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Alabama Facts

Alabama Environmental Facts

- Alabama by many estimates contains **ten percent** of America's natural resources.
- About **one-twelfth** of all the water that flows into the oceans from the lower 48 United States flows through Alabama.
- Alabama has 77,000 miles of rivers and streams and more than 500,000 acres of standing water. Alabama has **more** navigable channels (1,438 miles) than any other state. (Alabama Issues, 1998, Bayne)
- There are over **4,000** species of plants, **850** species of vertebrate animals, and nearly **250** species of fresh water mussels in Alabama (Nature Conservancy of Alabama).
- Only Hawaii has **lost more native species** to extinction than Alabama (Nature Conservancy of Alabama).
- **Thirty-one** species of Alabama fishes (10%); **119** species of Alabama mussels (69%); **97** species of Alabama gill-breathing snails (65%); **10** species of Alabama fresh water turtles (43%), are recognized as being either extinct, endangered, threatened, or of special concern (Alabama Issues/ Lydeard and Mayden, 1995).
- Sport fishing activities alone account for between **\$1 and \$2 billion** in Alabama's economic gain (Alabama Issues, 1998).
- **Four** of Alabama's River systems are rated in the **top ten most threatened** rivers in the country (American Rivers).
- Alabama is ranked **50th** in the nation in environmental protection by the Green Index.
- Alabama has **less public land** than any other Southeastern state (Wildlaw).
- According to the EPA Toxics Release Inventory, Alabama is the **sixth most polluted** state and Mobile County is the **eighth** most polluted county in America.
- Most of Alabama's environmental laws and protection policies have not been updated since the late 70's and early 80's, leaving Alabama's natural resource policies **obsolete**.
- **Logging** in Alabama's national forests, excessive chip milling, and suburban sprawl have cost Alabama some of its greatest forest resources and have enhanced soil erosion and the degradation of many Alabama streams.

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