

Spring 2007

Volume 1, Issue 2

# Alabama's Landowner Incentive Program, Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries



**Welcome!!!**

*If you have any projects or conservation news you would like to showcase please contact the LIP Coordinator.*

## Individual Highlights:

- LIP Funding Announcement
- LIP Paint Rock River Project Update
- Species Highlight : Red-cockaded Woodpecker Safe Harbor Agreement
- Landowner Qualifications

## Upcoming News:

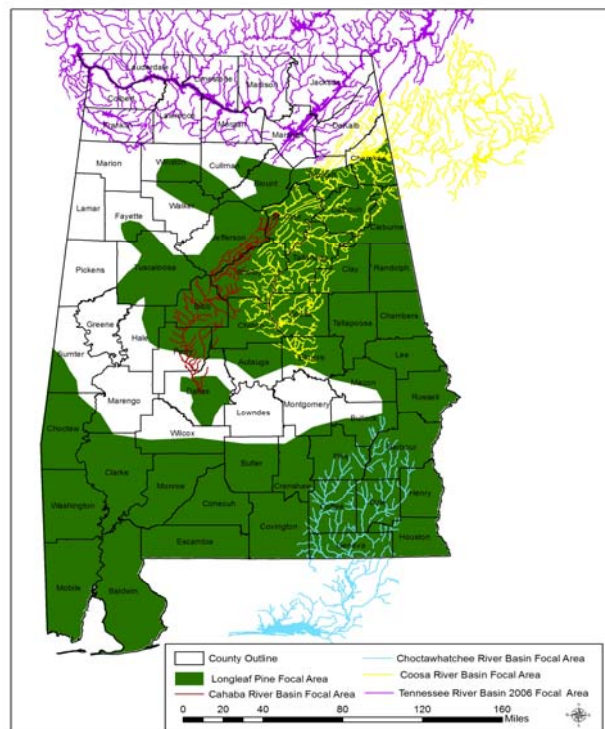
- LIP Activities
- Paint Rock River Projects Updates
- Species Highlight



## "Restoring Habitat for Alabama's Rare Wildlife on Private Lands"

### LIP Funding Announcement!

On March 9<sup>th</sup> 2007, the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries was awarded additional Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, to private landowners for the implementation of habitat projects to benefit at-risk species. This LIP funding will focus restoration activities in the Cahaba, Choctawhatchee and Coosa River basins and the Longleaf Pine Ecosystem to benefit 106 species in greatest conservation need. Restoration activities include reducing nonpoint source pollution; increase citizen concern for watershed protection; provide suitable reintroduction habitat for aquatic species by the Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center, native groundcover restoration, planting longleaf pine, prescribed burning, exotic species control and publicize and encourage landowner participation in Alabama's RCW Safe Harbor Program. These activities will enhance habitat for species such as the Gopher Tortoise, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Eastern Indigo Snake, Gulf Sturgeon and Federally listed mussel and aquatic snail species.



Landowners within the LIP focal areas are eligible to apply for LIP funding.

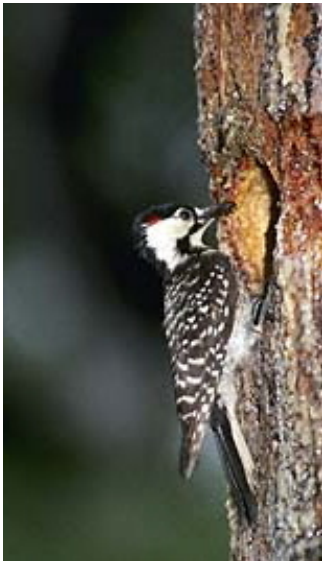
# LIP Paint Rock River Project Updates

The LIP Paint Rock River Basin Initiative has gotten off to a great start. Within the first three months of this project, 15 landowners within this watershed submitted a LIP application. The LIP Management Team reviewed, scored and selected, through a competitive process, 4 LIP projects for 2007. This includes enhancing approximately 3,500 linear feet of streambank on the Paint Rock River, Hurricane Creek and Larkin Fork via streambank restoration, cattle exclusion fencing, alternative watering sources for cattle and bottomland hardwood planting. Two cattle exclusion fencing projects were completed in May with landowners Mr. Wayne Sisk and Mr. Joe Mills. Streambank restoration projects will begin in June.



Approximately 3,000 feet of cattle exclusionary fencing was completed in May. Species protected include the Palezone Shiner, Blotchside Logperch, Snail Darter and 10 rare mussel species.

## Species Highlight: Red-cockaded Woodpecker Alabama signs statewide Safe Harbor Agreement



On March 29, 2007, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the initiation of a statewide conservation program for the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). With suitable property and interest, the program provides a mechanism through which private landowners can agree to manage their land in a manner that benefits this species. In return, the landowner receives assurance that they will not suffer from increased regulatory requirements if more birds occupy their land. An official signing ceremony was held at Sehay Plantation in Bullock County and hosted by the first enrollee for Alabama, Mr. Cam Lanier. Many thanks to Mr. Lanier, John Stivers and others who went beyond southern hospitality in hosting this event. Alabama is the 8<sup>th</sup> state to implement a statewide agreement for the RCW.

The RCW is a federally endangered species that makes its home in mature pine forests. Longleaf pines are preferred and they require at least 75 acres to nest and feed. RCWs thrive in an open park like forest that is regularly burned. Landowners interested in the Safe Harbor Program, has property that is used by, or has the potential to be used by RCWs, contact Bob Hastings at 334-833-4064.

Photo Credit: Eric Spadgenske, USFWS

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## Landowner Information

- Only private property is eligible
- The proposed project must restore or enhance critical habitat for species at risk (Managing for deer, turkey and quail goes hand in hand in with managing for species at risk)
- A landowner must submit an application to go through a competitive ranking process
- Applications that fall within the focus areas and benefit species in greatest conservation need will receive higher points in the ranking procedure
- A minimum amount of acreage is not required
- Habitat enhancement increases economic & esthetic values of private property
- LIP provides technical conservation assistance
- LIP offers up to 75% of project funding
- LIP complements other programs that enhance, protect and restore lands
- LIP funds projects such as streambank restoration, cattle fencing, alternative watering sources for cattle, planting longleaf pines and/or bottomland hardwoods, establishment of wetland complexes, restoration of native grasses, cave protection, prescribed burning, fire lane installation, midstory control, and exotic species control

*The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.*

