

Alabama Clean Water Partnership

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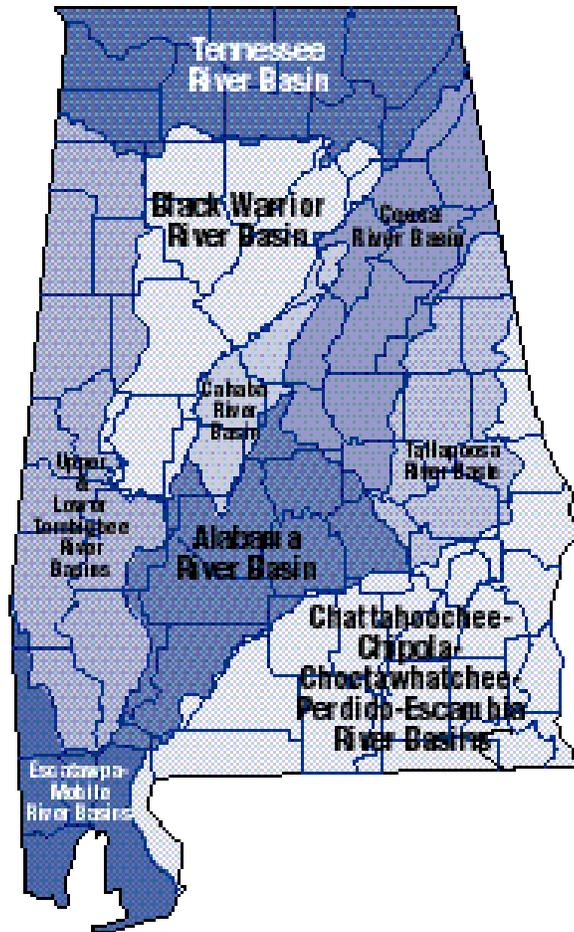
Alabama is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. Two of the most abundant and interdependent are the thousands of miles of rivers, creeks, and streams and the 22 million acres of forested land. Now the forestry community has the opportunity to get involved with the protection and management of our state's vast water resources.

The Clean Water Action Plan, announced in February 1998, encourages the involvement of local citizens to address the protection and restoration of America's water resources. One of the primary components of the plan is to utilize a watershed management approach in protection and restoring water quality in our rivers, streams and lakes.

In Alabama, nine Clean Water Partnership Projects have been identified by river basins. They are the Alabama River Basin, Cahaba River Basin, Chattahoochee/Choctawatchee-Pea/Perdido (not Baldwin County) Escambia Basin, Coosa River Basin, Mobile, Escatawpa/Perdido (includes Baldwin County) Basin, Tallapoosa River Basin, Tennessee River Basin, Tombigbee River Basin, and Warrior River Basin. These basins will serve as partnerships in a coordinated effort of public and private stakeholders to restore and protect Alabama's water resources.

Through these partnerships, watershed management plans for each basin will be developed and implemented. Participation in the partnership allows community-based groups, units of government, industry, farms, forestry, special interest groups, and individuals to pull together available resources to develop and implement programs that address and meet the needs of a variety of interests.

In each basin, a steering committee has been or will be established to facilitate communication and provide vision for the protection and restoration of Alabama's water resources. Steering



committees are comprised of stakeholders who have basin-wide interests. Each basin will also have a facilitator who will

oversee the administrative activities and projects of each basin.

Many of the basins have been further divided into smaller geographical areas by river section or sub-basins. Local stakeholders representing diverse interests will participate by serving on a sub-basin stakeholder committee. Each local committee will oversee the development of a watershed management plan and to pursue the implementation of watershed management projects. Local committees are comprised of stakeholders representing agriculture, local and state government, forestry, public health, utilities, environmental concerns, industry, economic developers, as well as recreational, educational and regulatory representatives. Each sub-basin committee will have representation on the steering committee.

Through the combined efforts and interests of these partnerships, Alabama's water resources will be protected or restored for citizens today and for future generations.

For more information about the Alabama Clean Water Partnership contact Allison Newell, Executive

Director, Alabama Water Watch Association, at 334-514-3826. 

Benefits of the Alabama Clean Water Partnership

- Improved communication to promote information sharing, broad awareness of resource availability, and networking with others in river basins facing the same challenges.
- Data and information consolidation through the creation of a communications and technical assistance network so that a more complete account of each basin's water quality is available.
- Improved coordination between community-based groups, municipalities, and industries to prevent the duplication of efforts and to streamline the use of limited resources.
- Opportunity for collaboration in decision-making and implementation of watershed management projects.