



# Alabama Residents Complete Master Wildlife Program

## Impact Statement

### **The Problem/Issue:**

Wildlife management and related recreation is one of the most important aspects of forest land ownership for Alabama citizens. In a comparison of state natural resources, Alabama is first for most navigable streams; first for most species of saltwater and freshwater fish; fourth in overall biodiversity; and fifth in species diversity. This abundance of natural resources has a direct impact on Alabama's economy. Hunting and fishing by 360,000 in-state and 30,000 out-of-state hunters generate over \$600,000 annually in taxes, license fees, hunting rights and sales of equipment and supplies.

### **What's Been Done:**

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, in cooperation with the Alabama Wildlife Federation, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries and the Landowner Education Subcommittee of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, hosted the Master Wildlifer satellite series in 2003. Broadcast from Clemson University, this series utilized experts from across the region to address a wide range of wildlife management-related topics, including game biology and management; wetlands and farm ponds; and developing wildlife recreational opportunities. Thirty-two Alabama counties hosted the program with a total participation exceeding 800 landowners, wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife biologists and loggers.

### **Why We Care:**

About 25 percent of all participants in the southeastern regional satellite program were from Alabama. Alabama's outstanding participation was a collaborative effort of all involved agencies. The teleconference series provided Alabama residents with important information in a cost-effective and user friendly format. Overall knowledge of participants was increased, and it is expected that wildlife management practices in the state will be enhanced.

