

Alabama's Landowner Incentive Program,

Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

Welcome!

If you have any projects or conservation news to share please contact the LIP Coordinator.

Individual Highlights:

- LIP Funding Announcement
- LIP FY 06 Report
- Species Highlight – Palezone Shiner
- Landowner Qualifications for LIP

Upcoming News:

- LIP Activities
- LIP Projects
- Private Lands Information
- Indigo Snake



“Restoring Habitat for
Alabama’s Rare Wildlife
on Private Lands”



LIP Habitat Restoration Funding for Private Lands!

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries was recently awarded a Tier 2 Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) grant by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, to private landowners for the implementation of habitat projects to benefit at-risk species. This grant was part of almost \$13 million of National competitive funding for State fish & wildlife agencies under LIP. Alabama was one of 17 states Nationally, and one of two Southeastern states, that was awarded funding. This LIP grant will focus restoration activities in the Cahaba, Choctawhatchee and Coosa River basins and the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem to benefit 106 species in greatest conservation need. Restoration activities include reducing nonpoint source pollution; increase citizen concern for watershed protection; provide suitable reintroduction habitat for aquatic species by the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, native groundcover restoration, planting longleaf pine, prescribed burning, exotic species control and publicize and encourage landowner participation in Alabama’s RCW Safe Harbor Program. These activities will enhance habitat for species such as the Gopher Tortoise, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gulf Sturgeon and Federally listed mussel and aquatic snail species.



LIP Outcomes for FY 2006

Accomplishments

- ◇ Awarded a Tier 1 & Tier 2 LIP grant
- ◇ Hosted field day in Paint Rock River Watershed
- ◇ Paint Rock River Basin LIP Management Team formed
- ◇ Alabama hosted the first Region 4 LIP Coordinators Meeting
- ◇ Aquatic biological surveys conducted at pre-restoration streambank sites

Landowner Technical Assistance

- ◇ 20 LIP Management Plans developed
- ◇ 89 landowners received technical assistance

LIP / Partners for Fish & Wildlife Projects

- ◇ 4 LIP projects completed in the Paint Rock River Basin
 - ◇ 2 streambank restoration projects
 - ◇ 2 cattle exclusion projects with alternative watering sources
- ◇ 4 Partners for Fish & Wildlife projects initiated & 3 ongoing
 - ◇ 4 longleaf pine restoration projects
 - ◇ Aquatic restoration in the Choctawhatchee River Basin
 - ◇ 1 Wetland Restoration project
 - ◇ 1 Native Warm Season Grass Restoration Project

Habitat Restoration / Enhancement

- ◇ LIP
 - ◇ 3,000 linear feet of cattle exclusion
 - ◇ 6,000 linear feet of streambank restoration
 - ◇ 2 alternative watering sources
 - ◇ Habitat enhancement for 38 priority aquatic species
- ◇ Partners for Fish & Wildlife
 - ◇ 144 acres of longleaf pine restoration
 - ◇ Prescribed burning regime for 205 acres
 - ◇ 3,000 linear feet of streambank restoration
 - ◇ 6 acres of wetland restoration
 - ◇ 56 acres of native warm season grass restoration
 - ◇ Gopher Tortoise rearing on Bailey property
 - ◇ Habitat enhancement for 49 priority species



Ephemeral Pond constructed on Bailey Property

LIP Streambank Restoration: Busbin Site, Paint Rock River



LIP Streambank Restoration: Blackmon Site, Paint Rock River



Biological Monitoring



Biological Monitoring is conducted at selected LIP restoration sites pre-restoration and post restoration for 3 years. Thanks to Paul Freeman & Courtney Graydon for participating in the survey.



Palezone Shiner



Redspotted Sunfish

Species Highlight

The Palezone Shiner occurs only in two tributary systems in the world, one is the Paint Rock River (upper watershed). Sedimentation problems through the disruption of streambanks and increased nutrient loads from cattle are the major threats to the species and its habitat. This species is Federally listed and is identified as a Priority 1 species in the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

**Alabama Division of
Wildlife & Freshwater
Fisheries**

**Traci D. George
LIP Coordinator**

64 N. Union St.
Montgomery, AL 36130

PHONE:
(334) 353-0503

FAX:
(334) 242-3032

E-MAIL:
Traci.George@dcnr.alabama.gov

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Landowner Information

- Only private property is eligible
- The proposed project must restore or enhance critical habitat for species at risk (Managing for deer, turkey and quail goes hand in hand in with managing for species at risk)
- A landowner must submit an application to go through a competitive ranking process
- Applications that fall within the focus areas and benefit species in greatest conservation need will receive higher points in the ranking procedure
- A minimum amount of acreage is not required
- Habitat enhancement increases economic & esthetic values of private property
- LIP provides technical conservation assistance
- LIP offers up to 75% of project funding
- LIP complements other programs that enhance, protect and restore lands
- LIP funds projects such as streambank restoration, cattle fencing, alternative watering sources for cattle, planting longleaf pines and/or bottomland hardwoods, establishment of wetland complexes, restoration of native grasses, cave protection, prescribed burning, fire lane installation, midstory control, and exotic species control

The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.