

# Daphne

## *Ecological Services Field Office*



photo: USFWS



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### Photos (top to bottom)

*The Daphne Field Office has the lead for implementing recovery of the Alabama beach mouse, an endangered species endemic to the Gulf Coast.*

*A Daphne Field Office volunteer inspects and maintains wood duck boxes provided by the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program.*

*Youth Conservation Corps enrollees from the Daphne Field Office construct a fence that holds brush for shoreline restoration in Weeks Bay. This project is part of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program.*

*The Daphne Field Office works to protect important habitats and minimize water quality degradation resulting from rapid development that followed the influx of casinos along the Mississippi coast.*

### Station Facts

- Established: 1982.
- Budget: \$2,226,000.
- Staff: 22.

### Station Goals

- Implement recovery, permit and Section 7 consultations for over 100 federally listed endangered and threatened species in Alabama.
- Conserve, protect and enhance Service trust resources and their habitats. Investigate, prevent and remediate effects of environmental pollution to maximize quality habitat for Service trust species.
- Protect and restore wetlands on public and privately owned lands.
- Support state of Alabama conservation efforts for endangered, threatened, and other species of concern under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.
- Inform the public about fish and wildlife resource issues.

### Service Provided To

- Private citizens.
- Federal and state agency clientele seeking Federal or state approvals.
- State organizations, local governments, schools, other educational and community groups.
- Other Service entities.

### Activity Highlights

- Lead recovery for Alabama beach mice, Perdido Key beach mice, and the Alabama sturgeon; coordinate field level work for Section 10 (ESA) permit actions in Alabama.
- Lead State Working Group for the Partners In Flight Program, Alabama.
- Review approximately 1,500 federally funded, licensed permitted projects annually for impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- Work with private landowners on a voluntary basis to implement positive on the ground conservation measures.
- Evaluate impacts of contamination and develop offsetting measures or seek compensation under Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions and the Superfund Program.

### Questions and Answers

*How many threatened and endangered species do we have in Alabama, and which ones are they?*  
The number and species vary when some are added to Alabama's list and others removed. An updated list is available via the Internet at <http://daphne.fws.gov>.

## Daphne Ecological Services Field Office

*What is your office's authority under the Endangered Species Act?*

Our office works under Section 4 Determination of an Endangered and Threatened Species; Section 6 Grant Management; Section 7 Interagency Cooperation; Section 9 Prohibited Acts; and Section 10 Exceptions.

*Why protect endangered species?*

Congress answered these two questions in the preamble to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, recognizing that endangered species of fish, wildlife and plants "are of esthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value to the Nation and its people." In this statement, Congress summarized concerns regarding endangered species. Some examples of those concerns include:

- Environmental barometers. Each species plays an important role in an ecosystem. When one becomes endangered it indicates that something is wrong with the ecosystem. The increasing number of endangered species warn us that the health of our environment has declined.
- Medicine. Every species contains a unique storehouse of genetic material that has evolved over time. Once lost, it cannot be duplicated. Scientists have only investigated about two percent of the more than 250,000 known plant species for possible medicinal values. One example is the pink lady's slipper plant used to treat heart ailments and circulatory system problems.
- Agriculture. Many life forms are important to agriculture such as certain plants that contain compounds that repel crop pests and various animals and insects that prey on crop pests. These are biological controls that are often safe, effective and a less expensive alternative to synthetic chemicals.
- Natural diversity. No creature exists in isolation, so removing a single species can set off a chain reaction affecting many others.

*What are Fish and Wildlife Service trust resources?*

Trust resources are those species that are primarily managed by the Federal government, such as threatened and endangered species, anadromous fish and migratory birds.

*Why save wetlands?*

Marshes, swamps, potholes and other wetlands provide homes for countless species of fish, wildlife and plants. Wetlands help control floods, recharge groundwater, and cleanse pollutants from our groundwater supply. Fish and Wildlife surveys show that more than half of the 221 million acres of wetlands that once existed in the United States have disappeared, replaced by farms, factories, roads and cities. About 59,000 acres of wetlands continue to be lost each year.