributed a \$40,000 grant to be used to promote public safety on the 12 Alabama Power Company impoundments.
- The Division continues with implementation and enforcement of the "Three Lakes Law." To date, 51 usage permits have been issued, all for vessels on Lake Martin.

rescue and assists to boaters. Marine Police officers were called upon by other law enforcement agencies for 754 hours of assistance with various duties. There were 239 marine events permitted by the Division, resulting in 685 hours of security patrol.

Marine Police officers remain under orders to patrol all critical infrastructure sites on the water that are considered to be potential terrorist targets. All officers have received training on the deployment of special teams in the event of terrorist threat. Approximately 3,889 hours were expended on Homeland Security patrols.

The Boat Theft Investigators opened 26 cases and closed 9 cases, resulting in 4 felony arrests during fiscal year 2009-2010.

Officers investigated 90 boating accidents that resulted in 21 fatalities for the fiscal year.

In addition to routine patrol, Marine Police Officers can volunteer for duty on specialized teams, such as the Disaster Response Team or the Dive Team. The Disaster Response Team (DRT) is in the process of being revamped. Instead of drawing from a specialized team of 21 officers, officers from all areas of the state will be called to duty and given a chance to participate. The DRT responds to emergency situations such as floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes or by an activation call from Emergency Management Agencies. In addition, the Marine Police Division has been partnering with the Dept. of Public Safety to develop a statewide Search and Recovery Dive Team and has participated with them in a murder investigation that necessitated dive operations for weapon and body recovery.

ENFORCEMENT

In the year 2009-2010, Marine Police Officers were on patrol for 29,586 hours. There were 20,309 vessel contacts that resulted in 2,216 arrests and 3,968 written warnings. Drinking and operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs remained a problem on Alabama's waterways resulting in 77 arrests for boating or driving under the influence of alcohol and 30 arrests for illegal possession of drugs. Ninety-four arrests were made for illegal possession of alcohol and 70 arrests were made for minor in possession of alcohol. Additionally, 316 citations were written for careless/reckless operation of a vessel or personal watercraft.

Marine Police officers performed 474 hours of search and

MARINE POLICE

Marine Police taught 69 boating courses in 2009-2010, and officers conducted 779 public education programs/presentations with 326,099 persons in attendance. The boat registration unit assists the Marine Police Division by overseeing registration and records retention of approximately 400,000 boats.

FY 2010 BOAT REGISTRATION STATISTICS

Total Number of Boats

Registered	271,953
Ownership Transfers Processed	25,574

2009-2010 MARINE POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

- Routine Patrol 20,309 hours
- Homeland Security Patrol..... 3,889 hours
- Search and Rescue and Assists to Boaters.. 474 hours
- Vessel Contacts20,309
- Arrests..... 2,216
 - 77 for boating under the influence of alcohol
 - 94 for illegal possession of alcohol
 - 316 citations for careless/reckless operation of a vessel/personal watercraft
 - 30 for illegal possession of drugs
- Written Warnings..... 3,968
- Boating Accidents90
- Fatalities21
- The Boat Theft Investigators opened 26 cases and closed 4 felony cases of boat theft in 2010.
- Officers inspected 908 marine sanitation devices on both recreational and residential vessels

PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Education Section of the Alabama Marine Police Division continues in a joint cooperative venture with the Alabama Department of Education, Driver Education Section, with the implementation of the boating education taught in the driver education classes. Compliance continued to increase during the 2009-2010 school year, with both departments working hard to achieve the 100 percent participation, which was mandated by the Boating Safety Reform Act of 1994. Marine Police furnishes training to the driver education instructors and participates in a series of workshops at various sites throughout the state and also supplies instructional materials such as manuals, pamphlets, videos and speakers to ensure a successful program.

The Marine Police Division and the Dept. of Public Safety, Driver's License Division, continue to work together in order to license the boaters of Alabama. The Marine Police Division provides training for the driver license examiners and study guides for citizens to study for the written exam, which is conducted by the Dept. of Public Safety. Because the state approved online boating course, www.boat-ed.com, which was implemented as another alternative for the vessel license requirement, received such a healthy response, the Division approved an additional online course, www.boaterexam.com. The new course provides an alternative to the existing course and is proving to be very popular, especially with younger boaters. Additional printed materials and videos were acquired for use in providing public education for the marine community.

Marine Police personnel taught a total of 69 boating courses during the year 2009-2010. Officers conducted 779 public education programs and presentations with 326,099 persons in attendance. Marine Police patrol equipment and static displays were manned at public schools, boat shows, safety fairs, and other functions throughout the state. In order to address safety issues with personal watercraft operators, the Division manufactured a personal watercraft simulator. This simulator is used to illustrate safe handling procedures, navigation rules and other laws pertaining to personal watercraft and was very popular at the venues where it was utilized.

Radio and television appearances by Marine Police officers amounted to 94; in addition, 311 newspaper articles and magazine articles were published statewide. The Information and Education Section teamed with the Marine Police Division to develop a new public service announcement, aimed at encouraging the use of life jackets. The PSA, featuring different styles of life jackets, was filmed during National Inflatable Life Jacket day and was used to kick off National Safe Boating Week. This PSA, along with a PSA featuring Aubie and Big Al, was part of a continuing campaign that culminated in a children's life jacket give-away program. Time expended on

educational functions by the officers totaled 6,527 hours with 53,917 units of boating literature distributed to the public. Officers dedicated 249 hours to placing, replacing, and repairing 266 aids to navigation on Alabama's waterways.

In accordance with the Marine Sewage Act of October 2003, Marine Police Officers inspected 908 marine sanitation devices on both recreational and residential vessels, and issued yearly inspection decals.

A multi-agency program, The Clean Waters Initiative, was formed to address not only the Marine Sewage Act, but also the public's concerns for clean water. This initiative will help the general public understand how legislation like the Sewage Act impacts them and the environment. Awareness efforts directed at the general public were done throughout the year at different public venues. Marine Police officers have also been working closely with State Lands Coastal Section with the development and implementation of the Clean Marina Act.

BOAT REGISTRATION

The Boat Registration Unit is responsible for registration and records retention of approximately 400,000 boats. The total number of boats registered in FY 2009-2010 was 271,953. In addition, 25,574 ownership transfers were processed and 3,389 replacements were issued.

Alabama ranks 17th in the nation for total number of vessels registered. The boat registration unit also assists the boat theft unit, which consists of three Marine Police officers assigned statewide.

PROBLEMS/SOLUTIONS

The most significant problems facing the Marine Police Division are a critical shortage of enforcement personnel due to resignations and retirements, upgrading outdated equipment, and the continuing downward trend of the economy. Additional officers will be needed over the next four-five years to bring the Division to an effective level. With the turnover of experienced personnel and the additional responsibility of providing security and safety for critical infrastructure sites on the water in partnership with the Homeland Security Department, an increase in personnel is necessary.

To address this, the Division has been exploring measures such as utilizing alternate patrol techniques to minimize costs and maximize manpower. The Division has also been engaging in partnerships with other enforcement divisions within the Department and with other state and federal agencies in order to maximize manpower and assets. In addition to professional partnerships, the Marine Police Division

will continue to seek out other private/public partnerships and opportunities. These partnerships will enhance the Division's ability to perform certain functions with a minimum outlay of manpower and resources.

User group conflicts continue to a significant problem for the Marine Police Division. These conflicts center primarily around 4 issues:

- *The "Three Lakes Law"*
- *Regulatory Markers, primarily no wake/idle speed*
- *Derelict and Abandoned Vessels*
- *Soil Erosion*

To address these issues, the Division has been meeting with representatives of these groups, trying to find workable solutions to the problems.

FUTURE PLANS

The Division goals and objectives for fiscal year 2010-2011 are as follows:

- Obtain boats and vehicles designated by the Homeland Security grant funds.
- Will begin certification of officers in the NASBLA approved Boat Operation and Training Program (BOAT), which is a national professional boat handlers accreditation course.
- Reduce the number of boating accidents resulting in fatalities and injuries.
- Work with Accounting and Information Technology sections to continue to update antiquated boat registration system and implement and refine new on-line renewal and registration system.
- Introduce the "Boat Theft Bill" legislation.
- Introduce legislation to address issues surrounding derelict and/or abandoned vessels.
- PSA with Big Al and Aubie and billboard campaign combined with life jacket give away program.
- Use Alabama Power Company grant funds to wrap simulator trailers in boating safety messages.

FY 2010 MARINE POLICE STATISTICS

- Less than 60 Marine Police Officers using one-officer patrol craft patrol more than 23,000 surface acres.
- More than 39,746 persons successfully completed the online boating courses and the Basic Boating Course.
- 27,679 boat operator licenses were issued by the Department of Public Safety.
- Alabama ranks 17th in the nation for total number of vessels registered.





Marine Resources Division

The Marine Resources Division (MRD) is responsible for the management of Alabama's marine fisheries resources through research and enforcement programs. Two division facilities supported an average of 62 employees of the Administrative, Enforcement, and Fisheries Sections during FY 2010.

MARINE RESOURCES

The Marine Resources Division (MRD) is responsible for the management of Alabama's marine fisheries resources through research and enforcement programs. Two division facilities supported an average of 62 employees of the Administrative, Enforcement, and Fisheries Sections during the 2010 fiscal year.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

A total expenditure of \$14,780,228 was made from the approved budget of \$13,069,137. Revenue of \$13,684,632 was made up from federal aid (81 percent), license fees (13 percent), marine gas tax (4 percent), and other sources (2 percent). This, plus a cash forward balance of \$1,112,086 provided funding of \$14,796,718 for the fiscal year.

The Administrative Section expended \$604,921 on salaries and benefits and \$1,068,919 on all other charges for an administrative expenses total of \$1,673,840. Other expenditures handled by this section included a total of \$772,565 for administrative transfer payments to Montgomery. This represented a grand total of \$2,446,405.

Expenditures for the Enforcement Section totaled \$1,653,829 of which \$25,000 was reimbursable by a grant from the National Marine Fisheries Service and \$499,198 was reimbursable under a Joint Enforcement Agreement from NOAA/Office of Law Enforcement.

Fisheries Section expenditures were \$10,679,994, which consisted of funds from 26 federal aid programs and some of which required state matching funds. Federal aid projects varied in state match requirements from 0 to 25 percent. Of these expenditures, \$2,210,106 was spent for salaries, fringe benefits, equipment and supplies. The remainder was spent on research and management including programs under the Emergency Disaster Recovery Program (EDRP I and II), and boating access area up-keep, renovation, and construction.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

■ The issue of permitting of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facilities offshore from Alabama remained an issue in FY2010. In September 2010, Governor Bob Riley approved the plan for TORP's Bienville Offshore Energy Terminal (BOET). The LNG terminal will be located 63 miles south of Alabama and will utilize a closed-loop re-gasification system.

- Severe drought conditions and the proliferation of key predators during recent years, coupled with damages caused by 2004 and 2005 storm events, have decimated Alabama's oyster reefs. During 2009, MRD closed all public reefs to the harvest of oysters until such time that the reefs can sustain commercial harvest. MRD continues to work with fisheries participants to rebuild Alabama's oyster reefs through monitoring and cultch planting. These efforts will be increased due to the passing and implementation of MRD's Oyster Management Bill.
- On April 20, 2010, the British Petroleum (BP) drilling rig Deepwater Horizon (DWH) exploded in the Gulf of Mexico approximately 50 miles southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River initiating the worst documented ecological disaster occurring in the history of the Gulf of Mexico. The oil spill has resulted in significant economic losses for coastal Alabama. Two of the hardest hit industries have been the tourism and seafood industries although accurate estimates of these losses are not available at this time. MRD observed a sales decrease of 67 percent in the number of recreational saltwater fishing licenses issued during 2010 as compared to mean sales for 2007-2009 for the months of May, June, July, and August. This decrease represents a loss of \$705,609.
- MRD contributed significant personnel time and resources from the Fisheries and Enforcement Sections to the oil spill response. Numerous staff members were assigned to the Mobile Unified Incident Command (UIC) post to assist in Alabama's coordinated response to the DWH incident. MRD responded to fish kills, turtle/mammal strandings, and surface oil reported through the DWH call center. Reports were frequent due to protocols of response workers and the vigilance of the public. Alabama began closing state waters to commercial and recreation fishing as a precautionary measure due to the presence of oil on June 1. By June 10, 2010, the final closure was implemented resulting in a total closure area of approximately 351 square miles representing around 45 percent of Alabama's marine/coastal waters. From the initial date of closure to the final date for reopening (with exception to Gulf waters for shrimp), a total of 81 days had elapsed. MRD's Fisheries Section collected baseline, monitoring and reopening tissue samples for finfish, oysters, crabs, and shrimp. Samples were transported to

the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and NOAA for chemical and sensory testing to ensure the safety of Alabama's seafood and allowing for the reopening of closed waters. MRD Enforcement Officers operated continuous patrols to enforce area closures and conducted daily mapping surveys of deployed booms. Boom coordinates were relayed daily to UIC for use in booming strategy and maintenance. The Fisheries Section has been working closely with Natural Resource Disaster Assessment (NRDA) process especially in the development of the oyster assessment plan.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Administrative Section provides supervision, clerical, purchasing, and general administrative support for the two operational sections; supervises state seismic activities; and coordinates with other state, federal and regional agencies on fisheries and environmental matters.

Staff for the Administrative Section consisted of the division director, six clerical, one accountant, and one marine mechanic employee. Offices are maintained at Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The U.S. Department of Commerce appropriations budget for the 2010 fiscal year contained \$15 million earmarked for cooperative enforcement initiatives between NOAA law enforcement and state fisheries law enforcement entities. MRD and NOAA Enforcement entered into a joint enforcement agreement pursuant to the initiative. As part of the agreement, federal dollars are dedicated to increase fisheries law enforcement efforts and compliance with federal fishery regulations along coastal Alabama and the Gulf of Mexico. Fisheries resources are cooperatively protected, managed, and conserved by state and federal governments. The MRD enforcement section received \$499,198 as part of the agreement. The money was used to purchase eight outboard motors, two vehicles and surveillance equipment that will be strategically located in coastal Alabama. Additionally, it provided funding to increase patrol hours for MRD officers.
- Enforcement officers conducted 18,294 hours of boat and shore patrol, 8,753 boat checks, 1,544 seafood shop inspections, 19,911 recreational fisherman checks, 6,014 commercial fishermen checks, and issued 2,202 citations

and warnings for illegal activities. A total of 15,521 hours was spent on administrative duties, court attendance, training, and equipment maintenance. Officers worked 6,696 hours with the National Marine Fisheries Services interjurisdictional fisheries enforcement program.

- Enforcement officers continued to improve and expand the Coastwatch Program, established for the training of citizens to recognize and report violations of saltwater fishing laws and regulations. Information from Coastwatch members has assisted with the planning of enforcement patrols and deployment of manpower and other resources resulting in saved man-hours by not responding to inaccurate reports of violations. To date, 261 citizens have been trained at 37 training sessions held in Mobile, Baldwin and Jefferson counties. The response to the program continues to be very positive.
- Officers attended training courses on boat handling, criminal investigation, computer forensics, criminal law update, environmental crimes enforcement, interview and interrogation, suicide terrorism, self-defense, supervision, and other state and federal agency law enforcement programs. Officers continued to enhance public outreach efforts to better communicate enforcement efforts to provide important information and to foster cooperative management initiatives.
- The Marine Resources Enforcement Section worked with the other ADCNR Divisions to enhance and expand the Conservation Officer Operations Reporting System (COORS). The COORS system has greatly reduced the amount of time the officers spent performing administrative duties. The officers' reports are completed and reviewed online; this data is calculated to allow for better analytics of the enforcement activities. In 2010 the Conservation Operations Reporting on Numerous Activities (CORONA) system was created to expand the system to the administrative and fisheries sections of the Division. A fleet management module of the COORS/CORONA program will allow for real time maintenance cost analysis and tabulation to allow for more efficient maintenance of equipment. Subsistence claims are sent directly to accounting to save on processing costs. The COORS system was implemented the week of September 26, 2009 and the CORONA system became operational on September 25, 2010.
- The Enforcement Section has continued the installation of cameras for the Marine Resources Coastal Remote Monitoring System. Full implementation of this system will provide up to 30 high resolution cameras at different locations throughout coastal Alabama areas. The video is available through a web-

FY 2010 MARINE RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Routine Boat and Shore Patrol	18,294 Hours
Boat Checks	8,753
Seafood Shop Inspections	1,544
Recreational Fisherman Checks.....	19,911
Commercial Fisherman Checks.....	6,014
Citations and Warnings	2,202 Total

MARINE RESOURCES FISHERIES

The Fisheries Section collected 714 fisheries assessment samples. A total of 12 habitat assessments were performed, and 4,220 fishermen were interviewed during creel surveys.

MRD continued administration of the Offshore Artificial Reef Program during 2010. This program allows private reef builders a chance to deploy inspected material in United States Army Corps of Engineers permitted offshore areas resulting in the creation of fish habitat.

based portal and will be accessible to officers in the field via a wireless internet connection. Not only are the officers able to access the video, they are able to manipulate the camera through a web interface. The video is being stored for up to three weeks on secure servers and is time and date stamped for use as evidence. The sensors include closed-circuit television, thermal, and infrared cameras.

- The 2010 edition of the popular Alabama Marine Information Calendar was produced and distributed. In addition, a calendar depicting conservation related artwork by coastal 4th graders was produced and printed by the Division. The artwork for the calendar was selected through an art contest, hosted by the Division and judged by local specialists in coastal conservation and the arts. The winning selections were also displayed in art museums in both Mobile and Baldwin counties. Receptions were held at each museum for the winning students, their friends, and families.
- The eleventh year of a cooperative project with Auburn University at Claude Petet Mariculture Center (CPMC) has resulted in additional refinement of techniques for rearing both bait and food shrimp in ponds. These will be used to enhance the production of shrimp on shrimp farms in west-central Alabama.
- During the year, the Fisheries Section collected 714 fisheries assessment samples. This data is utilized to afford managers the opportunity to review the populations of the recreational and commercial important species and of lower trophic level species to detect any changes before they affect the overall health of the ecosystem. A total of 12 habitat assessments were performed, and 4,220 fishermen were interviewed during creel surveys.
- The success of the electronic trip ticket computer program continues to grow. Currently 30 Alabama seafood dealers are actively using this program. These dealers contributed over 72 percent of yearly Alabama landings. The computer program allows seafood dealers to enter landings and trip information from commercial fishermen and submit it electronically on a monthly basis. During the past fiscal year, MRD processed and submitted trip ticket data from 7,647 commercial trips reporting 14.6 million pounds of seafood with a dockside value of \$23.4 million. A significant reduction in landings was observed due to the impacts of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- During FY 2010, MRD staff participated in two large outreach events: the four-day Mobile Boat Show, and the one-day Conservation Expo/Bird Festival in Fairhope. These events were conducted to inform and educate the public about Alabama's

marine environment. Saltwater "touch tables" were set up at each event to allow children the opportunity to interact with living marine life and learn about these animals that are commonly found in Alabama's waters. Literature concerning seafood rules and regulations and calendars were distributed. Children enjoyed the opportunity to complete activity books and use rub plates depicting various forms of aquatic life found within Alabama's waters. MRD staff also participated in a seventh grade Day at the Park at Gulf State Park, where biologists talked with kids about fish habitats, the dynamics of the Lake Shelby/Little Lagoon system, and identified fish species found there.

- Biologists from the Division continue to participate in the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force created in conjunction with the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and authorized by the Governor's Executive Order. This group encompasses all state agencies with interest in or regulation of aquatic nuisance species.
- MRD continued administration of the Offshore Artificial Reef Program during 2010. This program allows private reef builders a chance to deploy inspected material in United States Army Corps of Engineers permitted offshore areas resulting in the creation of fish habitat. Eight permits were issued during the year containing 192 individual reefs. Two Eco-reefs were donated to the State and were added to other artificial reef structure near the new Gulf State Park pier to enhance fishing around this structure.
- MRD coordinated the relocation of over 6 million pounds of oysters and cultch material from reclassified waters in upper Mobile Bay to a newly constructed reef in lower Mobile. Eligible Alabama commercial oyster fishermen were extensively utilized during this project.
- MRD created a data entry program, AMRD Sampling Application (ASA), in order to increase the efficiency of recording, editing, and proof reading data generated from the Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program (FAMP). FAMP protocols have been restructured in order to generate data that is consistent with the SEAMAP groundfish program.
- During FY2010, the Alabama Legislature passed MRD's Oyster Management Bill. This bill authorizes the implementation of oyster management stations at which point harvest data will be collected directly at the time of harvest, thus increasing MRD's ability to manage Alabama's oyster resources. The bill also changed the tolerance for undersized oysters, standardized the information required on the harvest tags, allowed an increase in the cost of the tags to include the cost of printing, expanded the

use of dredges, removed the ability for private lease holders and others to take seed oysters from the public reefs, expanded our oversight of the marking of private leases, created a shell fee to pay for planting and other oyster management costs, and raised the fines for violations.

- Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds have been awarded to MRD for much needed renovation and construction activities. Plans include the construction of a new laboratory and office facility at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center and the renovation of boat basins located at divisional offices in Gulf Shores and on Dauphin Island.
- The Division provided financial assistance to the City of Daphne to renovate a boat ramp on the Eastern Shore to improve boating access. This renovation incorporated an elevated roadway to access the ramp. This unique design is believed to circumvent the sedimentation problem that occurs along the immediate shoreline which hindered public use of the previous ramp.

FUTURE PLANS

- The Division plans to continue development of the inshore artificial reef system particularly in Baldwin County. As donated material has been greatly reduced in coastal areas of Alabama due to the economic downturn, MRD plans to purchase appropriate material and enhance identified reef sites. MRD will investigate the possibility of receiving permit(s) for near shore artificial reef zones. These areas, if permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, would provide unique fishing opportunities for Alabama’s coastal anglers. Various user groups will be contacted prior to submission of a permit for this activity to maximize success.
- Coastal boating access continues to be a concern for MRD. Maintenance to and renovations of existing boat ramps will continue be a priority of the Division. MRD will search for additional properties and/or cooperative agreements that will allow for the expansion of boating access sites in coastal Alabama.
- MRD will work with the Department’s Engineering Section, the State Lands Division, and outside contractors to develop plans for the construction and/or renovation projects pertaining to key structures located at the CPMC (Gulf Shores) and Dauphin Island facilities. These projects will consist of the construction of a new multifunctional laboratory and office complex at

CPMC, renovation of the boat basins at CPMC and Dauphin Island, and upgrades to Enforcement boat docks at Dauphin Island; funding will be provided through the Coastal Impact Assessment Program (CIAP). It is anticipated that the planning and design phase will be completed and a bid will be awarded for construction by the end of FY2011.

- MRD will continue to work with other state (Alabama and Gulf States) and federal agencies in the assessment, monitoring, and rehabilitation efforts needed in response to the DWH oil spill. The Fisheries Section will work closely with the NRDA process to implement fisheries assessment and monitoring plans. MRD will implement a Tissue Testing, Closed Area Monitoring, and Seafood Promotion Plan, in conjunction with other State agencies, to address public concerns about the safety of Alabama’s seafood. Under this plan, funds obtained from BP will be used to conduct chemical analyses of Alabama seafoods on a monthly basis to test for contamination in order to restore consumer confidence, as well as, promote Alabama’s marine resources. In addition, MRD will work with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and other Gulf States in the implementation of a federally funded Gulf of Mexico Seafood Marketing and Sustainability Program designed to promote Gulf seafood as a whole.



MARINE RESOURCES

Offshore Artificial Reef

Program allows private reef builders a chance to deploy inspected material in US Army Corps of Engineers permitted offshore areas resulting in the creation of fish habitat. 8 permits were issued during the year containing 192 individual reefs.

MARINE RESOURCES FISHERIES

During FY 2010, MRD staff participated in two large outreach events: the four-day Mobile Boat Show, and the one-day Conservation Expo/Bird Festival in Fairhope.

Emergency Disaster Relief

Program: In 2010, MRD, worked with local seafood organizations and hundreds of oystermen to move more than 6 million pounds of oysters from upper Mobile Bay to the Relay Reef on the western shore in the middle of Mobile Bay. Approximately, \$1.65 million was spent on the project with a projected initial harvest estimated at more than a \$500,000.

ENFORCEMENT SECTION

The Enforcement Section patrols Alabama's coastal waters, enforcing state and federal laws and regulations relating to the conservation and protection of marine resources. Officers also enforce laws and regulations relating to boating safety and freshwater fishing and hunting, conduct search and rescue missions, and participate in drug interdiction operations. Officers are cross-trained and deputized as National Marine Fisheries Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. Marine Resources Enforcement Officers cooperate extensively with these agencies, the United States Coast Guard, and other Federal agencies in the coordination of joint enforcement operations, investigative and fisheries enforcement expertise, training, public safety, and other natural resource issues.

Facilities for the Enforcement Section consist of headquarters at Dauphin Island and a district office in Gulf Shores. There are currently seventeen enforcement officers in the section (10 stationed in Mobile County and six stationed in Baldwin County), two laborers, and the Chief Enforcement Officer stationed at the Dauphin Island headquarters.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to develop mechanisms to improve the Coastwatch program and public outreach efforts to better communicate enforcement efforts and important information.
- Continue to develop procedures to enhance the Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA, assure that such agreements are implemented in future years, and seek long term funding for agreements.
- Work with other Gulf States and the National Marine Fisheries Service to implement the Gulf-wide strategic fisheries enforcement plan.
- Continue to develop procedures and provide officers with training to enhance Homeland Defense activities.
- Continue to develop and expand the coast-wide remote monitoring system and technology upgrades to enhance enforcement monitoring, deployment of enforcement manpower, and biological fishing effort research.

FISHERIES SECTION

The activities of the Fisheries Section are directed toward management of commercial and recreational fisheries in Alabama's marine and estuarine waters. These activities involve cooperative efforts with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in near shore Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico and with other Gulf of Mexico state agencies to develop cooperative fisheries management programs. These activities are mostly funded through federal aid programs of the U. S. Departments of Commerce (NOAA/NMFS) and Interior (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Biological programs not covered by federal aid such as fish kill evaluation, oyster management, shrimp management, and pollution investigations are supported by commercial and recreational license fees. The section personnel also assist in oversight of natural gas activities within Alabama's coastal waters, territorial sea, and adjacent federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico and comment on applications for U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits in the coastal area. Personnel maintained and improved the home page for the Division, which is associated with and accessed through the Department's website, www.outdooralabama.com. The feedback to this site has been extremely positive and it has proven to be a tremendous asset in getting information and assistance to the public.

Fisheries facilities consist of the CPMC in Gulf Shores and the MRD Laboratory on Dauphin Island. Personnel consisted of one Biologist V, two Biologist IVs, two Biologist IIIs, four Biologist IIs, one Biologist I, four Senior Biologist Aides, 19 Biologist Aides, and two temporary laborers.

FEDERAL AID

Wallop/Breaux: Wallop/Breaux funds are administered through the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Funds from this source were directed toward a creel survey of Alabama's saltwater recreational anglers, production of the 2010 edition of the popular Alabama Marine Information Calendar, children's coastal conservation art calendar, production of the kids' coloring book, maintenance of equipment and facilities in Gulf Shores and Dauphin Island, management of the public artificial fishing reef permit system in the Gulf of Mexico off Alabama, assisting individuals in designing artificial reefs, conducting mariculture research on marine species, maintaining and enhancing boat ramps for

boating access, financing research of the ecology of artificial reefs and effects of reef designs with respect to ecology, and the sampling of coastal Alabama fishes to determine stock status.

Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program (FAMP): MRD continues to collect legacy data through the FAMP program. This program, implemented in 1981, provides a continuous database of fish and invertebrates captured through independent fishery sampling techniques. This sampling program allows MRD to monitor trends in fishes and invertebrates abundance which are not associated with commercial or recreational fishermen.

Adult Finfish Sampling Program: MRD continues a fishery independent gillnet sampling program. The objective is to gather data on adult fish to be used in the management of important species. Sampling will be conducted through the use of two gillnet configurations and a stratified, random design. A total of 192 net sets were conducted, collecting 4,494 finfish representing 8 freshwater and 42 saltwater species.

Cooperative Statistics: Federal aid funds for this program are administered by the Department of Commerce (NOAA Fisheries) and are utilized by the MRD to collect fisheries-dependent data on commercial shrimp, oyster, crab and finfish landings. Additionally, information on processed seafood such as crab meat and mullet is compiled. Biological information was collected on striped mullet, flounder, Spanish mackerel, grouper, and red snapper. Commercial seafood license data was forwarded to NOAA Fisheries under this grant.

Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (SEAMAP): Funds from this program are administered by the Department of Commerce (NOAA/NMFS) and are utilized in Alabama for the development of a long-term fishery-independent database on recreationally and commercially important marine and estuarine fishery stocks. This project provides funds to assist in management of the Alabama shrimp fishery, as well as, to evaluate spawning success and juvenile survival for important recreational and commercial species. In FY 2010, nineteen offshore, 40' trawl samples and 6 near shore and three offshore ichthyoplankton samples were collected. Ichthyoplankton samples have incorporated bongo nets at all SEAMAP stations. Routine bi-monthly inshore sampling was conducted in state waters resulting in the collection of 155 trawl, 33 seine, and 42 beam plankton trawl samples. MRD created a data entry program, Alabama MRD Sampling Application (ASA), in order to increase the efficiency of recording and quality checking data

collected from inshore groundfish trawls, seines and plankton trawls. This effort will make MRD's and SEAMAP protocols more consistent.

MRD received approval to use additional funding for a pilot vertical longline survey off Alabama out to the continental shelf. Six cruises were completed and coordination with the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission's SEAMAP subcommittee will continue to resolve gear and design issues.

Inshore Roving Creel Survey: The survey uses non-uniform probability roving creel sampling methods based on aerial overflight counts to sample the marine recreational fishery in coastal Alabama. Goals of the survey include characterization of Alabama's coastal recreational boat fishers and their catch. Biological information from anglers' catch is helpful for determining health of fish stocks. A total of 1,783 fishermen were interviewed for this survey in 2010.

The Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS): Funding for this project is provided through a subgrant from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. NMFS utilizes this survey to gather trip level catch and effort information for shore, charter and private boat anglers throughout the United States. Data generated from the survey is used by fisheries managers throughout its scope of coverage. MRD has a subcontract to conduct the portion of MRFSS which collects data from anglers after they have completed their fishing trips and interviews charter boat captains for effort. Division personnel completed a total of 2,437 angler interviews during FY 2010 (791 in shore mode, 401 in charter mode, and 1,245 in private/rental boat mode). Phone calls to captain/owners in the charter boat industry were increased from 10 to 40 percent of the active fleet for one year to increase the precision of effort estimates in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Otolith Sampling Program:: Funding for this project is provided through a subgrant from the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC). MRD continued collection of otoliths (ear stones) from species given high priority for sampling including gray triggerfish, southern flounder, red snapper, greater amberjack, and king mackerel caught by commercial and recreational fishermen. Otoliths are used to age fish, which is important information used to determine the health of fish stocks. A total of 1,567 fish were sampled for this program in 2010.

Commercial Trip Ticket Program:: Funding for this program is provided through the GSMFC. This program is part of a

Gulf-wide effort to generate more specific information for each commercial fishery by collecting landings and effort data from each fishing trip. Trip tickets are printed in triplicate form and supplied to Alabama seafood dealers. Seafood dealers are required to complete the trip ticket for each transaction. An alternative form of submission is through an electronic entry program which allows seafood dealers to enter landings and trip information and submit it via the internet on a monthly basis. Data from the completed trip tickets are scanned into a computer, verified and edited. Monthly data is submitted to the GSMFC and will ultimately be supplied to NOAA Fisheries.

Emergency Disaster Recovery Program: In recent years, MRD worked with legislators, the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and neighboring state agencies to secure through two grants totaling roughly \$44 million in NOAA fishery recovery funds. The monies are being used to clean up and restore oyster and shrimp grounds affected by recent hurricanes and to monitor the recovery of associated fisheries.

During March of 2010, MRD, working with local seafood organizations and hundreds of oystermen, was able to move over 6 million pounds from upper Mobile Bay to the Relay Reef on the western shore in the middle of Mobile Bay. Approximately, \$1.65 million was spent on the project with a projected initial harvest estimated at over a half million dollars. The project itself provided temporary employment while oyster resources continue to recover.

FUTURE PLANS

- The Fisheries Section will continue to collect appropriate data and work with recreational and commercial fishermen and other resource user groups to provide Division administrators with recommendations for strategies and regulations for management.
- Development of mariculture procedures for commercially and recreationally important marine organisms will continue. Cooperative research projects will continue with Auburn University, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the University of South Alabama. This effort will be enhanced by the construction of a new mariculture facility at CPMC.
- Cooperative projects will continue with Auburn University, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and the University of South Alabama to investigate artificial reef benefits and red snapper production enhancement. MRD will continue to construct inshore and offshore artificial reefs as materials and funding allow. Cooperative efforts with groups such as the Saltwater Series Tournament and the Mobile County Wildlife Association will maximize available resources.

- Monthly inshore assessment and monitoring work will continue in order to provide a more comprehensive depiction of Alabama's marine waters and resources.
- Continuation of the MRFSS in Alabama to include creels of anglers on charter boats, private boats, and shorelines and to continue the For-Hire Telephone Survey to better define effort within the charter fishery.
- MRD will initiate a discard survey to more accurately depict species and size ranges that are thrown back. This information is essential for improved assessments of offshore species.
- Collection of Alabama commercial seafood landings data via Alabama's Trip Ticket Program and the collection of commercial biological fishery dependent data will continue.
- Rehabilitation of Alabama's oyster reefs, decimated by predation and recent drought and storm events, will continue. As part of the rebuilding process, MRD will implement its oyster management plan with assistance from Alabama's oyster community. MRD will purchase a barge to relay and plant oysters/cultch. Additionally, the barge will be used for assessment and a possible management station. This process is anticipated to achieve significant results.
- MRD will play a significant role in the damage assessment and recovery process of Alabama's marine resources in response to the DWH oil spill. MRD will continue to participate in NRDA activities and will implement a seafood testing and marketing program.





State Lands Division

The State Lands Division (SLD) manages undeveloped, state-owned trust lands that are specific as to their identity as well as to the income beneficiary.

In FY 2009-2010 Forever Wild Land Trust experienced a higher than normal level of land nominations and acquired 13,071 acres.

The State Lands Division (SLD) manages undeveloped, state-owned trust lands that are specific as to their identity as well as to the income beneficiary. The lands are currently identified as Sixteenth Section and Indemnity School Lands of approximately 30,000 acres; approximately 7,000 acres of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Department trust lands; Muscle Shoals Grant Lands of approximately 8,000 acres; and other lands, including submerged lands (inland and coastal) of approximately 600,000 acres. In addition, the SLD manages certain resources on Auburn University, Department of Corrections, Historical Commission, and Department of Transportation lands. Resource uses include oil and gas exploration and development, timber harvesting, farming, coal mining, hunting leases and commercial uses.

The SLD maintains the State Land Resource Information Center, which is the database of all lands owned by the State of Alabama and its departments, agencies and institutions. These records reflect lands acquired, owned, or managed by all state agencies and institutions. Records are submitted by each agency, checked against individual county tax assessment records and entered into the Division's Geographic Information System database.

The Forever Wild Public Land Acquisition Program is managed by the SLD at the direction of the program's Board of Trustees. Division personnel provide administrative support including coordination of the assessment and appraisal process, purchase negotiations, land purchase transactions, budget preparation and annual reporting to the governor and legislature. In addition to these administrative services, the SLD also manages many of the Forever Wild tracts, as well as complimentary tracts purchased by the SLD.

The SLD conducts sales of excess state lands pursuant to the State Land Sales and Leasing Act. This law establishes a procedure aimed at assuring that the state receives full fair market value for lands that it sells or leases and that the procedure is open, competitive and subject to public scrutiny.

Alabama's official natural heritage database is maintained by the SLD. Animal and plant species and areas of biological significance that make up the rich natural diversity of our state are identified and inventoried. This effort provides important biological information to conservation organizations, developers, governmental agencies and the public in general. It also complements the goals of Forever Wild.

The SLD operates four facilities dedicated to conservation and land stewardship educational programs. Three of these facilities are located in Baldwin County. Located in Spanish Fort, the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center is a gateway to the tremendous Mobile Tensaw River Delta. The Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, located in Fairhope, supports

education and research activities in the Weeks Bay watershed, an estuary of national significance. SLD also operates two Wehle Nature Centers, one in Spanish Fort (Baldwin) and the other near Midway in Bullock County.

The SLD conducts coastal resource management and planning through the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program (ACAMP). The ACAMP purpose is to promote, improve and safeguard the lands and waters located in Alabama's coastal area through a comprehensive and cooperative program designed to preserve, enhance and develop such valuable resources for the well-being of present and future generations. This program works in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and is federally funded by the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the Department of Commerce. The SLD also operates the Weeks Bay Reserve, a research facility geared to protecting public estuaries. These functions complement the Division's responsibilities for managing submerged lands.

The SLD administers a regulatory program which manages impacts and improvements to public tidal submerged lands in conjunction with Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the US Army Corps of Engineers and their respective jurisdiction on state and federal waters. The SLD regulations are designed to balance the rights of riparian property owners with the public use of those tidal submerged lands for navigation as well as fishing and other recreational uses.

The SLD administers the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) for the State of Alabama. The CIAP is a federally funded program managed by the U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) designed to mitigate impacts from Outer Continental Shelf activities. Specifically, the SLD implements projects selected by the State of Alabama, and coordinates grant administration activities with the two coastal counties, Baldwin and Mobile.

The SLD coordinates the Department's environmental review and comment process through the management of the Department's environmental review and comment database.

The SLD manages these responsibilities through three (3) principal sections: Administrative, Natural Heritage and Coastal. Specific accomplishments by each section for this past year follow.

STATE LANDS DIVISION

Sources of Receipts	Total Income
Miscellaneous Easements, fees and permits	\$1,181,862.26
Land leases, Farming, Hunting, etc.	\$591,536.87
Oil and Gas Royalty	\$117,686,758.15
Oil and Gas Bonuses/Rentals	\$82,769.77
OCS - 8 (G) Payments	\$7,300,301.40
Coal Bed Methane Royalty	\$867,071.71
Coal	\$1,077,745.87
SLSLA ACT - Act No 95-280	\$837,426.00
Timber Sales	\$1,682,573.75
Forever Wild Non-Governmental Contributions	\$1,705.00
TOTAL	\$131,309,750.78

Distribution of State Lands Division Receipts	
Alabama Trust Fund	\$119,598,459.89
ALDOT-Airport	\$16,300.00
Alabama Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation	\$106,833.23
Auburn University	\$425.90
Corrections	\$2,656,010.29
Department of Transportation	\$134,704.57
Department of Education	\$18,098.36
Schools	\$3,085,101.47
Forestry	\$334,101.25
Forever Wild	\$17,659.09
Forever Wild Stewardship	\$1,705.00
General Fund	\$16,792.38
Historical Commission	\$995,430.53
Montevalo University	\$150,000.00

Department of Conservation

State Lands Division	\$4,097,660.73
State Parks Division	\$21,976.03
Marine Resources Divisions	\$492.06
Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries	\$58,000.00
TOTAL	\$131,309,750.78

ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Processed numerous nominations for sales and leases of state-owned land pursuant to the provisions of the State Land Sales and Leasing Act. Included in this activity was trust land leased for purposes of hunting.
- Processed requests for oil, gas, and mineral leases on state-owned lands including submerged water bottoms.
- Supported statewide educational activities through sales of timber on school trust lands managed by the Division.
- Tidal Submerged Lands Management/Regulatory Program
 - o Received over 200 permit applications for projects impacting public submerged lands.
 - o Received 96 in-office visitors to Submerged Lands Office for general information and permit coordination meetings.
 - o Conducted 45 project on-site project coordination meetings and inspections.
 - o Coordinated with local and county municipalities, elected officials and federal agencies on development and implementation of management and regulatory initiatives impacting public submerged lands.
 - o Promoted public trust resource awareness and the understanding of riparian/littoral area development and its impacts on private property and public use of Alabama's tidal waters.
 - o Provided initial coordination at the Unified Command for implementing Alabama Geographic Response Plan for booming and related strategies immediately after Gulf Horizon Oil Spill.
- Administered the Forever Wild Land Trust and State Lands Division acquisition programs and facilitated the purchase of the following 10 purchases, totaling 13,071 acres.
 1. Barbour WMA-RMACK Tract Additions (Barbour County) 3,866 acres.
 2. Red Hills Tract (Monroe County) 2,509 acres.
 3. Walls of Jericho Sims, Swaim and Johnson Additions (Jackson County) 537 acres.
 4. Lauderdale WMA-Shaw Hollow and Pea Ridge Additions (Lauderdale County) 327 acres.
 5. Coon Gulf Clawson Tract (Jackson County) 3,225 acres.
 6. Tannehill Land and Ridges Tract (Jefferson and Bibb Counties) 553 acres.
 7. MSP-Flat Rock Addition (Madison County) 8.8 acres.
 8. Red Hills Hancock/CFS Addition (Monroe County) 1,786 acres.
 9. Weeks Bay Reserve-Dever Addition (by State Lands; Baldwin County) 64 acres.
 10. Lauderdale WMA-Denson Tract Addition (Lauderdale County) 195 acres.
- Continued the planning and implementation of recreational programs on Forever Wild Tracts.
 - o Maintained existing horseback riding and hiking trails, and began trail layout design and construction of a new 11-mile trail on the east side of the Walls of Jericho Tract in Jackson County.
 - o Maintained existing horseback riding and hiking trails at Shoal Creek Preserve Forever Wild Tract in Lauderdale County.
 - o Maintained existing horseback riding trails at the Wehle Forever Wild Tract in Bullock County.
 - o Maintained existing hiking trails at the Coon Creek Forever Wild Tract in Tallapoosa County.
 - o Hosted expanded public access opportunities, offering 66 Open Woods Days at the Sipsey River Recreation Area Forever Wild Tracts.
 - o Maintained the existing routes along Bartram Canoe Trail, and continued expansion planning for new routes and overnight stops extending to the 5 Rivers facility.
 - o Hosted 13 field trials, several dog training days, two public fishing days and several youth duck, deer and turkey hunts at the Forever Wild State Cattle Ranch in Hale County.
 - o Managed the physically disabled hunting area and hosted 53 deer hunts at the Forever Wild State Cattle Ranch.
 - o Made assessment and coordinated the opening and public access to both the Red Hills and Old Cahaba

**STATE LANDS DIVISION
NATIONAL HERITAGE
SECTION**

**Natural Heritage Section
secured a \$4 million USFWS
Habitat Conservation Plan
grant to purchase and protect
habitat supporting the
federally listed Threatened
Red Hills Salamander
in Monroe Co.**

- o Forever Wild Tracts.
- o Worked with the Alabama Hiking Trail Society in layout and design of a 9 mile hiking trail on the Coosa WMA Forever Wild Tract.
- o Made final preparations and implemented BMP measures for the public access road project on the Coldwater Mountain Forever Wild Tract. Road construction began at the beginning of this next reporting year.
- o Worked with members of the International Mountain Biking Association in trail layout and design of the first phase of mountain biking trails on the Coldwater Mountain Forever Wild Tract.
- Implemented the State of Alabama Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP).
 - o Initiated the implementation of the approved CIAP Plan for FY 2007 and FY 2008 through the preparation and submittal of 10 grant applications to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). After grants were approved by the BOEMRE, projects were implemented according to the project's approved scope of work.
 - o Initiated planning for two public meetings in association with the development of the FY 2009 and FY 2010 CIAP Plan.
 - o Managed the CIAP public participation process as dictated by program guidelines.
 - o Developed State of Alabama CIAP projects in cooperation with other ADCNR divisions.
 - o Coordinated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement and two coastal counties regarding program implementation.
 - o Coordinated with the other CIAP States including Alaska, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

**5 Rivers 2010 attendance
is estimated at 55,000,
in association with
1,000 unique events.**

- Coordinated Departmental activities relating to the Natural Resource Damage Assessment program including site inspections and participation in Natural Resource Trustee Council meetings.
- Held the annual Alabama Outdoor Heritage Day, Spring Festival, and Bullock County Kids and Cops day at the Wehle Land Conservation Center in Midway, Ala.
- Responded to numerous requests from agencies and the public regarding information contained in the Land Resource Information Center (LRIC) database. Staff also worked with a number of state agencies to update information regarding state

land ownership.

- Field staff continued routine land management activities including boundary marking, timber cruising, prescribed burning, invasive plant eradication and law enforcement.
- Hosted eight field trips for students in Bullock and Macon Counties at the Wehle Nature Center in Midway. These field trips are a cooperative effort between the State Lands Division and the Auburn University Environmental Institute.
- Reviewed and responded to numerous Corp. of Engineers Public Notices Permits involving impacts to state-owned water-bottoms.
- Developed the Mitigation Banking Instrument for the proposed Grand Bay Savanna Wetland Mitigation Bank.
- Coordinated the Request for Proposal for consulting services to conduct engineering work and a stream corridor assessment, and design of a stream restoration plan for approximately 6.0 miles of Big German Creek, Little German Creek, and associated unnamed tributaries located within the State Lands Division and Forever Wild Land Trust State Cattle Ranch property, Hale County.
- Performed preliminary vegetative, soil, and stream corridor assessments of possible stream and wetland mitigation areas located within State Lands Division owned Perdido and Frey Tracts.

5 RIVERS DELTA RESOURCE CENTER

2010 marked the third full year of operations for the 5 Rivers Delta Resource Center in Spanish Fort, whose mission is to serve as a gateway to outdoor recreation, conservation education, and land stewardship in the tremendous Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. This was a year of continued growth for the facility, which has been well received by the public.

- Overall attendance to 5 Rivers in 2010 is estimated at 55,000. The facility hosted more than 1,000 unique events, receptions, meetings, guided tours, field trips, and educational classes. Rental offerings at the facility generated approximately \$145,000 in revenue.
- Recreational offerings at 5 Rivers also grew in 2010. The facility constructed two open-air picnic pavilions overlooking the Blakeley River. Five Rivers Delta Safaris, a concessioner that offers a wide variety of tours into the Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, served approximately 6,000 passengers via pontoon boat tours and canoe/kayak rentals. The state received approximately \$7,000 in concession payments generated from these tours.

- Educational Programs increased remarkably in 2010. The facility provided over 220 guided educational tours serving over 8,900 students. We also increased our Saturday Adventure educational program offerings and continued the Tensaw Theater's Sunday Matinee programming. This summer, we also included weekly "Story Time" offerings for pre-schoolers. The facility also provided offsite education/outreach by setting up display booths at a variety of area events, and by providing speakers to various civic organizations, community groups, and schools. The Apalachee Exhibit Hall continued to grow its collection of specimens, and created new exhibits, including the "Just One Tree" exhibit that focuses on invasive plant species. The space also hosted the following traveling exhibits:
 - 2010 Outdoor Alabama Photo Contest Winners
 - Winners of the 2010 Marine Resources Division children's calendar art contest
 - "A River Runs Through It" exhibit of the Eastern Shore Art Center
- 5 Rivers' Cypress Gift Shop moved from its original location to the much larger Shellbank Visitor Center building in September, allowing that building to be fully utilized without the addition of new staff. The shop generated approximately \$35,000 in sales in 2010.

Special Events:

- In April, 5 Rivers and the City of Spanish Fort hosted the 2nd Annual Delta Woods and Waters Expo, a 3-day conservation event that attracted over 2,000 participants.
- In October, 5 Rivers served as host site for the 7th Annual Alabama Coastal Birdfest, which drew over 300 participants for four days of guided birding tours.
- 5 Rivers hosted a variety of community events throughout the year, including the American Heart Association's Heart Walk, the third annual Turtle Derby on the Delta, and our annual Halloween and Christmas open house events.

LAND STEWARDSHIP

- *Conducted prescribed fires to reduce the threat of wildfire and restore native habitat on over 3,000 acres of Forever Wild property.*
- *Sprayed herbicide to control exotic invasive plants on 10 Forever Wild properties.*
- *Continued a habitat restoration program to support the only population of red-cockaded woodpeckers, an endangered species, living on state owned land.*

- *Continued gopher tortoise relocation project at the Wehle tract with preparations to received 50 gopher tortoises from Ft. Benning, GA.*
- *Initiated a sandhills restoration effort on state lands in south and central Alabama, in partnership with chapters of The Nature Conservancy.*

NATURAL HERITAGE SECTION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Natural Heritage Section (NHS) maintained the internet interface of the NHS database. The NHS database is now maintained as a sequel server database accessible via a secure internet web site for approved users in the ADCNR. This database now contains over 1 million records.
- NHS staff pursued technological methods to increase geographic information transmission within the Division and Department.
- Staff biologists continued biodiversity survey work, habitat assessment, participated in trail planning and continued collecting detailed GPS/GIS data of the Forever Wild tracts to aid with the management and research of these tracts.
- Staff biologist conducted biological surveys to evaluate specific species distribution and abundance including Gulf marsh bird surveys, WNS Winter bat cave surveys, Red Cockaded Woodpecker monitoring, and rare plant searches.
- Personnel administered a \$4 million USFWS Habitat Conservation Plan grant, which allowed the acquisition of 3,953 acres protect habitat supporting the federally listed Threatened Red Hills Salamander within Monroe County, an additional 423 acres was acquired with as the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and a USFWS Recovery Lands Grant.
- NHS staff assisted in the productions of grant proposals for scientific research, habitat restoration, and land acquisition grant proposals including USFWS Section 6, National Fish and Wildlife Fund, National Coastal Wetland Program and Forest Legacy Program.
- Staff continued the process of reviewing new Forever Wild land nominations for biological diversity, ascertaining the availability of all nominated tracts, and providing this information for Forever Wild board meetings.
- Staff supplied information from the NHS database, along with numerous maps and other GIS products, in an effort to improve thorough review of development projects within the state.

STATE LANDS

Prescribed fires to reduce the threat of wildfire and restore native habitat conducted on over 3,000 acres of Forever Wild property.

COASTAL SECTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS **ALABAMA COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

- Coastal Area Research Grants: during the year, four grant projects were administered in Baldwin and Mobile counties.
- Coastal Resource Improvement Grants: during the year, four planning grants were funded in Baldwin and Mobile counties.
- 306A low-cost public access construction: completed two public access projects to coastal waters in Baldwin and Mobile County.
- Public outreach and education: during the year, seven projects were administered in Baldwin and Mobile counties, including Coastal Cleanup, habitat protection and restoration, and responses to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

WEEKS BAY NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE

- The Weeks Bay Reserve provided basic functions associated with program Administration and Operations, Research, Education and Outreach, Coastal Training Program/Watershed Project, Stewardship, and the Volunteer Program.

- Secured \$500,000 federal funds for coastal acquisition in partnership with Forever Wild.
- Coordinated research from universities and agencies on 10 research projects.
- Collected and maintained water quality and weather data from five sites in Weeks Bay.
- Provided Geographic Information System (GIS) support to the Coastal Section.
- Coordinated with the Gulf of Mexico Alliance (GOMA) on various educational activities.
- Conducted on-site programs at the Reserve for approximately 3,000 K-12 students.
- Provided educational activities for 4,000 fourth grade students at Waterfestival in February.
- Conducted or hosted approximately 12 workshops as part of the Weeks Bay Coastal Training Program (CTP).
- Highlights for the year also included activities of Response and Recovery to the DWH Oil Spill, purchase of 64 acres of coastal wetlands known as the Dever Tract, repair of 300 feet of decking and bulkhead at the Weeks Bay Resource Center, and prepared draft document for Reserve Facilities Master Plan.





STATE LANDS

Cahaba lilies on the
Cahaba River outside
Birmingham, AL



State Parks Division

The State Parks Division operates and maintains 22 state parks encompassing approximately 48,000 acres of land and water. State Parks hosted more than 3 million guests in FY 2009-2010.

The State Parks Division operates and maintains 22 state parks encompassing approximately 48,000 acres of land and water in Alabama. The parks range from Gulf Coast beaches to Appalachian Mountains providing opportunities and facilities from basic day-use activities, to resort convention lodging, restaurant and golfing areas.

The mission of the Division is to 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.

The Division's goals are to manage and operate the State Parks system in an economically sound and efficient manner on the most self-sustaining basis possible; to provide and maintain high quality facilities and services to meet the needs of visitors; to provide an opportunity for personal growth and development of individuals through outdoor experiences; to promote use of State Parks facilities; to preserve unique natural features and integrity of State Parks for future generations and to promote good will and enhance the public image of Alabama, and the Alabama State Parks through dedicated, courteous employees.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The division continued to operate and maintain 22 state parks serving more than 3 million guests annually on a constantly decreasing operational budget. Additional significant accomplishments were made in improving purchasing procedures, computer systems, operation and maintenance policies, financial management analysis, advertising and marketing, natural resource management and the continuous coordination, supervision and implementation of a comprehensive statewide, state parks renovations program.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

Each of the 22 operational state parks has an internal park staff determined by size, development and operation of each area. Total employees for all parks vary from approximately 800 during peak season to approximately 600 during the off-season.

The Parks Division central office in Montgomery includes six sections: Administrative, Operations and Maintenance, Purchasing, Management Analysis, Natural Resources and Advertising/Marketing, and operates with 16 full-time and three part-time staff.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

Lack of sufficient funds for total renovation and repair of aging facilities and replacement of worn out equipment as well as basic operational needs is the major problem for State Parks. A source of steady funding to support facility maintenance and operations is the necessary solution to this problem. It is hoped that increased park utilization and revenue generated as stimulated by the progressing renovations will help this situation, but additional funding that keeps pace with increasing operating costs is required.

MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS SECTION

The responsibilities and functions of the Management Analysis Section are to provide general administrative direction and coordination for management control, administrative cost analysis, performance reporting, data processing, general accounting, budgeting, payables, receivables, and purchasing.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Section personnel received, processed and analyzed 2,184 performance reports for all state parks; prepared Park System Performance Reports as required by the Budget Management Act; received, processed and analyzed operations plans, budget reports and related reports; prepared Park System Operation Plans and fiscal year budgets; processed approximately \$40,233,196 in receipts and 14,136 payment vouchers; and disbursed 13,936 warrants and approximately 14,500 payroll checks through and from the State Accounting System.

Section staff also continuously monitored data processing output, distributed it to statewide park cost centers, and monitored managerial audits as well as personnel actual versus budget for each state park. Management Analysis is continuing to work with Central Accounting Data Processing and developing detailed monthly financial statements as it relates to overall financial aspects of the State Parks System as well as specific operations. Management Analysis continued to revise resale inventory procedures to promote better accountability.

FUTURE PLANS

- Increase programming to streamline automated accounting at park level in order to monitor business and personnel.

- Continue to improve monthly financial reports generated through IT Data Processing to aid managers in making financial decisions relating to business and personnel.
- Analyze individual park facilities to determine their cost effectiveness.
- Implementation of Megasys Hospitality System at nine major parks.
- Complete implementation of hourly employee timesheet programs.

NATURAL RESOURCES SECTION

The Natural Resources Section was created in 1982 to manage the natural, scientific and biological aspects of all State Park land and water areas. Administrative functions include protecting, managing and enhancing state parks' natural resources and providing opportunities for public access and enjoyment of natural resource areas via nature trails, environmental programs and special events. This section also coordinates in-house State Parks grants administration.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Park guests are entertained and educated through interpretive recreational activities and environmental education programs each year. Interpretive naturalist programs are conducted at Gulf, Oak Mountain, DeSoto, and Lake Guntersville State Parks. The park naturalists assisted with a variety of public outreach programs, audio-visual and live presentation programs on tree identification, waterfowl, songbirds, raptors and other environmental topics.
- Updated hiking and nature trail maps, assisted in upgrading trails statewide and trail planning at Frank Jackson, Wind Creek, Chewacla, Lake Guntersville and Oak Mountain State Parks. The walking trail at Frank Jackson and the addition of 4.5 miles of bike trail and a support bridge at Oak Mountain State Park were also completed.
- Natural Resources personnel assisted Tourism and Travel in highlighting state parks trails and served on the Alabama Birding Trails Advisory Committee. This committee, made up of different resource agencies, will expand birding trail locations within Alabama.
- Produced articles for publication; helped plan, organize and participate in the annual Park Naturalist meeting, planned several Earth Day activities, maintained and improved the

bi-weekly Park Naturalist Information Coordination Programs and consulted with and served on boards of environmental organizations.

- Further planning towards establishing classes through the Wildland Fire Academy was established for wildland urban interface involving the communities of Gulf Shores, Orange Beach and Gulf State Park. Also, the first phase of a wildland fire plan was designed for Guntersville State Park.
- Section Personnel also coordinated and conducted a variety of research programs pertaining to white-tailed deer over populations at Oak Mountain and Lake Guntersville, and assisted in conducting one deer population reduction public hunt at Oak Mountain State Park. Natural Resource personnel coordinated a new planning/hunt concept at Oak Mountain State Park for the 2010-2011 season.
- Natural Resources staff participated in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Nongame Wildlife program events, Forever Wild Land Acquisition evaluations, and Regional Fishing Day events.
- Staff also coordinated a sea oat harvesting and restoration program for beach habitat enhancement at Gulf State Park and further construction of firebreaks within the Park. Section staff also worked at securing other Federal funds for a number of habitat enhancement projects on the coast. These grant monies, derived from the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP), will concentrate funds for further longleaf pine restoration, environmental education, firebreak trails and land management corridors within the park.
- Staff coordinated scientific collection permit requests for various park locations; conducted fish management programs at Frank Jackson; conducted aquatic vegetation reduction programs in various state park lakes; coordinated diseased timber removal statewide; assisted with forest insect research projects; conducted forest fire danger notification and suppression programs and coordinated contract preparation, timber marking and removal following storm damage at various state parks.
- The Section continued its successful forest management/ viewscaping programs at Lake Guntersville and Wind Creek State Parks designed to improve park recreational potential, forest health and wildlife habitat.
- In the past fiscal year, fuel reduction/wildlife habitat enhancement prescribe burns were completed in three state parks and totaled 950 acres. In addition, timber stand improvement/wildlife habitat enhancement thinning and

STATE PARKS NATURAL RESOURCES SECTIONS

Natural Resource Section coordinated a white-tail deer herd health check at Lake Guntersville State Park involving USDA Wildlife Services.

salvage operations were conducted on two parks that totaled 280 acres. Tree planting initiatives on approximately 102 acres were also accomplished at Gulf State Park.

- Trapping and relocation of giant Canada Geese also continues as necessary, in various State Parks. Natural Resources personnel reviewed and commented on hundreds of environmental compliance permit requests and reviewed and approved numerous collection permit applications where appropriate. Land encroachment, boundary line disputes/discrepancies and conflicts are handled continuously. In this effort, the section continues to upgrade Alabama State Parks deed files to establish procedures to maintain verified boundaries.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The section continues to face the problem of insufficient funding for serious problems such as correcting lake siltation at numerous parks, expanding the environmental education program, constructing much-needed nature centers, conducting whitetail deer overpopulation research programs, continued forest management program/herbicide work and initiating a greatly needed and long overdue park boundary survey and marking program which will incorporate external firebreaks. Funds have not been available for these projects, and solutions are still being sought.

FUTURE PLANS

- Expand environmental education and interpretative facilities, activities and staff as needs and funds justify.
- Recommend construction of a nature center at Lake Guntersville; redesign Oak Mountain's nature center (in progress) add an interpretive program and possible facility at Joe Wheeler State Park, expand the interpretive program at Cheaha State Park, continue construction of natural habitat exhibits, and expand the nature center at Gulf State Park (in progress).
- Increase special winter events.
- Expand park timber and understory plant management to improve wildlife habitat carrying capacity, park aesthetics and natural, native ecosystem integrity.
- Manage healthy wildlife populations compatible with habitat carrying capacity and enhance public wildlife observation opportunities.
- Manage aquatic programs for environmental quality and public enjoyment.
- Facilitate more training opportunities for parks' field personnel in

wildland fire behavior and prescription burn practices.

- Seek greater awareness of State Parks through articles in magazines and other publications.
- Assist in the production of trail maps and natural resource management brochures and increase public communication to strengthen environmental responsibility among park guests.
- Participate in more training programs to facilitate the collection of more field data through Geographical Information Systems which will enable State Parks to more adequately inventory natural resources and produce color-coded maps of significant importance.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE SECTION

The Operations and Maintenance Section provides daily supervision of park managers and superintendents to ensure that more than 3.5 million annual park visitors enjoy high quality recreation facilities and services. The Operations and Maintenance Section staff logs many hours in the field inspecting facilities and equipment, investigating complaints and providing guidance to field personnel.

Several sections within the division, including the Operations and Maintenance Section, are utilizing part-time retired state employees to offset personnel shortages. The retired workers bring a wealth of experience and dedication but are only part-time and of a temporary nature. The parks are supplementing their staff through the Volunteers in Parks (VIP) program. This program has provided the parks with an additional workforce of experienced, dedicated and reliable workers to fill many positions left vacant by budget shortfalls. This program will continue to be utilized to supplement the workforce into the foreseeable future.

- Five merit system positions were filled after interviews and recommendations from the Operations and Maintenance Section. There were also 12 merit position promotions during this fiscal year.
- Law enforcement trailing was conducted and coordinated by the Operations' staff for 41 state officers.
- More than 1,019 accident/incident/offense and arrest reports were submitted by the Parks to this section for review and analysis.
- Section staff investigated and made recommendations on

26 Board of Adjustment Claims that were filed against the State Parks Division. The section staff represented the State Parks Division at Board of Adjustment hearings and testified concerning this claims before the Board.

- Section staff manages a division-wide personal property inventory, in cooperation with the Departmental Property Inventory Section, of 5,444 inventory items valued at \$14,892,073. Section staff provides daily management of the personal property inventory system and processed all additions and deletions to the system.
- Section staff manages the property insurance program for the division and processed 20 claims during the year. Continual review of insurance coverage is ongoing by the staff to insure that adequate coverage is maintained on 831 state parks structures.
- Section staff manages the ongoing State Parks Inspection Program, which provides inspection checklists, schedules, responsibilities, and record keeping guidelines. This program ensures all levels of management are looking at the important elements of our mission and provides continuity between the various levels of supervision.
- The section enrolled in the federal government's 1033 Program, which provides surplus federal property to law enforcement agencies to utilize in accomplishing their mission. Under this program the State Parks Division received emergency generators, a bucket truck and a number of weapons.
- An RFP was issued by the Division for an energy reduction program. After a through review and extensive vendor demonstration presentations, Johnson Controls was selected as the contractor for our program. The contractor identified numerous projects that will be pursued throughout the parks system. The contract has been signed and is currently in the legislative review process.
- The Division was awarded a grant by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for \$84,439.80 that was funded by their scrap tire disposal program. The grant will fund numerous projects throughout the parks system utilizing recycled tire products.
- During this year a Dog Friendly Policy was established, which allows specific parks to designate a select number of lodge rooms and cabins in the parks system as dog friendly.
- The Division is expanding its equestrian trails program with trail and campground developments at Oak Mountain, Cheaha, Lake Guntersville and Wind Creek State Parks.

- The MEGASYS Property Management System is operational in nine parks (Joe Wheeler, Monte Sano, DeSoto, Lake Guntersville and Gulf State Parks). The networking group ATN has installed Wi-Fi in the campgrounds at Gulf and Wind Creek State Parks. Cheaha and Joe Wheeler State Parks campgrounds will be set up with Wi-Fi in the near future.

The State Parks Operations and Maintenance Section Staff worked on the following projects in 2010:

- **Buck's Pocket State Park:**
 - All park roadways were repaved. The bathhouse was renovated and modernized. A new fishing pier was installed at Morgan's Cove day use area.
- **DeSoto State Park:**
 - The rear parking lot at the lodge was enlarged and paved.
- **Floral State Park:**
 - An amphitheater with concrete bleachers seating and a stage was installed on the lake shore. Also the large older community building, manger's house and maintenance building was razed and a multi-use community building was built on the site. The smaller community club building was relocated to a city location.
- **Frank Jackson State Park:**
 - A new walking trail connecting the campground with the beach and day use area was completed. The trail includes a lengthy elevated walkway across a natural marsh area. The parking lots at the beach and the accessible fishing area were enlarged and paved.
- **Gulf State Park:**
 - The new pool complex in the campground was completed and opened. The new campground registration building, laundry, country store and nature center were also completed and opened for business.
- **Lake Guntersville State Park:**
 - The transient dock at the beach/boat ramp area was repaired and enlarged. The parking lot at the golf course was repaved. Parking areas at chalets and cabins was enlarged and repaved. A chalet (408) that was destroyed by fire in 2009 was rebuilt.

STATE PARKS SECTIONS

The division continued to operate and maintain 22 state parks serving more than 3 million guests annually on a constantly decreasing operational budget. Lack of sufficient funds for total renovation and repair of aging facilities and replacement of worn out equipment as well as basic operational needs is the major problem for State Parks.

■ **Lakepoint State Park:**

- The parking lot at the golf pro-shop was paved. New 50 amp electrical service was installed in one of the campground loops by members of the electrical union. The renovation of the Lodge was completed and a new swimming pool was installed.

■ **Monte Sano State Park:**

- Main park entrance roadway was enlarged and repaved.

■ **Rickwood Caverns State Park:**

- All park roadways were repaved.

■ **Joe Wheeler State Park:**

- The new covered marina dock was completed and opened for business. The parking lots at the lodge and marina were paved. Parking areas at the south side cabins were enlarged and paved.

STATE PARKS PROMOTIONS

The Alabama State Parks Promotions Section was created in 1983 to coordinate the overall advertising, marketing and promotional efforts of the Alabama State Parks system. The section currently employs three people in the Montgomery office.

Administrative functions include coordination of radio and television public service announcements; preparation and distribution of promotional literature; coordination of print and photographic material for magazines, campground directories, and newspaper articles; cooperation and coordination with the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus, tourist association and special events promoters; evaluation of advertising opportunities; purchasing of advertising space; production of ads and advertising materials; assistance with individual State Parks promotional efforts; participation in travel shows, sport and boat shows, special events, and the National Fair exhibits; continuous updating of photos; presentation of programs for various organizations; and the operation of the Central Reservations State Park service to the public.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This past year saw the economy continue to be sluggish throughout the country. As if this weren't problem enough, we experienced an oil spill in the Gulf that seriously affected all tourism along the Gulf Coast.

The Promotions Section started off the 2009-2010 fiscal year with a display booth at the National Fair in Montgomery, Ala. The fair lasts for 10 days and hundreds of people come by and ask questions about the parks, pick up literature, and register for free weekend give-away certificates at the parks. After the first of the calendar year the Promotions Section gets extremely busy. Early in January, we represented the parks with a display booth at the Tampa Super Show. This show is billed as the largest RV & Camping show in the United States. For five days literally thousands of people file by providing great opportunities to distribute informative literature and answer any questions about the State Parks. Later in January, it is on to Atlanta for the Spring RV & Camping show. We have participated in this show for years and because of the enthusiastic and pro-active approach toward greeting our potential customers, we have secured the first booth as people enter the show. We are literally the first they see when they enter and the last they see as they leave the show. In February we participated in the Huntsville and Birmingham RV shows. These shows provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the vacation opportunities available to citizens that live right here in Alabama. Our primary promotion item is a calendar that is produced each year, with the assistance of the I&E Section.

February saw the end of our Fab 5 website promotion that began in July of 2009. It was a very popular promotion that taught us a lot. In March, we kicked off our spring website promotion/ad campaign. Our I&E Section produced a radio commercial for our spring promotion campaign. Air time was purchased through the Luckie Ad Agency. The theme was, "Life's More Fun Outdoor" and "Come on in, in 2010." Buttons for staff to wear and table topper signs were provided to all the parks; along with a rack card promoting all the activities available at the parks. Guntersville State Park had t-shirts designed that read, "Come on in, in 2010." They were fairly successful in selling them, and park staff actually wore them during the summer months. Representatives from the Promotion Section appeared on several television newscasts and some cable TV outlets. All of the Alabama Welcome Centers participated in the promotion along with several of the state's CVB's.

In April, open house events were planned for 18 of the 22 state parks. These events were to allow individuals the opportunity to visit park facilities; such as lodge hotel rooms, cabins, chalets, and cottages with a free tour. Several television appearances across the state were made to promote the open house events. A second day of open house events was scheduled for August.

During the summer months, the Promotions Section was responsible for the installation of the sound system at Lakepoint Resort State Park in Eufaula, Ala. The system included the restaurant, lounge, lobby and ballroom. The system included multiple cd players to allow

different parts of the lodge facility to play separate types of music. The ballroom system can work as one unit or three individual systems for three separate meeting rooms. This work provided a substantial savings to the State Parks.

We participated in the Cumulus Golf Card during this past year; which provided significant radio air time for the parks throughout the Montgomery and Central Alabama listening area, as well as \$4,000 of credit with these stations to use at a future date.

A new "Stay and Play" gift card was designed for the Parks to sell. Unlike the regular gift cards, this card can only be used for lodging, camping and golf. The gift card was part of our Spring promotion.

A new brochure for Lakepoint State Park was designed and produced this year. The Cheaha brochure was updated, along with the printing of a newly designed Joe Wheeler brochure. Also, the State Parks color brochure was updated to include the completion of several renovation projects that have been underway.

For the second straight year the Promotions Section hosted a V.I.P. meeting. This meeting allows us to invite some of our volunteers together to discuss our volunteer program, monitor its successes, and receive input from the volunteers to hopefully make our volunteer program better in the future. Some of our volunteers were recognized for their hard work at the Annual Managers Meeting in February.

The Promotions Section participated in the State Employee's Orientation Program on multiple occasions during 2009-2010.

Many suggestions have been made regarding our current website in an effort to make it more attractive, informative, and easy to navigate. Some of these suggestions have been implemented, while others are in the planning stages.

In September of this past year, we participated in the Fall RV & Camping Show in Atlanta, GA.

The Promotions Section submitted, for the first time, a Marketing and Advertising Plan to the Director for consideration. The plan included multiple efforts to keep the State Parks before the public eye with the focus being the Parks website in most of these suggestions. In August the Promotions Sections assumed responsibility for the Parks email newsletter

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

The Promotions Section has two problems, (1) Lack of funding, (2) Lack of adequate staff. The sky is the limit when it comes to marketing and advertising. There are a number of ideas to advertise and market the State Parks, and each has merit with the only question being the degree of effectiveness. Here is our problem: creative promotions can be effective in keeping the State Parks name before the general

public. These type promotions can be relatively inexpensive. However, this type of approach takes more people, or in this case staff. Radio, television, web and billboard advertising can be very effective in advertising the parks, but this approach takes money. Since we are lacking in both areas, it makes the job more difficult and more challenging. The one thing that would help us, given the hand that we are dealt, would be a commitment by way of an annual budget that provides so much funding for printed materials used to promote the parks, and so much for media advertising. Utilizing the website for advertising and promotion is okay, but it doesn't eliminate the need for funding. If we decide to place all our advertising and promoting efforts on the website, then we have to spend money advertising the website and directing traffic that way. Increased traffic to the website doesn't necessarily translate into an increase in business, unless the right kind of people are being directed to the website. To get those people visiting the site continues to take money.

FUTURE PLANS

For the first time we have a marketing and advertising plan we are going to follow through this fiscal year. It will require some funding. Nothing is free. It will be centered on the website, but media advertising in different concepts is part of the plan as well. We will be placing great emphasis on our ability to negotiate agreements with large membership organizations, such as A.A.R.P. and Triple A that will allow us the opportunity to take advantage of their marketing and networking. Discounts for the members of these organizations is the key. We have submitted plans that restructure our discount program in order for us to allow discounts to these organizations with hundreds of thousands of members.

We plan to produce a color golf brochure this year and also a color brochure for Lake Lurleen State Park. Rack cards will be utilized beginning this year, in some venues, in an effort to keep down cost for printed materials.

PURCHASING SECTION

The Purchasing Section consists of one supervisor, one full-time clerical and one part-time clerical employee. We operate under the laws and guidelines established by the Code of Alabama, Title 41, and the policies and procedures established by the Alabama Department of Finance with regard to purchasing and payment processes.

The section handles purchasing activities for 22 State Parks, six golf courses and five motel and lodge complexes. Money for these purchases comes from various sources, such as: park revenues,

STATE PARKS SECTIONS

The new pool complex in the campground was completed and opened. The new campground registration building, laundry, country store and nature center were also completed and opened for business.

renovation and bond monies, timber sales, donations, insurance claims, grants and other funds.

Our Purchasing Office maintains a record of all purchases on purchase orders, emergency letters, building contracts, and phone authorizations. We work with vendors, Parks Administration, Conservation Administration, Finance Purchasing, Comptrollers office and employees of all 22 state parks in completing the required work.

We work with the Management Analysis Section to assure accurate accounting data for payments. We assist in any way possible to eliminate waste in spending in the Montgomery office, as well as in the parks in order to provide the best quality at the best pricing for all commodities and services purchased. We provide information for all employees of parks, from management to maintenance employees, via email, phone and faxes for assistance with product purchases.

Our office works closely with the Director's office and Operations and Maintenance Section on various projects, including emergency insurance claims, making sure inventory numbers are assigned, answering phone calls and assisting with address lists and mass email correspondences with the parks.

We work with Promotions Section on promoting state parks by making updates on the website, assisting with brochures, e-newsletters, answering phone calls and emails and provide photographs to promote the parks. We assist the Natural Resources Section with purchases they are involved in, including such items as: tree planting, herbicide treatments, controlled burns and forest-mulching service contracts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Routine purchases, emergency purchases and annual agreements. Most purchases were of a routine nature to continue operations during the tough economic times we have experienced the last few years. Such purchases include: replacement water and sewage pumps, linen services, water testing services, uniforms, mattresses, chemicals and mowers for the golf courses, mowing and landscaping service contracts, equipment purchases, and building materials to maintain facilities. Other routine services to help serve our guests include such commodities as garbage service, pest control and portable toilet services.
- Some purchases from funds other than budgets during the year included: campground gates, point of sale equipment and computers, and electrical supplies for Lakepoint State Park's major campground renovation project.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue to provide purchasing services to parks and lodges for their daily needs, as well as during renovations, emergencies and ongoing projects.
- Continue to be of service to support the Alabama State Parks system in areas of need.
- Continue to work with the Finance Department and Purchasing Division to obtain products and services and provide payment to vendors in an efficient manner.



- 1 - Bladon Springs
- 2 - Blue Springs
- 3 - Buck's Pocket
- 4 - Cathedral Caverns
- 5 - Cheaha
- 6 - Chewacla
- 7 - Chickasaw
- 8 - DeSoto
- 9 - Florala
- 10 - Frank Jackson
- 11 - Gulf
- 12 - Joe Wheeler
- 13 - Lake Guntersville
- 14 - Lake Lurleen
- 15 - Lakepoint
- 16 - Meaher
- 17 - Monte Sano
- 18 - Oak Mountain
- 19 - Paul M. Grist
- 20 - Rickwood Caverns
- 21 - Roland Cooper
- 22 - Wind Creek





Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, charged by law with protection, management and enhancement of the state's fish and wildlife resources, is composed of the Administrative, Enforcement, Fisheries, and Wildlife Sections.

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, charged by law with protection, management and enhancement of the state's fish and wildlife resources, is composed of the Administrative, Enforcement, Fisheries, and Wildlife Sections. The Division meets these responsibilities by carrying out coordinated, scientifically-sound enforcement, management, research, development, and educational programs designed to ensure protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife populations and habitats for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The legislature passed bills that updated the commercial fowl hunting preserve license and provided for no net loss of hunting lands managed by the Department.
- The Department launched a new tool that enables the public to report hunting or fishing violations anonymously via text message. We are the third wildlife agency in the country to make use of this program.
- The Youth Dove Hunting Program had 29 sites across the state with approximately 1,375 participants, 20.9 percent of which were first time hunters. The Community Fishing Program conducted 58 events with over 11,000 participants.
- Construction on the Dothan Eastgate Park Archery Range and the Demopolis Community Archery Park concluded during fiscal year 2010.
- Alabama's National Archery in the Schools Program continued to show growth and now has approximately 210 schools participating.
- During the year, the Division continued an adaptive challenge initiative. The core question to be answered was "What are the things we can do to operate more effectively in order to meet public demands for service within available funding?"

ADMINISTRATIVE

The Administrative Section carried out support services regarding personnel, budget, accounting, licenses, and property management. Activities were monitored and documentation maintained to ensure compliance with Federal Aid requirements. Planning and coordination of Division programs were conducted.

Ten staff members included one Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Director, one Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Assistant Director, one Aircraft Pilot II, one Senior Accountant, one Biologist IV, one Biologist II, one Accounting Technician I, one ASA III and two ASA IIs.

WILDLIFE DIVERSITY

The State Wildlife Grants and the Landowner Incentive Program are two federal funding sources intended to focus management on declining wildlife species and avoid their eventual listing under the Endangered Species Act. Federal funding to the State Wildlife Grants program in FY09 was \$934,107. These funds are used to support various research and species restoration efforts, including establishment of the Aquatic Biodiversity Center (administered by the Fisheries Section) and implementation of the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. For FY09, the Landowner Incentive program received \$528,180 for longleaf pine restoration on private lands. These new federal funds were awarded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Existing funds are used for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration on private lands in the Paint Rock, Coosa, Cahaba and Choctawhatchee river basins and in association with the longleaf pine ecosystem. These programs are administered by two biologists in the Administrative Section who work closely with Wildlife Section and Fisheries Section staff. Both programs interact with and engage a broad range of partners, including federal and state agencies, universities, non-government organizations and private landowners.

ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Section of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries assists in the management and enhancement of Alabama's wildlife and freshwater fish resources through a sound enforcement program.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

The Law Enforcement Section is headquartered in the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries office in Montgomery. This office is staffed by the Chief Enforcement

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES FOR WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

Section Name	Budgeted Amount*	Expenditures
Administrative	\$1,527,387	\$913,325
Enforcement	\$13,852,020	\$12,589,377
Fisheries	\$8,401,353	\$6,614,670
Wildlife	\$11,097,971	\$9,090,629
Wildlife Diversity	\$1,925,000	\$1,496,253
Transferred to Department Administrative Transfer	\$2,726,215	\$2,361,865
General Fund Pass Through to AL Black Belt Initiative	\$550,000	\$550,000
Total	\$40,079,946	\$33,616,119

*Funding includes Federal Aid in Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration monies apportioned to Alabama based on the state's geographical size and hunting and fishing license sales.

FY 2010 WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Arrests	6,662
Warnings	1,402

*WFF Enforcement officers responded to over (????) calls for service through our six district offices and the Montgomery headquarters.

Officer, an Assistant Chief of Operations, two Administrative Captains, one ASA I, two ASA IIs, and one ASA III, an Account Clerk and five Police Communications Officers. The Montgomery staff processes vehicle repairs; orders, purchases and issues supplies and equipment; issues permits; conducts investigations; coordinates training; provides information to officers and the public regarding laws and regulations; provides guidance to officers and the general public on enforcement issues; coordinates with and assists other government agencies with public health and safety issues; and performs other duties involving the enforcement program.

The field staff is organized into five districts with a captain as supervisor and two lieutenants as assistant supervisors. Each district supervisor is assigned to a district office. Districts vary in size from 11 to 15 counties with generally two officers in each county. The Section has an investigative unit staffed with one lieutenant as supervisor (vacant) and four investigator positions (three vacant) that have the rank of sergeant. A special task force consists of retired conservation officers who are employed on a part time basis and are used in problem areas of the state or where vacancies exist.

The Law Enforcement Section is authorized 131 uniformed field officers. Eighteen of these positions are sergeants (two are vacant) who are field supervisors. Due to retirements and resignations, the Section currently has 19 field officer and two sergeant positions which are vacant.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Officer Thomas Traylor of Coosa County received the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Officer of the Year Award for Alabama.
- Officer Keilan Lord of Cherokee County received the National Wild Turkey Federation's Officer of the Year Award.
- Sgt. Jon Sims of Lee County received the Alabama Wildlife Federation Officer of the Year Award.
- Officer James A. Yates of Jackson County received the Shikar Safari International's Wildlife Officer of the Year Award.
- Asst. Chief Kevin Dodd completed National Conservation Leadership Institute Fellowship Program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

ARRESTS AND WARNINGS:

- Officers made 6,662 arrests and issued 1,402 warnings during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the majority being for violations of fish and wildlife regulations with the remainder being for violations of Marine Resource, Marine Police and other state laws.
- The Enforcement Section responded to over 18,448 calls for service through our five district offices and the Montgomery headquarters.
- Officers assisted the Alabama Department of Public Health in the distribution of Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Swine Flu prophylactic supplies in response to expected pandemic. The Department serves as statewide law enforcement SNS security advisor during SNS activation.

TRAINING OF OFFICERS AND SUPERVISORS:

- Officers completed an eight-hour transition course and qualification with M-16 rifles.
- Officers completed the BP New Horizon Training to work the oil spill, if deployed to the Gulf Coast.
- A two-day in-service training was held at the Alabama Criminal Justice Training Center in Selma for all POST certified officers. The topics covered were defensive driving, emergency driving simulation, firearms training simulation, nuisance wildlife issues, feral swine control and enforcement, fisheries enforcement and discretionary training.
- All POST staff completed transition to new Glock handguns.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES:

- New patrol vehicles equipped with narrow band capable VHF radios and emergency lights. All vehicles were the most fuel efficient model available in their class.
- Two mid-sized open water patrol vessels with motor and trailer.
- Four fuel efficient Mercury outboard motors to refit existing vessels.
- Received 38 M-16 semi-auto rifles through Army surplus program (10-33).

WILDLIFE SECTION
 The Wildlife Section received \$357,799 of federal aid funds for projects on fish and wildlife species eligible for funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.

- Purchased 14 Bushmaster AR15 rifles. New rifles were paid for in large part through trade-in value of older firearms.

RECRUITMENT:

- No new officers were hired this year.
- Four Marine Police Officers transferred to the Enforcement Section on temporary assignment in Barbour, Cherokee, Monroe and Tuscaloosa counties during the months of November through January.
- Utilized seven part-time Conservation Officers to serve in vacant counties and in areas of high activity.

FUTURE PLANS:

- Evaluate and reposition officer assignments to improve program effectiveness through voluntary transfers and attrition. Monitor community needs versus available officer assignments for best use of available workforce.
- Complete ALERT/ACTIVE LE Program training to meet Homeland Security goals.
- Explore opportunities to link into proposed statewide interoperable communications plan.
- Continue efforts to utilize cross training opportunities with other department divisions and sections.
- Conduct in depth advanced resource related training (waterfowl identification)
- Finalize Field Training Officers program and implement.
- Upgrade electronic data processing and equip field staff with computer capabilities to allow electronic reporting and issuance of citations.

FISHERIES

The Fisheries Section’s mission is to protect, conserve and increase the freshwater aquatic resources of Alabama.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

There are 73 staff members in the section including fisheries biologists, fisheries biologist aides, malacologists, account clerks, administrative support assistants, building maintenance supervisors, a carpenter, equipment operators and laborers. Fisheries Section

facilities include five permanent district offices with laboratories. The Section has three sportfish hatcheries and one hatchery dedicated to producing mussels, snails and fish species of concern, with hatching and holding buildings, personnel residences and storage buildings. Twenty-three state-owned public fishing lakes in 20 counties have a total surface area of 1,912 acres. Nineteen of the 20 locations have a concession building, storage building, and in some cases, a residence.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Technical Assistance:

- District fisheries biologists conducted 362 biological checks of private ponds. Individuals requesting assistance were given appropriate solutions in writing to problems.
- The Fisheries Section reviewed, investigated and commented to various state and federal agencies on 394 existing and proposed activities concerning possible adverse impacts to state aquatic resources.
- Numerous staff members participated in meetings concerning the relicensing of Alabama Power Company hydroelectric projects.
- District biologists investigated 15 reported fish kills and cases of pollution. Formal reports prepared by the investigators were sent to the appropriate agencies.

Public Fishing Lakes:

- A total of 129,204 anglers fished in State Lakes, and a total of 224,515 fish weighing 169,196 pounds were harvested. These figures represent a decrease of 44 percent and 24 percent, respectively, from the number and weight of fish harvested in FY 2009. The number of anglers fishing on Alabama’s Public Fishing Lakes decreased 14 percent from FY 2009. Each angler averaged 2.6 fish and 1.3 pounds per angler trip. These catch rates represent a decrease of 35 percent and 11 percent, respectively, from catch rates in FY 2009.
- Fisheries biologists and support personnel made 308 visits to State Lakes to evaluate fish populations, to conduct general management checks, to complete facility maintenance and to otherwise ensure good fishing.
- Alabama Fish Hatcheries stocked a total of 592,194 fish into Alabama’s State Lakes. Species stocked include: black crappie,

**TABLE 1.
FISH STOCKED DURING FY 2010 INTO
ALABAMA PUBLIC WATERS THROUGH THE
FISHERIES SECTION'S PROGRAMS**

Species	Inch Group	Number
Largemouth Bass - Florida	1-10	472,176
Largemouth Bass - Northern	6-14	825
Largemouth Bass - Delta	4-11	4,257
Smallmouth Bass	1-22	49,325
Shoal Bass	1	2,000
Southern Walleye	1	8,000
Striped Bass - Gulf Race	1	481,818
Hybrid Striped Bass	1	242,920
Channel Catfish	3-16	141,683
Bluegill Sunfish	1-8	644,667
Black Crappie	2-14	154,614
Rainbow Trout	8-10	24,504
Total		2,252,427

bluegill sunfish, redear sunfish, channel catfish and largemouth bass. Rainbow trout were stocked into Madison County Lake from private sources.

- A new concession building was put into service at DeKalb County Lake.
- A partnership was developed with the Town of Millry to operate Washington County Lake.
- A selective shad treatment was conducted at Crenshaw County Lake.
- A new concession contract was executed with the Town of Millry. Existing concession contracts were renewed at Barbour, Bibb, Chambers, Clay, Crenshaw, Dallas, DeKalb, Fayette, Lamar, Lee, Marion, Monroe and Walker County Lakes.

Access Areas:

- During the year, 832 routine maintenance and inspection visits of 118 access areas were made by Fisheries Section personnel (190 by District personnel).
- More than \$725,870 in Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries funds were obligated to develop and maintain boating access areas in FY 2010. Major accomplishments include the following: Comer Bridge (Jackson Co.): repaved parking lot, Brown's Creek (Marshall Co.): repaved parking lot, Lay Lake Access (Shelby Co.): launching slab replacement, Bonner's Point (Elmore Co.): launching slab constructed and access road improved, River Falls (Covington Co.): parking lot repaired, Smith Lake Spillway (Walker Co.): repaired parking lot, Brown's Creek (Marshall Co.): striped parking lot, Comer Bridge (Jackson Co.): striped parking lot, Scottsboro City Park (Jackson Co.): striped parking lot, Boligee Access (Greene Co.): striped parking lot, Moundville Access (Tuscaloosa Co.): striped parking lot, Gantt (Covington Co.): striped parking lot, Bonner's Point (Elmore Co.): placed rip-rap for erosion control, Bonner's Point (Elmore Co.): installed two floating piers, Chocolata Bay (Baldwin Co.): repaired courtesy pier, Mt. Vernon (Mobile Co.): placed gravel on the overflow parking area, Leesburg (Cherokee Co.): striped parking lot, Rainbow Landing (Etowah Co.): striped parking lot, Cliff's Landing (Baldwin Co.): striped parking lot, Lay Dam (Chilton Co.): repaired launching slab, Higgins Ferry (Chilton Co.): repaired launching slab, Halawakee Creek (Lee Co.): repaired launching slab, Higgins Ferry (Chilton Co.): repaved parking lot.

- Other work included installation of directional and logo signs, litter removal, repairing parking lots, repairing piers and access area ground maintenance.

Fish Hatcheries:

- Due to the discontinuance of the Farm Pond Stocking Program, which ended in FY 2008-09, fish production efforts at the Carbon Hill, Eastaboga and Marion State fish hatcheries underwent a change in FY 2009-10. The elimination of the Farm Pond Program did not have a significant impact on the production of fish during the April-June spring culture season but there was a major shift in fish production goals during the July-September summer culture season. Much of the hatchery pond space that had in previous years been devoted to the production of bluegill and redear sunfish to support the Farm Pond Program and which also produced large numbers of fish for public water stockings was shifted to the production of larger, advanced largemouth bass fingerlings and the forage species necessary to feed them. The advanced largemouth bass, of both Florida strain and Mobile-Tensaw Delta strain, were produced to provide fish for experimental stockings in Demopolis Lake and selected locations in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. As a result of this change in fish production strategies there was a considerable reduction in the total number of fish produced and stocked in public waters as compared to previous years.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ADCNR, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for cooperation in efforts to restore native southern walleye populations within the Mobile River Basin. Adult broodfish were exchanged between hatcheries of the three agencies and 8,000 southern walleye fingerlings were obtained from MDWFP for stocking in White Plains Lake in Calhoun County. The purpose of this stocking was to begin the establishment of a "captive" population of brood stock for future propagation purposes.
- Other fish species were also stocked into public waters statewide through the Fisheries Section's program, which include public fishing lakes. This totaled 2,252,427 fish. This information is provided in Table 1 on Page _##_.

Presentations:

- Fisheries Section biologists attended public meetings and workshops on fisheries resource topics around the State, and they made 509 presentations on various fisheries topics including displays at boat shows and fairs.

Publications:

- The Fisheries Section had three fisheries articles published in the Department's Outdoor Alabama magazine: "Creek Kids," "Raising Smallmouths," and "Bright Future for Coffee County Lake."
- Two articles were written for Alabama Wildlife Federation's magazine. One article was on the catfish length limit, and the other was about apple snail infestation.
- One peer reviewed scientific manuscript was published this year in The American Malacological Bulletin.
- Work on an additional manuscript is ongoing as well as work on a book chapter on Alabama rivers and streams.
- Two peer reviews were undertaken for articles in The Southeastern Naturalist and the Journal of the Texas Academy of Science.
- The website continued to grow and includes 3,000 pages of information and links about the aquatic environment.

Research:

- Through the Investigation and Management Techniques for Public Waters Project (F-40), there were four new contractual studies that were initiated this year, all with the Auburn University Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures. These studies involved research on: the sport fish population dynamics of the regulated flow portion of the Tallapoosa River between R. L. Harris Dam and Lake Martin; the role of introduced yellow perch with regard to native fish populations in Lake Martin and Lake Yates; the economic value of striped bass fishing on Lewis Smith Lake; and adult striped bass habitat use in Lake Martin.
- Two final reports for field studies completed by Auburn University researchers during FY 2009 were accepted in FY 2010. F-40 Study No. 57 was a four-year study of the largemouth bass population of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta that investigated bass population characteristics, genetics, forage utilization, and habitat factors. F-40 Study No. 59 was a three-year study to determine the extent of population interactions between

FISHERIES SECTION

The Fisheries Section, with assistance from other sections of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, conducted 63 community fishing events reaching 15,629 participants, plus their families and volunteers.

FISHERIES SECTION

A total of 129,204 anglers fished in state lakes, and a total of 224,515 fish weighing 169,196 pounds were harvested. Each angler averaged 2.6 fish and 1.3 pounds of per angler trip.

stocked channel catfish and other sport fish species in Alabama Public Fishing Lakes.

- Through the Statewide Fisheries Research Project (F-43), an ongoing study to undertake population assessments of channel catfish, blue catfish and flathead catfish in Lake Guntersville was continued and a new study to investigate methods to influence the growth and survival characteristics of largemouth bass native to the Mobile-Tensaw Delta was initiated.

Reservoir Management:

- Black bass, crappie, catfish, shad, striped bass, and bluegill populations were sampled by electrofishing, trap netting, gill netting, slat boxes, trawling, and angling. Public waters sampled by one or more of these gear types include the riverine waters of Mulberry Fork River and Town Creek; and Lewis Smith, Upper Bear, Weiss, Logan Martin, Neely Henry, Bankhead, Warrior, Bartlett's Ferry, West Point, Yates, Wilson, Guntersville, Pickwick, Claiborne, Gantt, Point A, Harris, and Eufaula Reservoirs. All fish collected were measured and weighed.
- Thermal and oxygen profiles were collected from most of the previously mentioned reservoirs.
- Reservoir reconnaissance surveys were completed on some reservoirs where standardized sampling was performed. Results of the surveys are incorporated into reservoir reports. Relative values of angler harvest, effort, and pressure were collected by creel surveys on Guntersville, Warrior, Big Creek, Bankhead, Bartlett's Ferry, Gantt, and Point A, and are recorded in the reservoir reports.

General Survey:

- Sport fish sampling and surveys were conducted on Patsaliga Creek, Fowl River, Fish River, and Dog River. Fisheries survey work was also performed on the Tallapoosa and Cahaba River. Samples of largemouth bass were collected from Guntersville, Lay, and Martin Reservoirs for a genetics study related to Florida bass stocking efforts. In addition, surveys were conducted at Big Creek Lake, Langan Municipal Lake, and Three Mile Creek to identify and remove invasive apple snails.

Endangered Species (Section-6) Studies:

- Jeff Garner, State Malacologist, continued the Tennessee River mussel and snail recovery project.

**TABLE 2.
FISH STOCKED BY PERMIT HOLDERS INTO
ALABAMA PUBLIC WATERS DURING FY 2010**

Species	Location	Number or Weight
Rainbow Trout	Tannehill State Park Streams	1,200 Fish
Largemouth Bass	Lay Lake	15,000 Fish
Channel Catfish	Guntersville Lake	1,000 lbs.
Channel Catfish	Neely Henry Lake	1,000 lbs
Channel Catfish	Logan Martin Lake	1,500 lbs.
Channel Catfish	Guntersville Lake	1,000 lbs.

**TABLE 3.
LIST OF MOLLUSK STOCKINGS COMPLETED BY THE AABC IN FY 2010**

Species	Release Locality	Number Cultured	Number Translocated	Number Stocked
<i>Leptoxis picta</i> Spotted Rocksnail	Cahaba River, near Sprott, Perry County.	5,394	914	6,308
<i>Elimia olivula</i> Caper Elimia	Cahaba River, near Sprott, Perry County	300	1,000	1,300
<i>Pleurocera clarkia</i> Smooth Hornsnail	Cahaba River, near Sprott, Perry County	0	322	322
<i>Leptoxis plicata</i> Plicate Rocksnail	Locust Fork near Wallstown, Blount County	13,200	0	13,200
<i>Villosa nebulosa</i> Alabama Rainbow	Choccolocco Creek below Jackson Shoals, Talladega County	1,000	0	1,000
<i>Villosa nebulosa</i> Alabama Rainbow	Choccolocco Creek near Piedmont, Calhoun County	300	0	300
<i>Lampsilis virescens</i> Alabama Lampmussel	Paint Rock River, near Paint Rock, Jackson County	300	0	300
<i>Lampsilis virescens</i> Alabama Lampmussel	Paint Rock River, near Butler Mill, Marshall/Madison Counties.	300	0	300
<i>Lampsilis virescens</i> Alabama Lampmussel	Elk River, below Fayetteville, Lincoln County, Tennessee	400	0	400
Total Released				23,430

WILDLIFE SECTION
 Approximately 162,277 man-days of hunting occurred on WMAs. Harvest figures reached expected levels. These areas also furnish trapping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and nature study opportunities.

- Paul Johnson, Director of the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, and Jeff Garner continued the multi-year project to determine Pleuroceridae snails of Alabama.
- Johnson continued to survey the mussels of tributaries in the Alabama River drainage.
- Andrew Henderson, Stream Fish Biologist, examined the distribution of *Catnotus darters* in Alabama.
- Steve Rider, Aquatic Resources Coordinator, completed a survey for Alabama shad in the Conecuh River and administered the following Section 6 contractual studies in FY 2010: nesting behavior of *Catnotus darters*, genetics of *Campeloma decampi*, Black Warrior system mussel survey, trispot darter survey and genetic determination, and drought effects on fishes of special concern.

Aquatic Education:

- The Fisheries Section, with assistance from other sections of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, conducted 58 community fishing events reaching 11,236 participants, plus their families and volunteers. The number of events and participants appears to have reached a plateau.
- Fishing classes that included fishing ethics instruction were conducted for various audiences (mostly youth) during 85 sessions that reached 2,697 participants.
- Seventy-one casting classes were taught for 3,043 participants.
- Rods and reels were loaned to physical education instructors who taught 39 classes, which allowed 1,333 students to practice casting.
- Talks about aquatic wildlife were presented to 230 groups with a total audience of 8,983.
- Additional information was presented to the public through 35 days of displays at events such as boat shows, fairs and Earth Day celebrations.
- Five presentations were made to 61 instructors of various types about casting, fishing and/or aquatic education

Freshwater Mussel Management and Research:

- A total of 65 biological field trips were made during this fiscal year for general and specialized surveys of mussel and snail populations and to locate brood stock sources for use at the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center. Work sites included

locations on Bear Creek, Cypress Creek, Round Island Creek, the Alabama River, the Cahaba River, the Paint Rock River and the Tennessee River.

- Assistance and consultation regarding mollusk issues were provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Lands Division of ADCNR.
- Eight regional, technical and scientific meetings and workshops were attended.
- Trips the United States National Museum of Natural History and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences were undertaken to photograph and taxonomically verify specimens in these collections for ongoing Alabama mollusk research projects.

Aquatic Resources Activities:

- The implementation of the Stream Assessment Project continued with 64 sites sampled by Fisheries Section staff.
- Aquatic Resources staff represented the Fisheries Section at the following meetings and workshops: Gulf and South Atlantic Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS), Alabama Fisheries Association Annual Meeting, Alabama River fish passage meeting, Southern Instream Flow Network workshops, Southeastern Fishes Council annual meeting, and Alabama Water Resources Association meeting.
- A final draft of the Alabama Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) management plan has been submitted to the National ANS Task Force for approval.
- Conservation efforts for the southern walleye continued, with six specimens collected from Hatchet Creek for broodstock establishment.
- Shoal bass recovery efforts continued with adult fish stocked in Little Uchee Creek at Griffin's Mill and juvenile fish stocked in Halawakee and Osanippa creeks.
- Alabama shad sampling revealed the collection of only one adult specimen in the Conecuh River. However, two juvenile Gulf sturgeons were collected in the Conecuh River.
- The following talk was presented at a professional meeting: Rider, S. J., T. R. Powell, T. Ringenberg, and R.M. Strange. November 2010. Status and recovery efforts for the southern walleye. Southeastern Fishes Council Annual Meeting, Guntersville, Ala.

Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center:

- Culture and refit activities at the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center (AABC) focused on final hatchery refit, establishment of culture systems, initiation and continuation of artificial propagation and captive culture, and general survey efforts in 2010. Hatchery construction and refit were devoted to the main wet lab with water distribution manifolds, husbandry electrical support, diagnostic laboratory refit, and humidity controlling structures were completed in 2010. Culture systems were designed and installed in the wet lab, culture pavilion, and two different ponds.
- Greater emphasis on culture efforts were made in 2010 as more than 60,000 mussels of seven different species (five Threatened and Endangered) along with 10,000 snails of 10 species (seven Threatened & Endangered) were propagated.
- The AABC completed a number of stockings including the Cahaba River (*Leptoxis picta*, *Elimia olivula*, *Pleurocera clarkii* – 7,930), Locust Fork (13,200 - 1-year old federally endangered *Leptoxis plicata*), Choccolocco Creek (1,300 – *Villosa nebulosa* at 2 locations), Paint Rock River (10 federally endangered *Villosa trabilis* 10 at one location and 600 *Lampsilis virescens* at two locations). In addition the AABC donated 400 cultured *L. virescens* to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for release in the Elk River, Tennessee. Initial culture for mussels in ponds performed exceptionally well in specially constructed SUPSYS (suspended upwelling system) chambers with several listed species growing from 4 mm to 40 mm shell length in the systems within 120 days (*Hamiota altalis*, *H. perovalis*, and *L. virescens*). Nine mussel species were successfully cultured in the SUPSYS systems in 2010 including *Strophitus connasaugaensis*, *Medionidus conradicus*, *Lampsilis teres*, *Lampsilis fasciola*, *Villosa iris*, and *Villosa nebulosa*. A summary of mollusk stockings conducted in FY 2009-10 is provided in Table 3 on page _##_
- AABC staff also participated in conservation planning, general survey activities and research efforts in FY 2010. AABC staff assisted with the completion of mollusk conservation planning efforts with the Tennessee/Cumberland fauna and developed a species list for the Eastern Gulf Slope plan. The Mobile River Basin mollusk conservation priority document will be completed

in early 2011. AABC staff assisted in the initiation of a non-game fish recovery planning document with the Southeastern Fishes Council and Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership. These documents will identify species targets and their conservation priorities for the planning documents for the Mobile and Tennessee/Cumberland River basins.

- AABC staff completed survey efforts in the Alabama River (30 sites) and the lower-Cahaba River (54 sites) in FY 2010.
- AABC staff also continued work on the Pleuroceridae Type Catalog Project by traveling to both the National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. and the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This project, now in its third year, has captured images of over 500 type specimens deposited in various museums across the North America and Europe. Approximately 250 final composite plates have already been generated and the North Carolina Museum of Natural History and the United States Natural History Museum are partners on the project.
- AABC staff has also worked towards the completion of the first Conservation Status Assessment for North America Freshwater Gastropods produced for the American Fisheries Society.
- AABC staff also participated in research efforts with freshwater mussel anatomy and bacterial community assessment completed at Auburn University and systematics revision of *Leptoxis* spp. completed at the University of Alabama.

PROBLEMS/SOLUTIONS

Public Fishing Lakes:

- Bass crowding continues to be a problem statewide. Removal of bass by the use of anglers and/or electrofishing gear, along with judicious use of other treatments, will be employed to manage overcrowded bass populations. Lakes are being renovated as a final solution.
- Recruitment of qualified lake managers at rural state lakes continues to be a problem.

Riverine Habitat:

- The loss of riverine habitat in Alabama has resulted in the decline or loss of obligate riverine fishes and mollusks. Efforts continue to document habitat loss and provide suitable

WILDLIFE SECTION

Twenty-four Alabama caves were surveyed and/or searched for bat species. Nongame Program personnel served on the Alabama Bat Working Group committee and assisted with the completion of the Alabama White-nose Syndrome Management Plan.

WILDLIFE SECTION

A major longleaf pine restoration project continued on Barbour WMA. Approximately 500 acres were reforested with container longleaf seedlings during December 2009. An additional 500 acres were site prepped in the summer of 2010. When completed, this multiyear project will have restored longleaf pine habitat on approximately 4,000 acres at Barbour WMA.

riverine habitat where possible. There is a need to develop a comprehensive plan for the permitting, or managing of water withdrawals, water discharges and instream flow changes as it relates to the protection of aquatic habitat.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS):

- ANS pose a significant problem to the State of Alabama. These are species introduced outside of their native ranges that can grow in, or are closely associated with, aquatic environment. Alabama's ANS plan was been approved by Governor Riley and has been submitted to the National Task Force for approval.

Fish Hatcheries:

- Many production ponds, including drain kettles, water supply lines, drainage lines and power supply to the ponds, are in need of renovation.

FUTURE PLANS

- Continue resurfacing parking lots at boating access areas statewide as needed.
- Construct new access areas at Wetumpka and McCarty's Ferry.
- Conduct a major ramp renovation at South Sauty Creek.
- Expand parking areas at Bonners Landing.
- Construct courtesy docks at Comer Bridge, Rotary, and others as needed.
- Construction of a fish propagation building.
- Construction of intern, graduate student and faculty housing at the AABC to support research and recovery efforts.
- Monitor reservoir fish populations and riverine habitat.
- Expand standardized fish population sampling in streams.
- Expand efforts to introduce children to fishing and in raising awareness of aquatic resources.
- Maintain high quality state lakes fisheries, upgrade dilapidated facilities, and develop partnerships with other agencies in order to better operate rural lakes.

WILDLIFE

The mission of the Wildlife Section is to manage and enhance the wildlife resources of Alabama and to provide for maximum public benefit. The section maintains Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to provide public access for hunting and recreation; monitors wildlife

populations to determine management needs; provides the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries' (WFF) Director recommendations on hunting season lengths, dates, bag limits and restrictions; and provides technical assistance to landowners, managers and hunting clubs on wildlife and habitat management and harvest strategies to improve wildlife resources, and on animal damage control to protect crops and property as much as practical without undue damage to wildlife resources. The section provides technical assistance to other government agencies to help structure activities to avoid undue damage to wildlife and to enhance those resources where possible. The section also provides information to the public on the natural history, problems and management needs of Alabama wildlife.

The section provides a Hunter Education Program to train the public, especially beginning hunters, on safety, ethics and individual responsibilities of wildlife conservation. The section provides opportunities to get youth and individuals with physical disabilities involved in hunting activities.

Wildlife Section operations involve ongoing projects such as developing and maintaining wildlife openings, roads, buildings and boundary lines on 37 WMAs, two wildlife refuges and one sanctuary (approximately 763,000 acres); administering public hunts on approximately 761,000 acres of WMA land; maintaining 17 sites for physically disabled hunters; developing and maintaining shooting ranges (11 sites) and archery ranges (four sites and one in development); participating on boards and committees to provide input into plans and decisions affecting wildlife; conducting wildlife research and surveys and publishing the results; cooperating with universities to conduct wildlife research of mutual interest; authoring and publishing articles and management books related to wildlife; planning and coordinating environmental activities and review of impact statements; and administering the Alabama Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program.

FACILITIES AND PERSONNEL

An administrative staff with offices in Montgomery coordinated and monitored operations within the Wildlife Section. The staff consisted of a Wildlife Chief, one Assistant Chief, one Forester, one Hunter Education Program Coordinator, one Hunter Education Regional Coordinator, one Nongame Wildlife Coordinator, two Wildlife Biologists, one Biologist Aide, an Accounting Technician and three clerical personnel. One Assistant Chief's position remains vacant.

Five districts across the state are each staffed by a supervising wildlife biologist, wildlife biologists, biologist aides, equipment operators, clerical personnel and laborers. One nongame wildlife

biologist was headquartered at Florence primarily for north Alabama assignments and one at Spanish Fort for south Alabama. One Hunter Education Coordinator was assigned at Cullman to handle north Alabama activities, one in Montgomery for central Alabama and one at Greenville for south Alabama activities. A Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Unit consisting of three Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists working out of Natural Resources Conservation Services offices in a partnership established to assist with cost share programs to enhance wildlife habitat on private lands throughout the state.

Wildlife Section facilities include a central office in Montgomery, five district offices, 37 wildlife management areas, two wildlife refuges, one wildlife sanctuary, 11 shooting ranges and four archery ranges.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Research and biological surveys were conducted to obtain information on wildlife and their habitats. Aerial waterfowl censuses and hunter bag checks were conducted in the Mobile Delta and on the Tennessee River during fall and winter. Aerial counts were also conducted for bald eagles as part of the national mid-winter bald eagle survey.
- Approximately 162,277 man-days of hunting occurred on WMAs. Harvest figures reached expected levels. These areas also furnish trapping, fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and nature study opportunities. A total of 2,638 miles of boundary lines, 12,761 acres of wildlife openings, and 1,780 miles of area roads were maintained.
- Information was collected on WMAs and other sites to determine deer hunter participation and success, the physical condition of deer and the current status of deer populations. Deer were collected at 21 sites to assess reproductive characteristics within those populations. A hunting activity survey was conducted. The results were valuable in determining hunting season lengths and bag limits and evaluating the success of each hunting season. Deer harvest data was collected at five locations in Barbour County to determine the effects of current antler point restrictions. Data were analyzed for trends and compared with data from adjacent counties that don't have antler-point-restrictions. Deer data from hunter-killed deer were collected through an internet-based system set up by the Department's website. The internet based option of reporting deer harvest has been available for three years. It is infrequently

used by hunters and has not provided useful data.

- During the year significant gains in land acquisitions for WMAs were made. Working with Forever Wild, a long term (92 years) lease was obtained for approximately 61,000 acres in Cahaba and Mulberry Fork WMAs. Approximately 3,800 acres were purchased by Forever Wild as an addition Barbour WMA along with 537 acres at James D. Martin-Skyline WMA and 327 acres at Lauderdale WMA. Using Federal Assistance Funds, 640 acres were purchased at auction as an addition to Lauderdale WMA.
- An annual 28-survey-route mourning dove study was conducted and information shared with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to assist in establishing season and bag limit regulations. As part of a nationwide project, 1,048 mourning doves were trapped, banded and released. Data from reported band returns will be analyzed to provide parameters needed for dove population modeling such as band return rates and estimates for mortality and survival.
- A significant effort was made by wildlife personnel throughout much of the state to band wood ducks. The banding program is a cooperative effort with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Banding efforts across the eastern United States contributed to the opportunity to increase the wood duck bag limit from two to three. The banding efforts will continue in the upcoming years.
- Furbearer populations were evaluated by means of a survey in which the number of road kills and sightings of live animals near roads were recorded by Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries personnel to develop population indices.
- In cooperation with the Wildlife and Fisheries Cooperative Unit at Auburn University, a wild turkey production study was continued in an effort to develop methods of providing data needed to construct population models for wild turkeys in Alabama.
- A chronic wasting disease surveillance program for deer was conducted in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. Tissue samples from 313 deer were submitted to state diagnostic labs for testing. Chronic wasting disease was not detected in any of those samples.
- Wildlife biologists participated in annual surveys to monitor the status of breeding birds in Alabama. The surveys include colonial nesting shorebirds in coastal Alabama, most notably on Gaillard Island where between approximately 4,500 pairs of pelicans nest annually along with 3,000 pairs of terns and 5,000 pair of

laughing gulls. Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dredge disposal activities were coordinated so as not to affect nesting birds. Additionally, six routes of the Breeding Bird Survey were conducted as a contribution to the continental-wide monitoring of neotropical and other resident nesting bird species. Assistance was again provided to the Coastal Bird Conservation program in efforts to document breeding pairs of Wilson and snowy plovers and American oystercatchers. In addition to planned surveys, added surveys were undertaken to begin the assessment of possible damage resulting from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Surveys for secretive marsh birds were performed on five set routes along coastal marshes of south Mobile County. Surveys were part of a region-wide Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) plan. Also, surveys as part of another NRDA work plan were initiated to assess the rate of oiling on non-breeding shorebirds along coastal Alabama.

- Several wildlife biologists have and continue to participate on various NRDA committees and/or working groups. Various species, animal group, or habitat plans have been developed or are in the planning stage.
- Twenty-four Alabama caves were surveyed and/or searched for T/E bat species. Biologists also continued a general survey of Alabama bats at selected sites. Nongame Program personnel served on the Alabama Bat Working Group committee and assisted with the completion of the Alabama White-nose Syndrome Management Plan. Twenty caves were selected for surveys for the presence of white-nose syndrome in hibernating bats. Nongame personnel participated in the surveys.
- Wildlife biologists participated in two National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Counts, Dauphin Island and Mobile-Tensaw Delta, coordinating and compiling the Mobile-Tensaw Delta Count.
- The Division received \$357,799 in federal funds for projects on fish and wildlife species eligible for funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. Those funds were shared by the Wildlife and Fisheries Sections with approximately one-half the total allocated to projects administered by the Wildlife Section. Population and status surveys for the gray bat, red-cockaded woodpecker, manatee and Alabama red-bellied turtle are examples of projects made possible by those funds. Implementation of a Safe Harbor Plan for red-cockaded woodpeckers continued for the state of Alabama through Section 6 funding.
- Captive breeding and re-introduction of the indigo snake began

in 2007 through a State Wildlife Grant project in cooperation with Auburn University and other state, federal, and private organizations. Our nongame wildlife biologists play an integral role in this project. 2010 was the first year of this multi-year project in which juvenile indigo snakes were released into the wild on the Conecuh National Forest. In support of the release of captive indigo snakes at the Conecuh National Forest informative signage was drafted and submitted for production. Signs will alert the public to the presence of indigo snakes and encourage tolerance of the species.

- Since removal of the bald eagle from the Threatened and Endangered Species List in 2007, every known Alabama bald eagle nest was not monitored for productivity and survivorship. Biologists continued to record any newly discovered or reported eagle nests and biologists also monitored the number of bald eagles overwintering in Alabama as part of the nationwide 2010 Mid-Winter Bald Eagle Survey. The number of bald eagles wintering in Alabama remains stable.
- One thousand two hundred twenty-five man-days were devoted to providing technical assistance to private landowners, corporations, hunting clubs and government agencies. Biologists made on-site inspections, reviewed plans and provided recommendations for effective wildlife management. The Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program included 143 landowners and hunting clubs covering more than 356,158 acres.
- The alligator harvest area expanded and the tagging program was modified in southeastern Alabama but remained the same in the southwestern area. The hunts went well in both areas. The program is being evaluated for possible expansion next year.
- Several staff developed a nuisance wildlife manual. The manual will aid staff members when dealing with calls regarding nuisance wildlife as well as dealing directly with the animals.
- Providing landowners and land managers technical assistance to help them implement strategies to improve wildlife habitat on their lands continued to grow in importance. An innovative partnership continued with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help private landowners obtain better wildlife management advice and to better deliver farm bill programs to landowners. Under a cost share agreement, WFF Wildlife Biologists worked out of NRCS offices and worked with NRCS personnel to deliver the programs. Three WFF Wildlife Biologists currently work in this partnership program. Biologist met with landowners statewide and developed conservation plans and contracts. Biologists participated in numerous workshops, tours,

presentations and trainings that reached hundreds of landowners and dozens of natural resource agency personnel. This partnership will continue with NRCS in FY 2010-2011.

- The District IV Wildlife staff has been frequently meeting with personnel from Alabama Power Company to develop a wildlife management plan for the Martin Relicensing Project. The document is required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Development of the plan will continue.
- Wildlife Section personnel continue to participate in various aspects of four joint ventures (JV): East Gulf Coastal Plain JV, Gulf Coast JV, Central Hardwoods JV, and Appalachian JV. A JV serves to lead a regional habitat conservation movement founded upon a science-based, landscape scale strategy. The partnerships can more effectively secure a sustainable future for birds and habitats. The staff is also participating in the Gulf Coastal Plain and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC). The LCC will encompass more than one JV and will provide management direction and set priorities for conservation delivery. The LCC will address all Taxa.
- A major longleaf pine restoration project continued on Barbour WMA. Approximately 500 acres were reforested with container longleaf seedlings during December 2009. An additional 500 acres were site prepped in the Summer of 2010, will be site prep burned during Fall of 2010 and reforested to container longleaf during the Fall 2010/Winter 2011 planting season. When completed, this multiyear project will have restored longleaf pine habitat on approximately 4,000 acres at Barbour WMA.
- Fred T. Stimpson Community Hunting Area (CHA) is another area that has been included in the Section's longleaf pine initiative. Approximately 550 acres were reforested with container longleaf seedlings during the winter of 2010. One tract of 80 acres was treated with herbicide during the summer of 2010 and will be site prep burned fall of 2010, and reforested with container longleaf seedlings during the fall 2010/winter 2011 planting season. When completed, this multiyear project will have rehabilitated and restored approximately 3,000 acres of longleaf pine habitat at Fred T. Stimpson CHA.
- The longleaf pine ecosystem is one of the most diverse and species rich habitats. The current and future projects under the longleaf initiative will benefit multiple species for future generations of wildlife enthusiasts to enjoy for decades.
- Cogongrass is a highly flammable non-native invasive plant listed on the Federal and Alabama noxious weed lists. Wildlife Section staff have been monitoring cogongrass on the wildlife

management areas throughout the state, especially in central and southern Alabama. Scattered areas of the grass have been undergoing treatment on the Fred T. Stimpson area and the Upper State Sanctuary for several seasons. The infested areas have been significantly reduced. The monitoring and chemical control will continue.

- Nine shooting ranges on Wildlife Management Areas, the Etowah Public Shooting Range, and the Marengo Public Shooting Range continue to receive excellent public use. These ranges are open to the public on a daily basis during daylight hours. Maintenance is conducted throughout the year by staff members and volunteers.
- Construction on the Dothan Eastgate Park Archery Range and the Demopolis Community Archery Park concluded during fiscal year 2010. Both facilities were opened to the public and are receiving widespread use by many individuals and groups. Both facilities have a youth range, adult range, and an elevated platform for simulating bowhunting conditions from a treestand. A simulated ground blind is available for bowhunters to practice shooting from a kneeling or seated position. These ranges were constructed through a partnership with the city and the Archery Trade Association. Construction of another archery parks began in Ozark, Alabama in Dale County. The two new ranges and the two already operational receive good use and public support.
- Management and maintenance continued on the North Alabama Birding Trail which opened in September 2005. The trail has been very successful and continues to receive better than expected levels of visitation. Nongame personnel also served on an advisory committee and provided technical assistance to the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel with the Alabama Birding Trail Initiative and planning for future birding trail development in the state.
- Wildlife Section staff administer the permitting of falconry for the state. During FY09-10 seven new falconry apprentices were issued falconry permits. The current number of permitted falconers in Alabama is 53.
- This was the 18th year that completing the Alabama Hunter Education Program was mandatory for first time license buyers born on or after August 1, 1977. Approximately 13,697 students participated in the 492 courses offered by certified instructors throughout Alabama. The courses were taught by approximately 800 instructors, mostly volunteers, and totaled 5,904 hours of instruction. The time and expertise contributed by volunteers is essential to the success of the Hunter Education Program.
- Approximately 5,398 Alabamians participated in 83 youth

shooting sports events that were conducted throughout the state to promote safe, responsible firearms handling and improve marksmanship skills. These one-day events are designed to introduce participants to muzzleloaders, shotguns, .22 rifles, pellet guns, and archery. Sport shooting is closely related to hunting activities, and it is important for the public to have safe areas to participate in that sport. We will continue our efforts to increase developed shooting range sites.

- The Hunting Trail for People with Physical Disabilities continues to be well received. The season opened with 17 hunting sites on the trail. This innovative program provides opportunities for individuals with physical disabilities to participate in hunting in an environment that was developed to meet their needs.
- Opportunities for youth participation in hunting are not as numerous as we would desire. The youth dove hunting program continued on 29 sites across the state. This is a cooperative effort with private landowners and other sponsors. The goal is to provide youth the opportunity to experience hunting in a positive atmosphere. There were 1,375 participants for the hunts scheduled in October 2009 and September 2010. The hunts were extremely popular, with 20.9 percent of the youth being first-time hunters. In addition, youth hunt opportunities were offered on the wildlife management areas for deer, turkey and waterfowl and statewide for deer and waterfowl.
- Alabama's National Archery in the Schools Program continued to grow and now has approximately 210 schools participating. Teachers from approximately 425 schools have been certified to conduct the two-week Olympic style archery curriculum. This program has the potential to introduce over 100,000 students to Olympic style archery each year. The Sixth Annual NASP State Championship was held on April 22, 2010, and featured about 1,100 participants from 48 schools. Approximately 1,600 student archers participated in the four regional qualifying events for the state championship. Teachers and school administrators have made positive statements regarding this program and report that student behavior, attendance, and attitudes have improved since implementing the NASP.
- The Wildlife Section conducted four furbearer trapping workshops. Workshops were held in Decatur (December 18-20, 2009), Greensboro (January 8-10, 2010), Rockford (January 29-31, 2010), and in Greenville (February 5-7, 2010). These cooperative trapper education workshops were a collaborative effort of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, the Tennessee

Valley Authority, the Alabama Trapper and Predator Control Association, and the Alabama Hunter Education Association. Seventy students ranging from six to 19 years of age and 89 adults participated in the workshops. Eleven percent of the students were female. Many of the students were accompanied by a parent or guardian. The adults were as enthusiastic as the students. The two-and-one-half day programs started on Friday evening with classroom presentations on trapping history, furbearer management, responsible trapping and conservation, and trapping laws and regulations. Each program continued Saturday morning with presentations on trap and snare types, trapping equipment, lures and baits, and hands-on trap setting familiarization. Saturday afternoon was devoted to trap line scouting and making sets with their mentors. Sunday morning found the students meeting at 6 a.m. to check traps and pull their trap line. The rest of the day was devoted to fur handling methods and techniques. This program continues to be a great success. The impact was far reaching and beneficial to both parents and students who participated.

- Nuisance wildlife information was disseminated to the public through a variety of media outlets and educational workshops. Feral hogs are of serious concern in Alabama because of their negative impact on wildlife habitat. A partnership was developed with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to conduct three highly successful workshops regarding feral hog biology, impacts of feral hogs on wildlife habitat, disease implications, control and eradication techniques, and the need to eliminate relocation of these animals. Additionally, our personnel conducted more than 10 seminars throughout the state. The workshops and seminars provided landowners with the necessary information to be proactive in their feral hog management activities. A nuisance wildlife manual was developed and training provided to Law Enforcement officers and Wildlife Biologists.

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

- The most critical vacancy in the Wildlife Section is that of Assistant Chief. The position is responsible for coordinating the research and survey work of the section and managing the associated federal grants that fund the work. That individual directs many activities of the staff and coordinates with cooperators to ensure the necessary and required work is completed as scheduled. The vacancy leaves a large void, especially in planning and in preparing for the future. Others on the staff have assumed various portions of the duties of the assistant chief which allows essential functions to remain

operational. It must be recognized that as others have added these job responsibilities, some of their other duties and responsibilities have been pushed aside or not completed with the thoroughness normally expected. For the section to accomplish all that it can and be as prepared for the future as practically could be expected, this position must be filled.

- The loss of leased land and the threat of losing leased land in Wildlife Management Areas is a significant problem. During the year we worked with Forever Wild in an effort to secure long term (ninety-plus years) leases on two WMAs. Both of those areas are near Birmingham and serve a high population area. Approximately 4,000 acres were withdrawn from the Coosa WMA. All of the leased land was withdrawn from Kinterbish WMA resulting in the closure of that WMA. Twenty acres at the Kinterbish WMA owned by WFF was disposed of under the Alabama Land Sales and Lease Act. Land lost is usually closed to the public and leased to a relatively small number of individuals. More leased land is likely to be lost in the future. The Wildlife Section will attempt to lease or purchase other lands and provide additional incentives to encourage landowners to include lands in the program. We will also continue to work with Forever Wild in an effort to purchase land for public hunting.
- A serious discrepancy exists between the salaries of Wildlife Section biologists who are certified law enforcement officers and the few who are not. The difference is as great as 22 percent in the top salaries of some classifications. Division administrators recognize such salary inequities can and do affect morale and work performance and continue to seek a solution to this problem.
- Funding for the Nongame Wildlife Program is not adequate. Revenue from the income tax check-off is minimal. Funds from federal initiatives are becoming available but they require a state matching share of 25 to 50 percent. Additional sources of revenue are required to meet this need.
- Nuisance wildlife problems continue to grow, especially as more of the public is urban and is not familiar with dealing with wildlife issues. As the Division becomes more active in dealing with these issues it will present challenges for time management and funding to deal with this non-traditional wildlife issue.

FUTURE PLANS

- The Wildlife Section will continue operating WMAs for outdoor recreation. Every effort will be made to add acreage to WMAs, including contacts with corporate and private landowners and working with the Forever Wild program to identify appropriate tracts of land to purchase.

- Sport shooting is closely related to hunting activities and it is important for the public to have safe areas to participate in that sport. We will continue our efforts to increase developed shooting and archery range sites.
- We plan to continue the youth dove hunting program by offering youth dove hunting sites across the state next year. This program has not only been popular with young hunters, it has opened many new areas for public hunting and has helped to create new partnerships. It has also brought national attention to our program. We will also maintain and continue to add sites to the Hunting Trail for People with Physical Disabilities.
- The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is cooperating with the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Southwick and Associates, and Responsive Management to develop a survey of hunters who have purchased a hunting license in recent years but not this hunting season. Our goal is to determine reasons existing hunters do not purchase a license annually and to develop a communication or outreach program to recruit them back into the ranks of active hunters. Fully understanding reasons for not hunting each year is becoming increasingly more important as we try to maximize public support.
- Most wildlife in Alabama resides on private land. For that and other reasons we plan to increase and improve efforts to engage private landowners and offer assistance that better helps them manage their property.
- The Forever Wild Program sunsets in 2012. We will be working with division and agency personnel as appropriate to seek passage of reauthorizing legislation.
- On a trial basis we will employ wildlife biologists who will work for both the Wildlife and Enforcement Sections at various times of the year. The goals are to provide increased assistance to the public to manage wildlife and to increase law enforcement presence and effectiveness at critical times of the year.



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