

STATE OF ALABAMA
FOREVER WILD
LAND TRUST

64 NORTH UNION STREET
SUITE 464, FOLSOM ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

TELEPHONE (334) 242-3484 FACSIMILE (334) 242-0999

Bob Riley
Governor

M. Barnett Lawley
Chairman

January 27, 2009

Governor Bob Riley
The Capitol
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Lt. Governor Jim Folsom
The State House - Room 725
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Speaker Seth Hammett
The State House
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Re: Forever Wild Land Trust Annual Report - FY 2007-2008

Dear Governor Riley, Lt. Governor Folsom, and Speaker Hammett:

Pursuant to the provisions of Amendment 543, *Constitution of Alabama of 1901*, Section 5(d), and on behalf of the Forever Wild Board of Trustees, it is my pleasure to transmit herewith the annual report of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust for the fiscal year October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

During this period the Forever Wild Land Trust acquired nine tracts comprising 15,498 acres. The acquired tracts include: 1) Coosa WMA: Cahaba & Columbiana Tracts in Coosa County, 2) The Lauderdale WMA- BTW Tract Additions in Lauderdale County, 3) MSP-North Slope Addition in Madison County, 4) Henshaw Cove Tract in Jackson County, 5) The Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Mifflin Lake Tract Addition in Baldwin County, 6) Cathedral Caverns-Kirkland Tract Addition in Marshall County, 7) The State Cattle Ranch Tract in Hale County, 8) The Mobile-Tensaw Delta- Bayou Sara CLT Addition in Mobile County, and 9) The State Cattle Ranch Phase II Tract in Hale County.

During fiscal year 2008-2009 the Board will continue identifying and purchasing tracts of land for nature preserves, additions to state parks, outdoor recreational areas and wildlife management areas for public hunting.

Sincerely,

M. Barnett Lawley
Chairman

**ALABAMA
FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2007-2008**

ALABAMA FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST
ANNUAL REPORT
Fiscal Year 2007-2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

Amendment 543 of the *Constitution of Alabama of 1901* established the Forever Wild Land Trust and the Board of Trustees of the Forever Wild Land Trust. The enabling law provides for an annual report for the previous fiscal year to be delivered to the Governor and state legislature on or before February 1 of each year. The report details the activities of the Board for the previous fiscal year. This report is for the fiscal year October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, served as ex officio Chairman of the fifteen member Board of Trustees (Board) of the Alabama Forever Wild Land Trust. The Board also includes two (2) other ex officio members, three (3) members appointed by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) and, three (3) members each appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House.

The following comprised the membership of the Board for fiscal year 2007-2008:

M. Barnett Lawley

ex-officio Chairman

Commissioner

**Alabama Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 North Union Street, Suite 468
Montgomery, AL 36130**

Linda S. Casey

ex-officio member

State Forester

**Alabama Forestry Commission
513 Madison Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36130**

George Crozier, Ph.D

ex-officio member

Executive Director

**Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
Post Office Box 369-370
Dauphin Island, AL 36528**

Replaced by

Dr. John Dindo

ex-officio member

**Interim Executive Director
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
Post Office Box 369-370
Dauphin Island, AL 36528**

**Replaced by
Dr. L. Scott Quackenbush(deceased)**

ex-officio member

**Executive Director
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
Post Office Box 369-370
Dauphin Island, AL 36528**

**Replaced by
George Crozier, Ph.D**

ex-officio member

**Executive Director
Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium
Post Office Box 369-370
Dauphin Island, AL 36528**

A.F. Schlundt, Ph.D

**Appointed by the Alabama Commission on Higher
Education (representing the Southern District)
Term expires September 30, 2013**

**Educator
Faulkner University, Montgomery
5345 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, AL 36109**

Frank Romano, Ph.D

**Appointed by the Alabama Commission on Higher
Education (representing the Northern District)
Term expires September 30, 2009**

**Educator
Jacksonville State University
North Pelham Road
Jacksonville, AL 36265**

Lawrence J. Davenport Ph.D

**Appointed by the Alabama Commission on Higher
Education (representing the Central District)
Term expires September 30, 2011**

**Educator
Samford University
Department of Biology
800 Lakeshore Drive
Birmingham AL 35229**

Jeff McCollum

Appointee by Governor Riley (representing the Northern District)

Term expires December 31, 2010

Physician

614 Margarate

Decatur, AL 35603

George Barber

Appointee by Governor Riley (representing the Central District)

Term expires December 31, 2012

Businessman

27 Iverness Court Parkway

Birmingham, AL 35242

Grady Hartzog

Appointee by Governor Siegelman (representing the Southern District)

Term expires December 31, 2008

CPA,

Hartzog and Company, PC

Post Office Box 787

Eufaula, AL 36072

Larry Landman

Appointee by Lt. Governor Windom (representing the Northern District).

Term expires December 31, 2008

Businessman

L&L Lumber Company

109 A. Wholesale Avenue

Huntsville, AL 35801

Lee Robertson Kuwica

Appointee by Lt. Governor Baxley (representing the Central District).

Term expires December 31, 2010

Attorney

218 Beech Street

Birmingham, AL 35213

Everett Johnson

**Appointed by Lt. Governor Baxley (representing the Southern District)
Term expires December 31, 2012**

**Educator
13693 Pine Forest Road
Andalusia, AL 36420**

William W. Goodrich

**Appointee by Speaker Hammett (representing the Central District)
Term expires December 31, 2008**

**Businessman
402 Office Park Drive, Suite 104
Birmingham, AL 35223**

James A. Yance

**Appointee by Speaker Hammett (representing the Southern District)
Term expires December 31, 2010**

**Attorney
1601 Dauphin Street
Mobile, AL 36604**

John Woller

**Appointee by Speaker Hammett (representing the Northern District)
Term expires December 31, 2012**

**Businessman
2418 Surrey Lane, SE
Decatur, AL 35601**

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board held four meetings during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The first quarterly meeting was held December 6, 2007 at the State Capitol Auditorium in Montgomery. The second meeting was February 7, 2008, at the State Capitol Auditorium in Montgomery. The third meeting was on June 19, 2008 at Weeks Bay Reserve in Fairhope. The final meeting of the year was held September 11, 2008 at University of West Alabama in Livingston.

Each of the Board meetings was announced in advance through press releases and the Secretary of State's website inviting public attendance and participation. Public comment, as usual, was encouraged at each Board meeting. The proceedings of all meetings were recorded, transcribed and made available for public review.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & TRACT NOMINATIONS

The State Lands Division began receiving tract nominations for acquisition by the Forever Wild Land Trust with the passage of the law. The public is encouraged to nominate tracts for consideration by the Board. Nomination solicitation notices are periodically sent to all members of the legislature, all Board members, major newspapers and other interested parties. The only requirement for nominating land is that the nomination be made in writing. Fifty (50) nominations, approved for consideration by the landowners, are currently in various stages of consideration by the Board. The list of nominations is updated regularly by staff of the Alabama State Lands Division. Nominated tracts remain on the list until either withdrawn by the owner, or the State is unable to negotiate purchase. A current listing of the available nominated tracts is attached to this report as Appendix A.

The Alabama State Lands Division staff maintains a mailing list of individuals interested in Forever Wild matters in order to inform them of upcoming meetings.

BUDGET

The Forever Wild Trust Fund cash balance as of September 30, 2008 was \$32,812,399.81. Cumulative capital spending authorization was \$ 23,025,605.16.

The Stewardship Trust Fund cash balance as of September 30, 2008 was \$ 18,398,332.83.

Summaries of the Forever Wild current fund balances, along with budgets for fiscal year 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 are included in Appendix B.

ACQUISITIONS

In Fiscal Year 2007-2008, the Board acquired nine (9) tracts of land totaling 15,498 acres. An additional 873 acres of the Henshaw Cove Tract was acquired by the State Lands Division through \$1,200,000 U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy grant. Both of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta addition acquisitions were supported by a \$1,000,000 North American Wetlands Conservation program grant. Each 2007-2008 acquisition of the Board is described below.

COOSA WMA: CAHABA & COLUMBIANA TRACTS in Coosa County consists of 9,746 acres of Mountain Longleaf habitat interspersed by hardwood drains within the Weogufka and Hatchet Creek watersheds. All of the land lies within the Coosa WMA, one of Alabama's oldest established public hunting areas. The property also hosts one of the last remaining populations of red-cockaded woodpeckers outside of Alabama's National Forest system.

THE LAUDERDALE WMA- BTW TRACT ADDITIONS in Lauderdale County is a mix of pine and hardwood forest habitats. This 636 acre acquisition provides for several parcels that serve as public land additions to the Lauderdale Wildlife Management Area, which had been experiencing recent declines in acreage until Forever Wild's Southern Timber Venture purchase in 2001.

MSP-NORTH SLOPE ADDITION in Madison County consists of 154 acres of mountainous upland hardwood forest land on the Northern edge of Huntsville. The tract adjoins parcels owned by the City of Huntsville and the Land Trust of Huntsville and North Alabama, and hosts the Mountain Mist Trail which winds its way around Monte Sano Mountain. The tract is being managed as an addition to Monte Sano State Park.

HENSHAW COVE TRACT in Jackson County consists of 701 acres adjoining the Skyline Wildlife Management Area. The tract is comprised of mountainous and wooded terrain, hosting caves, springs, rocky bluffs as well as grassy coves and riparian forests bordering the junction of Estill Fork and Hurricane Creek, which are two of the three principal tributaries forming the Paintrock River. In partnership with the Alabama Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Forever Wild Program, an additional 873 acres of forest habitat were acquired by the State Lands Division through a \$1.2 Million U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy grant.

THE MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA-MIFFLIN LAKE TRACT ADDITION in Baldwin County consists of 561 acres of wetlands dominated by flood prone hardwood timber adjoining previously purchased land along the Tensaw River and Mifflin Lake. A \$1,000,000 grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Program supported this purchase of unique habitats essential for avian conservation, as well as several rare species of plants and animals.

CATHEDRAL CAVERNS-KIRKLAND TRACT ADDITION in Marshall County consists of 40 acres that serve as an addition to the State Park. The tracts provides for expansion of the park's trail system and buffer from future development on adjacent land.

THE STATE CATTLE RANCH TRACT in Hale County is a blackbelt prairie site that includes a mix of grassland habitats and pine-hardwood forest situated between drainages of Big German Creek. This 2,031 acre acquisition provides for habitat restoration opportunities of prairie grasslands, as well as numerous recreation opportunities that include field trial sites and handicap hunting stations.

THE MOBILE-TENSAW DELTA- BAYOU SARA CLT ADDITION in Mobile County consists of one parcel adjoining land previously purchased along Bayou Sara. The parcel contributes an additional 318 acres of wetlands to the W.L. Holland Wildlife Management Area. A \$1,000,000 grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Program supported this purchase of unique habitats essential for avian conservation, as well as several rare species of plants and animals.

THE STATE CATTLE RANCH PHASE II TRACT in Hale County is a blackbelt prairie site that includes a mix of grassland habitats and pine-hardwood forest situated between drainages of Big German Creek. This 1,311 acre acquisition provides for habitat restoration opportunities of prairie grasslands, as well as numerous recreation opportunities that include field trial sites and handicap hunting stations. In partnership with the Forever Wild Program, an additional 646 acres of land were acquired by the State Lands Division.

TRACT MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Forever Wild Constitutional Amendment requires that tract management plans be developed within 12 months of acquisition. These management plans are prepared by staff from the Alabama State Lands Division with assistance and cooperation from natural resource agency personnel, university staff members, environmental interest groups and citizens. The plans are developed in order to provide for management and maintenance of the property, protection of natural ecosystems, development of outdoor recreational opportunities, and implementation of natural resource education opportunities.

Alabama State Lands Division prepared and presented to the Board three new tract management plans during this reporting period, which were approved by the Board. These plans addressed management of the Coosa WMA-Hancock Tract in Coosa County, the Cathedral Caverns-Kirkland Addition in Marshall County, and the State Cattle Ranch in Hale County. Additionally eight tracts were considered suitable for inclusion under existing tract management plans. These tracts included; the Perdido River Addition, the Grand Bay Savanna – Giddens Tract, the Lillian Swamp-West Addition, the Lauderdale WMA-BTW Additions, MSP-North Slope Addition, Henshaw Cove, and both MTD Mifflin Lake East and MTD-Bayou Sara CLT additions.

SUPPORT OF FRIENDS OF FOREVER WILD

During fiscal year 2007-08 the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has run advertisement within the *Outdoor Alabama* magazine supporting the Forever Wild car tag.

PLANS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

The Board will actively pursue the acquisition of a short list of high priority tracts identified and evaluated last year. The Board will also initiate tract assessments and evaluations for newly nominated tracts.

FOREVER WILD PROGRAM

TRACT NOMINATIONS

Appendix A

Currently Active Forever Wild Nominations

Central District

NOMINATION NAME	ACRES	DATE
COUNTY: BIBB CAHABA RIVERS JUNCTION	300	8/8/2005
COUNTY: ELMORE WETUMPKA IMPACT CRATER-ENSLLEN	40	3/19/2007
YATES LAKE-WEST	3519	3/12/2008
COUNTY: HALE STATE CATTLE RANCH-SOUTH ADDITION	340	7/14/2008
COUNTY: JEFFERSON INDIAN VALLEY		5/14/2007
COUNTY: JEFFERSON/BIBB TANNEHILL LAND & RIDGES	698	8/15/2008
COUNTY: PICKENS LUBBUB CREEK-RODGER'S LFP	674	7/1/2002
COUNTY: SHELBY CLEAR PRONG WOODS	320	2/19/2008
DOUBLE OAK MOUNTAIN-2008	93	2/19/2008
COUNTY: SUMTER RATTLESNAKE BEND	1334	7/23/2007

Appendix A

Northern District

NOMINATION NAME	ACRES	DATE
COUNTY: BLOUNT RICKWOOD CAVERNS-HELMS	45	1/17/2008
COUNTY: CALHOUN COLDWATER MOUNTAIN-CASSIDY ADDITION	20	3/18/2008
COUNTY: CLAY CHEAHA SP-CASSIDY ADDITION	40	3/18/2008
COUNTY: COLBERT FREEDOM HILLS WMA-COBB ADDITION	623	3/30/2005
FREEDOM HILLS WMA-PATE ADDITION	320	11/7/2008
FREEDOM HILLS-BURGESS-1	260	12/4/2008
FREEDOM HILLS-BURGESS-2	100	12/4/2008
COUNTY: DEKALB THE MIDDLE RIDGES	4807	1/24/2006
TOWN CREEK-HOLLAND	80	8/14/2006
COUNTY: JACKSON COON GULF- GLAWSON	2575	5/23/2008
SKYLINE WMA-CLINES ADDITIONS	9	4/17/2008
SKYLINE WMA-MCLAIN ADDITIONS	9	4/17/2008
SKYLINE WMA-SWAIM ADDITIONS	11	4/17/2008
COUNTY: LAMAR LAMARION BLUFF	200	4/17/2007
COUNTY: MADISON MSP-FLAT ROCK ADDITION	10	1/8/2008
WADE MOUNTAIN 40	40	3/2/2007
COUNTY: ST. CLAIR CHANDLER MOUNTAIN-AKERS	88	4/13/2005
CHANDLER MOUNTAIN-SIMPSON	60	4/13/2005

Appendix A

Southern District

NOMINATION NAME	ACRES	DATE
COUNTY: BALDWIN		
COWPEN CREEK	400	6/24/2002
MTD-CLEARWATER ADDITION	10	5/2/2008
MTD-HONEYCUT CREEK BLUFFS	588	5/16/2005
MTD-SHELLBANK RIVER #1 AND #2	5	10/30/2008
WBR-KEY ADDITION	40	12/15/2006
COUNTY: BULLOCK		
MARTIN CREEK	2094	10/28/1999
COUNTY: BUTLER		
PIGEON CREEK	1164	5/2/2007
COUNTY: CRENSHAW/PIKE		
CONECUH RIVER SWAMP	771	7/20/2005
PATASALIGA CREEK	1900	5/22/2008
COUNTY: DALLAS		
GARDNER'S ISLAND	54	4/8/1996
COUNTY: ESCAMBIA/COVINGTON		
CONECUH RIVER FLATS	2500	7/24/2007
COUNTY: JACKSON		
BASSET CREEK WETLANDS	238	7/7/2008
COUNTY: LOWNDES		
KUMMEL TRACT	1835	5/27/2008
COUNTY: MACON		
WHITE OAK PLANTATION	2800	2/15/2008
COUNTY: MOBILE		
WEST FOWL RIVER BAY	735	6/3/2003
COUNTY: MONROE		
RED HILLS-FIRE TOWER RD	1297	8/22/2007
RED HILLS-FOUNTAIN	6134	5/27/2008
RED HILLS-HANCOCK	1800	3/3/2006
RED HILLS-MOLPUS	3937	11/30/2005
RED HILLS-SCRATCH ANKLE	1278	5/27/2008
RED HILLS-YORK	648	8/22/2007
COUNTY: MONTGOMERY		
CYPRESS POND-MCC	256	6/20/2006

Appendix A

FOREVER WILD PROGRAM

BUDGET

Appendix B

FOREVER WILD FINANCIAL INFORMATION

FUND BALANCES - As of September 30, 2008

Forever Wild Land Trust Cash Balance	\$ 32,812,399.81
Stewardship Fund Cash Balance	\$ 18,398,332.83
Cumulative Capital Spending Authority	\$ 23,025,605.16

FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST FUND

Actual Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Beginning Balance	\$ 14,599,074.74
Revenue (including federal grants)	\$ 19,123,168.90
Non-Capital Expenditures	\$ 4,272,518.00
Capital Expenditures	<u>\$ 25,324,695.93</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 4,125,029.71

Budgeted Expenditures for Fiscal Year 2008-2009

Projected Beginning Balance	\$ 9,556,370.64
Revenues - Projected	\$ 16,601,000.00
Non-Capital Expenditures - Projected	\$ 9,348,357.00
Capital Expenditures - Projected	<u>\$ 16,151,725.00</u>
Ending Balance - Projected	\$ 657,288.64

Appendix B

FOREVER WILD - FINANCIAL INFORMATION
FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST FUND
Fiscal Year 2007-2008

REVENUE SOURCES

Interest Income - Alabama Trust Fund	\$ 389,335.16
Interest Income - Short Term Investment	\$ 1,237,937.03
Forever Wild Personalized Tags	\$ 288,923.87
Operating Contributions	\$ 75,000.00
Unrealized Gains - Alabama Trust Fund	\$ 14,610,664.84
Prior Year Refunds	\$ 0.00
Federal Pass Through Grants	\$ 0.00
Federal Funds	<u>\$ 2,521,308.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 19,123,168.90

EXPENDITURES

Travel In-State	\$ 6,943.54
Professional Services	\$ 70,347.76
Supplies, Materials & Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 600.00</u>
	\$ 77,891.30

Capital Outlay:

Coosa WMA: Cahaba & Columbiana Tracts	\$ 14,250,000.00
Lauderdale WMA -BTW Tract Additions	\$ 619,091.25
MSP-North Slope Addition	\$ 539,222.41
Henshaw Cove Tract	\$ 941,459.90
Mobile-Tensaw Delta-Mifflin Lake Tract Addition	\$ 1,156,614.60
Cathedral Caverns-Kirkland Tract Addition	\$ 39,968.65
State Cattle Ranch Tract	\$ 4,450,000.00
Mobile-Tensaw Delta- Bayou Sara CLT Addition	\$ 476,594.15
State Cattle Ranch Phase II Tract	\$ 2,753,000.00
Property Taxes Paid	<u>\$ 12,255.20</u>
	\$ 25,238,206.16
Transfers:	
Stewardship Fund	\$ 4,454,970.81
State Lands-Heritage Program	<u>\$ 375,000.00</u>
	\$ 4,829,970.81

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 30,146,068.27
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Appendix B

**FOREVER WILD - FINANCIAL INFORMATION
STEWARDSHIP FUND**

	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Actual Beginning Cash Balance	\$11,115,555.56	\$13,035,395.05	\$14,289,949.61
Revenue - Interest Income	\$ 644,817.28	\$ 714,416.85	\$ 462,872.89
Transfers from FW Trust Fund	\$ 1,367,959.68	\$ 923,582.85	\$ 3,879,970.81
Non-Capital Expenditures	\$ 209,576.60	\$ 225,680.00	\$ 393,494.00
Ending Cash Balance	\$12,879,954.04	\$14,178,858.15	\$18,150,070.08

Appendix B