

I recently completed my internship with The Nature Conservancy of Alabama. The Nature Conservancy is a global organization that partners with various groups to raise environmental awareness and implement conservation strategies. On a local level, The Nature Conservancy of Alabama is focused on three major projects. The first of which is oyster reef restoration in the Gulf of Mexico. The Conservancy coordinates with government agencies to secure funding to continue their work to correct the damage caused by the Horizon Oil Spill. The restoration of water flow along with the improvement of water quality in the Cahaba River is the Conservancy's second major focus. Alabama's Forever Wild Land Trust is up for renewal in the November election making it a top concern for the Conservancy. Facilitating the campaign to reauthorize Alabama's Forever Wild Land Trust is not only one of the Conservancy's main priorities but it was also the crux of my internship.

Alabama's Forever Wild Land Trust is a state-run conservation program responsible for providing over 220,000 acres for public recreation. Along with our fieldwork coordinator and a fellow intern, we developed a grassroots strategy targeted at women and minorities for the Forever Wild campaign. These efforts included distributing materials to local businesses, arranging speaking engagements and events, and coordinating with the Conservancy's State Director, Board of Trustees and leadership in the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The bulk of my duties as an intern centered around Forever Wild but due to the small size of the office I also worked on a number of other tasks. I helped with basic administrative duties such as organizing databases and archiving Conservancy publications. My work this summer led the Conservancy to extend my internship into September.