

## Surf

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slower modems, utilize the slide shows that maintain the audio, but use selected frames from the videos. All forest landowners, school students and anyone interested in Alabama's forests should view these excellent presentations. They exhibit the strong beliefs in stewardship and love for the forest held by many active forest landowners in the state.

There is an extensive list of FORESTRY LINKS to whisk you off into forestry cyberspace. These links are organized into several categories to assist you in finding what you need. If you know an appropriate link that you think other landowners would benefit from,

feel free to send it to us by using the CONTACT US button on the HOME page.

The PFMT is coordinating certain website information and services with the Alabama TREASURE Forest Association's Web site (WWW.ATFA.NET). An online speaker's database, providing state and county organizations easy access to speakers by subject, is being developed in conjunction with the ATFA. This database resides on the PFMT server and is accessed by both Web sites.

### Conclusion

This is a brief overview of the PFMT Web site. There are many sections of the Web site that are yet to be completed.

Developing this Web site is akin to writing a book. As time and resources are available, additional portions of the website will be completed. This Web site is designed for you—the forest landowner. If you have information that you think might be useful or know a resource provider that could assist with providing technical material, please contact us from the PFMT HOME page (CONTACT US). Your feedback is always welcome.

SURF'S UP—take a wild ride on the new wave in forestry—just watch out for the hickories, they can do a lot of damage to your surfboard!

Contact the Private Forest Management Team at: [pfmt@auburn.edu](mailto:pfmt@auburn.edu) or visit the Web site at [www.pfmt.org](http://www.pfmt.org). 

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# Alabama Wildlife Federation Offers \$5,000 Operation GameWatch Reward

The Alabama Wildlife Federation, through its Operation GameWatch Program, is offering a \$5,000 reward for information resulting in the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the illegal shooting of a bear being monitored in the Alabama Black Bear Alliance's (ABBA) research project and conservation initiative.

On October 9, 2000, a 220-pound male black bear (bear #11), fitted with a telemetry collar as part of the ABBA effort, was found dead in north Mobile County from multiple gunshot wounds. At this time, investigations are ongoing to apprehend and prosecute the person(s) responsible for this criminal act.

The AWF is encouraging anyone with information regarding this careless act to call the Operation GameWatch hotline at 1-800-272-GAME. Conservation Enforcement Officers are ready to follow all useful leads as they work to apprehend the criminals who killed black bear #11.

"Through the efforts of the Alabama Black Bear Alliance and private landowners in southwest Alabama, we have made significant strides in elevating among the local public the desire to protect and conserve black bear in Mobile and Washington counties. We are taking

steps today to help ensure that those productive efforts are not squandered by poachers," said Tim Gothard, Executive Director of the Alabama Wildlife Federation.

Corky Pugh, director of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, says, "We have assigned an investigator to this case who I am certain can bring the individual or individuals responsible for this heinous act to justice. If there is an investigator alive who can track these individuals down, this is the man. A combination of his work, along with the expert knowledge of the local area and its inhabitants on the part of our uniformed officers, bolstered by the Alabama Wildlife Federation's Operation GameWatch reward, will surely result in the apprehension of the person or persons responsible for this serious game law violation."

Established in 1983, Operation GameWatch is a program of the Alabama Wildlife Federation that provides a toll-free hotline (1-800-272-GAME) direct to the Law Enforcement Section of ADCNR, Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries for reporting poachers. Callers can identify themselves

or remain anonymous. The program also pays cash rewards to individuals who provide information that makes the difference and results in the arrest and conviction of poachers. Operation GameWatch is supported by AWF members and hunting enthusiasts and was created for the specific purpose of protecting our game resources and to distinguish between responsible hunters who adhere to and respect our game laws versus poachers.

The mission of the Alabama Black Bear Alliance is to promote restoration of the black bear into its former range through research, habitat management and education. The estimated number of black bears in southwest Alabama ranges from as few as 50 to as many as several hundred. The AWF and The Nature Conservancy of Alabama established the Alabama Black Bear Alliance in 1997. Participants also include private landowners, forest industry, state and federal agencies, and other conservation groups.

The Alabama Wildlife Federation is the state's oldest and largest citizens' conservation organization. To learn more about the AWF, contact the AWF at 1-800-822-WILD or stop by online at [www.alawild.org](http://www.alawild.org). 