

Field Notes

News from the Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



Oil Aftermath: Service Biologists Committed to Clean-up

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded forty-one miles off the coast of Louisiana. Eleven people lost their lives in the explosion, and life along the coast would change dramatically. As oil from the damaged well began flowing into the Gulf, biologists were on high alert. The Gulf Coast region is a globally unique ecosystem, supporting a high number of beach-nesting birds, such as Sandwich terns, brown pelicans, and Wilson's plovers. At the time of the spill, these species were about to start their nesting seasons, and oil would be detrimental to the birds. Nesting sea turtles were also in grave danger. Several species, including loggerhead and Kemp's Ridley, were at risk of losing an entire nesting season.

While oil was still far from land, Alabama Field Office Contaminants Biologist Pete Tuttle was keeping a close eye on the trajectory. Biologists only had days to figure out how to protect wildlife, and minimize their exposure to oil. This meant quickly organizing teams, deploying boats and helicopters, and forming strategies on how to protect sensitive lands. "We knew right away the significance of this spill," explained Tuttle. "From that point on, it was go time."

Alabama Field Office Supervisor Bill Pearson was hoping for the best, but learned quickly the disaster was happening in his own back yard. "I knew this would change the way we did business in the field office," said Pearson. "Our strategic office plan now had a new chapter....responding to a spill that could change the Gulf Coast forever. But we were ready for the challenge."

Pearson would have significant staff resources on which to rely. The Alabama Field Office consists of twenty-one employees. Those employees quickly learned the value of their past experience working on ecological issues in the Gulf region. All 21 staff members submitted



A brown pelican retrieved by the wildlife operations team is cleaned at the Oiled Wildlife Rehab Center in Theodore, Alabama, credit USFWS/Denise Rowell.

their names to be selected to work exclusively on the spill. Administrative Officer Jill Carlton was one of the first employees to be deployed into the incident command system. Her 13-day detail involved helping with the administrative support of the FWS employees involved in the incident. "We needed an administrative system for folks assisting with the spill. This included timekeeping, travel, ordering supplies.... you name it," explained Carlton.

Deployments didn't stop there. More than seventy percent of the office did one or more stints into the incident command system. On top of the day-to-day consultations, litigation, biological opinions, and habitat conservation plans, the AFO made a deep commitment to the oil spill. Some biologists manned boats and walked beaches, looking for oiled wildlife. Folks specializing in Geographic Information Systems and Information Technology were called to duty most of the summer and fall, as well as public affairs specialists.

The Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) process also kicked into high gear, spending the first few weeks of the spill operating out of the Alabama Field Office conference room before it became a separate field office. The Alabama Field Office had at least seven employees resourced into multiple NRDAR deployments, some of whom are still deployed. "Our staff, we're proud to say, made an incredible effort to handle multiple spill-related duties in addition to their already significant conservation workload," said Alabama Field Office Deputy Supervisor Dan Everson. "It's been a crazy, chaotic year, but it did help showcase the dedication and abilities of our outstanding employees."

Questions still linger as to how much oil is left, and how wildlife is still being affected. It may take years to find answers, but folks at the Alabama Field Office will always be on stand-by, ready to protect our trust resources from the worst oil spill in our nation's history.

Alabama Field Office Sets Conservation Priorities

In the quaint little town of Daphne, Alabama, you'll find a little field office located in the heart of the downtown area. Surrounded by glorious oaks, and just down the street from City Hall, the Alabama Field Office is sometimes easy to miss. But without it, Alabama's most imperiled fish and wildlife would be in big trouble.

The only Ecological Services office in the state, the Alabama Field Office is responsible for more than 133 candidate, threatened and endangered species, a number that keeps biologists here very busy. Since 2006, we have reviewed at least 2000 new federal activities for effects to wetlands and aquatic habitats. We've also provided endangered species consultations for more than 5000 new projects. Throw in contaminants issues, several dozen Habitat Conservation Plans for beach homes, designation of critical habitat for several species, a busy Partners for Wildlife program, GIS data management and analyses, relicensing of fifteen hydroelectric dams, and coastal outreach, and you'll find thirteen biologists who are overwhelmed with work.

"It's easy to get bogged down in paperwork, and lose sight of what we're doing. If we're not careful, the natural resources we strive to protect may suffer in the process," said Field Supervisor Bill Pearson.

That's where a little acronym known as SHC comes in.....Strategic Habitat Conservation. In Alabama, that means prioritizing our tasks to create the best results for wildlife, as well as for the American people. But with so many projects, where do we begin?

"We needed a strategic plan that would focus our efforts," explained biologist Dan Everson. "We had to decide what was most important and why."

Biologists also wanted to figure out a way to efficiently handle paperwork, and still make time for their first love.....working in the field. The first step was deciding which areas should be our primary focus. Using GIS, biologists mapped out hot spots for imperiled species across the state. We compared these hot spots to a

map of recently completed projects by the Alabama Field Office; the realization that these datasets only partially overlapped was an enlightening and thought-provoking result.

"After reviewing the data, we had to make a strategic decision as to which areas should be our top priority," said Pearson.

One method we are developing is prioritizing the state by watersheds. Rich in diversity, Alabama watersheds provide habitats that are critical to the survival of hundreds of aquatic species. Besides priority watersheds, other regions of focus include coastal Alabama, longleaf pine habitats, Karst areas, and the Bibb County glades. Recognizing these priority areas gives biologists a roadmap to smart conservation.

"We literally receive thousands of requests for project reviews each year. By knowing where our priority areas are, we can decide which activities we should work on aggressively, and which ones should get a more streamlined response," said Pearson. "We want to ensure that we maximize our results for the species by putting our efforts in the right place on the ground."



A biologist holds a Blotchside Logperch, a rare fish found in the Paint Rock River, credit Jeff Powell.

But what about all of those endangered species? Behind Hawaii and California, Alabama is number three in the nation when it comes to the number of imperiled species. So, how do we decide which species are our top priority? After careful



AFO biologists and partners perform surveys at Paint Rock River, a priority watershed, credit the Nature Conservancy/ Paul Freeman.

thought and consideration, our office biologists identified a list of ten species: the Alabama red-bellied turtle, Red Hills salamander, gopher tortoise, tulotoma snail, fine-lined pocketbook, Alabama sturgeon, red-cockaded woodpecker, Mohr's Barbara's button, Alabama beach mouse, and the slabside pearl mussel. We tried to choose species that were representative of a region or habitat type, and also considered their recovery potential. In a few cases we simply chose species that we knew were going to require a considerable amount of work in the foreseeable future.

Next, it was time to identify our population and habitat objectives for our priority species. This part of the SHC model requires identifying measurable conservation units for us to track, keeping up with population trends, and identifying where we should protect habitat. By design, this will continually force us to consider how to align our office's daily activities in order to meet these objectives.

"We have to dust off those old recovery plans, and begin to identify and implement the most important recovery actions," said Everson. "We can't just sit back and respond to the mail that comes in the door to effectively protect our trust species."

With new goals before us, biologists with the Alabama Field Office are confident in this new strategic direction, and what it will do for endangered species.

Saving Three Mile Creek: The War Against an Invasive Snail

Langan Municipal Park has long been a treasure in west Mobile, Alabama. With a beautiful lake, playground for children, and an array of colorful ducks and wildlife, it's always been a perfect outdoor getaway for families. But in the fall of 2009, fishermen saw a little more than squawking geese and swimming turtles in the water. Along the saw grass and cypress knees were big pink masses that resembled bubble gum. In fact, you could see these alien-like pink pods as far as the eye could see along objects in the lake. What were these mysterious masses? Biologists with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would soon find out.

Island apple snails somehow made their way into the lake. These non-native, invasive snails come from Central and South America. Biologists aren't sure how they ended up in Alabama. They believe someone may have had a couple of apple snails in an aquarium, and decided to toss them into the lake. Those bizarre pink masses were snail eggs.....by the millions.

Just how big of a threat are these island apple snails? They can lay a clutch of eggs nearly every week, with each egg mass often exceeding 2000 eggs. Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for their population to explode and result in considerable ecological impact. In addition to that, apple snails are hungry herbivores that munch on submerged vegetation, quickly eating away important aquatic habitat. They have no native predators that can keep their population in check, and can survive most severe weather conditions with the exception of freezing temperatures.



An island apple snail is pulled out of Langan Park Lake, credit Andy Ford.

"The massiveness of this infestation was mind-boggling. Literally, any piece of hard substrate, natural or man-made, that was suitable for apple snails to lay eggs was being used by snails for that purpose," said fisheries biologist Andy Ford.

Biologists with ADCNR Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries had to act quickly. Langan Municipal Park's lake was formed by damming a section of Three Mile Creek, and has continuous flow over an upper and lower spillway. The snails were already popping up downstream in an eight mile stretch along Three Mile Creek to within 1.5 miles of its confluence with the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. With an invasion of this magnitude, state biologists needed as much help as they could get. They enlisted the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Together, the two agencies came up with a plan to control the Langan Municipal Park population of island apple snails.

With aggressive outreach, state and federal biologists called on the public to join in and help scrape and destroy eggs along the lake. Folks with Mobile Baykeeper, a local environmental group, also rounded up volunteers for the tedious task. Ready to work, biologists passed out scrapers and bags. Together, they removed thousands of egg masses from the lake. Other agencies that assisted included the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile



Biologist Carl Couret scrapes snail eggs while in a kayak, credit USFWS/Denise Rowell.

Bay National Estuary Program, the University of South Alabama, Alabama Coastal Land Trust, Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Marine Resources Division, and the city of Mobile.

"We couldn't have been as effective as we were without the participation and volunteerism from the public," said Ford. "People just showed up, sometimes with their own boats and equipment, and just wanted to help." Biologists have also applied an EPA-approved treatment of copper sulfate to the lake, a chemical that has historically been used to control algae in swimming pools and fishing ponds. The treatment is essentially non-toxic to humans at the rate used, but it can have a negative effect on fish if applied at higher concentrations. Thanks to carefully calculated applications, fish mortality was non-existent. But was the treatment successful against the island apple snails?



A bucket of snail eggs, credit USFWS/Denise Rowell.

Biologists trapped snails before and after the copper sulfate treatment was sprayed into the Lake. After several weeks of trapping, biologists estimated a mortality rate of 50% to 70%. A good portion of the snails had been eradicated. But many of them managed to survive the copper sulfate treatment. Now, state and federal biologists are teaming up with local stakeholders to figure out a long-term plan to kill the snails, and stop them from spreading into the Delta.

"I think this effort is an important one, and we're committed to providing additional funding towards eradicating the apple snail," vowed USFWS Alabama Field Supervisor Bill Pearson.

The effort continues in 2010. The park and creek have both been treated again, and the results are short of amazing.... proof positive that working together is the best way to protect our resources.

A Journey of Hope: Moving Eggs Out of Harm's Way

When oil first began spewing into the Gulf of Mexico, sea turtle biologists had to think quickly. Sea turtle nesting season was only weeks away, and oil would be detrimental to nesting females and their hatchlings. If any oil were to come in contact with the eggs, the fragile nest could be ruined. If hatchlings were to emerge from the nest, the oil could greatly reduce their chance of survival, putting these threatened and endangered creatures in great peril.

So, biologists came up with a protective plan for the worst case scenario....to move the eggs during late incubation, and translocate them to the east coast of Florida. In June, that's exactly what biologists and trained volunteers began to do.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined forces with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Federal Express, Kennedy Space Center, military bases, National and Florida Parks, Share the Beach, Ecological Associates, Inc.



Biologists Dianne Ingram and Bruce Porter look on as Share the Beach volunteers remove sea turtle eggs, credit Barbara Maxwell.

and other partners to help move the sea turtle eggs out of harm's way. Under the direction of National Sea Turtle Coordinator Sandy Macpherson, wildlife biologists Dianne Ingram and Bruce Porter led the way for the Alabama Field Office.

“Translocating our nests was an emotionally difficult decision for us and our partners, with the outcome of the nests entrusted to others. Everyone came together right away though, and we did it. It was a success,” said Ingram.

The project would be no easy task. Sea turtle eggs are fragile, and simply turning the egg upside down could render it non-viable. Removing the eggs from the sand, and transporting them safely to Florida would be risky. After careful thought and consideration of other options, biologists decided the benefits greatly outweighed those risks.

Biologists would have to plan their days according to the sun. Too much heat would be harmful to the eggs. So, partners met before dawn or at sunset

to carefully remove the eggs from the nest. FedEx donated a special van to safely transport the precious cargo, travelling a total of more than 25,000 miles with the fragile eggs. The eggs were taken in coolers nestled in their native beach sand to a climate-controlled building at Kennedy Space Center, where they remained until hatching, carefully watched over by experienced sea turtle biologists. Then, the hatchlings were released into the waters of the Florida east coast. Nearly 15,000 hatchlings from Alabama and Florida made it successfully into the Atlantic through this translocation effort.

Once the well was capped in August, numbers of oiled juvenile and adult sea turtles dropped away, and healthy *Sargassum* mats were documented in the Gulf, biologists decided it was time to suspend the unprecedented undertaking. The news was welcomed. The Alabama Field Office and its partners had achieved their goal....to give these majestic creatures a chance for survival.

“Now that there is time to reflect on the process and understand what we actually accomplished, I understand the research opportunities we lost because of time,” said USFWS biologist Bruce Porter. “But I am glad we took on this project, protecting the lives of thousands of hatchlings.”



Biologist Bruce Porter escorts Regional Director Cindy Dohner as she carries a box of sea turtle eggs, credit Barbara Maxwell.

Restoring the Gulf Coast: Alabama Field Office Takes Active Role

by Sergio Pierluissi
Private Lands Biologist

Despite the major events in the Gulf this summer, this was an exciting year for coastal restoration in the Alabama Field Office. Early in the year we received word that the Northern Gulf Coastal program received funding, and would be based in the Alabama Field Office. This gave us a new ability to restore coastal ecosystems from Alabama to Louisiana. We worked with state, local, federal, and non-governmental partners to find restoration projects to tackle on the coast. We decided on living shoreline projects, invasive species control, oyster reef restoration, pitcher plant bog restoration, and several other projects, in Alabama and Mississippi. Many of these projects will begin shortly.

Another project took place in Louisiana, at Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge, which is on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain. With a small amount of funding, we worked with Refuge staff to locate marsh sites in need of restoration. They identified several that had been thick marsh areas, but were uprooted by Hurricane Katrina and turned into open water. Marsh plantings were needed to stabilize sediments and restore habitat for many species of wetland birds. To get the most for our money, we decided to use all available funds to purchase marsh grasses, and hoped to find volunteers and staff to plant them: a tall order for 50,000 plants. But when word about the planting got out, help followed, and what started out as a small project snowballed into a national, two-week long event.

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana donated 20,000 more plants and put out a call for volunteers. Amazingly, people showed up from all over the country, paying their own way down, finding their own lodging, and using their own vacation time to help plant the grasses. Some stayed for two weeks, and some for a couple days. All of them spent long days in the muddy water, and it showed. The muddier people were the more fun they seemed to have. The refuge staff helped plant, and ran a caravan of airboats to shuttle everyone to the remote site. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar made an appearance, as did NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco. The project turned out to be a huge success, and we have a slew of dedicated volunteers to thank for it.



Volunteers load cordgrass into the airboat for transportation to the restoration site, credit USFWS/Sergio Pierluissi.

Working Together for the Tortoise

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is reaching out to landowners to help track the number of gopher tortoises in its listed range.

Gopher tortoises are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act. The western population of the gopher tortoise was listed as threatened in 1987. Now, biologists would like to review its status and take another count of the species. If biologists see the gopher tortoise population is thriving, there's a chance the gopher tortoise could be de-listed. But biologists need landowners' permission to survey their private property.

"In order to conduct a survey, biologists would simply walk on the land and look for burrows," explained biologist Bruce Porter. "We would be quick and non-invasive." If landowners don't want biologists on their property, the landowners can also count burrows themselves and report the number to the Service.

"We would be more than happy to get any information we could from the public," said Porter.

The western population of the gopher tortoise includes the area west of the Tombigbee and Mobile Rivers in Alabama, then across south Mississippi and extreme southeastern Louisiana. Biologists believe there are about 23,000 gopher tortoises in the western portion of its range.

"Doing these surveys is a win-win for everybody," said Porter. "If we can prove the numbers are up, then that means the species is no longer in trouble. That is our ultimate goal."

If you would like to give USFWS biologists permission to survey your land, contact Bruce Porter, 251/441 5864, bruce_porter@fws.gov.



A gopher tortoise ventures out of its burrow, credit Carl Couret.

New Hope for Endangered Mouse

Among the sand dunes along Alabama's Baldwin County beaches, you may see a set of footprints no bigger than your finger tips, running through the sea oats. Those prints likely belong to an endangered animal called the Alabama beach mouse (ABM). The ABM was federally listed as endangered in 1985, primarily due to the loss of habitat from residential development and periodic hurricanes. The animals historically occurred along 29 miles of coastal dune habitats between Perdido Bay and the western tip of Fort Morgan Peninsula. Carl Couret is the lead biologist for the Alabama beach mouse. "The mice were also known to live at Gulf State Park. Unfortunately, the devastation of Hurricane Ivan wiped that population out in 2004," explained Couret.

In an effort to recover the ABM and one day remove it from the endangered species list, Alabama biologists tried a plan. They wanted to create a new population of mice on Gulf State Park, where the ABM once lived. After thorough research, biologists Carl Couret, Darren LeBlanc, and Dianne Ingram teamed up with state conservationists, refuge biologists and volunteers to put a carefully developed reintroduction plan into action. Twenty-two young mice were captured at Fort Morgan and Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge. The mice were then transported to release pens at Gulf State Park, where park property would hopefully become home. Once the mice were released, biologists conducted surveys in the area to monitor the plan's success. Biologists quickly spotted small rodent tracks in the targeted areas. A few months later, biologists did even more monitoring.



Biologist Josh Rowell holds an Alabama beach mouse, credit Dianne Ingram.

They were able to capture two mice, one male, one female. The female was untagged, pregnant, and lactating... the first evidence of successful ABM reproduction and recruitment into the new population. Although only two mice were collected, Couret believes many more are out there. "I believe the data we have suggests successful re-establishment of Alabama beach mice on historic habitat in Gulf State Park," said Couret. "This work will bring the known number of distinct populations to three, which would reduce the danger of extinction for this subspecies, and satisfy one of the criteria for downlisting ABM to threatened status."

So, what's the next step? In five years, biologists must determine if the new population is equal to or greater than the number of mice initially translocated to the site. At least 50 percent of suitable ABM habitat must also be occupied. Couret and other dedicated biologists are looking forward to the results.

Left: the Alabama beach mouse is nocturnal, and lives in the sand dunes, credit USFWS/Dianne Ingram.

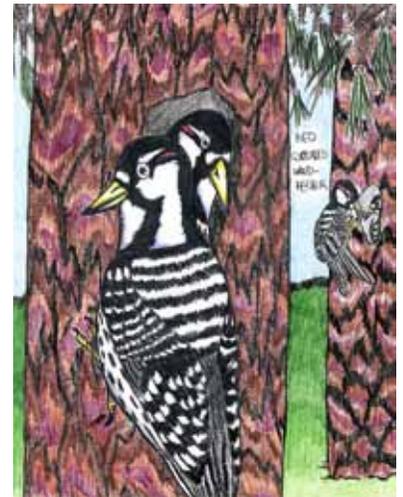
Conservation Through Art

This year, the Alabama Field Office embarked on a new journey to connect kids with nature. We sponsored an Endangered Species Day Art Calendar Contest. Students from across the state were asked to draw, color, or paint a picture of their favorite Alabama endangered species. The winners from each grade would be featured in a calendar, and the grand prize winner would be on the calendar's cover. In addition, the winning student's biology teacher would get a \$500 gift certificate for biology supplies.

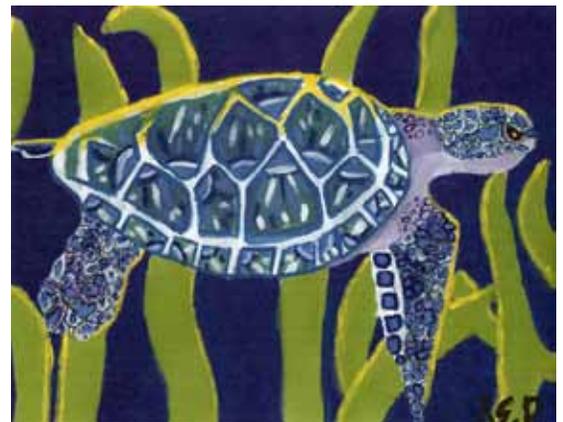
The contest was a huge success! Our office received hundreds of entries from across the state. The biologists had the difficult task of judging the contest.

The grand prize winner was Chanda Shaw

from Mountain Gap Middle School. Other winners included Jack Armstrong, Ben Cooper, Jasmine Cunningham, Isabella DeGavis, Sydney Norris, Megan Black, Tyler Tow, John Tran, Victoria Hughes, Jeff Webb, and Megan Pugh. Congratulations to all of the winners and participants!



Seventh Grader Chanda Shaw won with her depiction of a Red-cockaded Woodpecker.



Sixth Grader Sarah Powell painted a picture of a sea turtle.

Meet the Biologist: Carl Couret, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

After nearly 35 years of working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, biologist Carl Couret retired in December 2010.



Credit USFWS/Dianne Ingram

Carl received a B.A. (Biology) and M.S. (Zoology) at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Campus. For more than three decades, Carl has been a Fish and Wildlife biologist in Ecological Services. His career began in the Honolulu, Hawaii, field office, followed by the Albuquerque, NM, Vero Beach, FL and Daphne, AL field offices. These field offices provided him with experiences ranging from studying subsistence reef fishing and conducting inventories of riverine fauna in Guam and American Samoa, as well as participating in water management decisions and protecting trust resources, such as wetland/aquatic habitats and endangered species. Carl also had the opportunity to work on hydropower project re-licensing and migratory fish passage in Alabama and was part of a biological team involved with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project in south Florida. Carl was the lead biologist for the endangered Alabama beach mouse and the Habitat Conservation Plan coordinator for the Alabama Ecological Service Field Office. He will be greatly missed, and we wish him well!

Featured Species: Red Hills Salamander

The Alabama Field Office has long embraced endangered species native to our state, and the Red Hills salamander (RHS) is no exception. The RHS is the official state amphibian of Alabama and is the only terrestrial vertebrate species that is entirely confined to Alabama. Its entire global range falls within the Red Hills region of Alabama in portions of Conecuh, Covington, Crenshaw, Butler, Monroe, and Wilcox Counties. It is limited to the west by the Alabama River and to the east by the Conecuh River. Within this area, habitat for the RHS consists of relatively mature, undisturbed mixed hardwood forest located on steep slopes and moist ravines. The RHS inhabits burrows and fissures within these formations. Jodie Smithem is an endangered species biologist working to recover the RHS. "The RHS is a symbol of Alabama's unique natural history. Working with such a rare species has been a rewarding and special experience. It has really opened my eyes to Alabama's natural beauty and the resources our state has to offer," says Jodie.

A large portion of these rare salamanders share their habitat with private landowners, including timber companies. That's why it was so important for Service biologists to team up with these landowners, and help make their property a safe place for these amphibians to live. Reaching out to property owners to teach them about the RHS has been rewarding and beneficial. Several timber companies and private landowners have developed habitat conservation plans (HCP's) to reduce impacts from resource management activities and help improve the status of the species. Service biologists like Smithem are always available to assist landowners who are interested in developing new HCP's or transferring existing HCP's to help conserve the species.



The Red Hills Salamander; credit Dante Fenolio.

"Individual landowners can utilize their property in concert with species conservation efforts. The habitat conservation program is a great way for landowners to protect both their property and the salamander."



A Red Hills Salamander near its burrow; credit Kristin Bakkegard.

What can landowners do to help?

- Become knowledgeable about the plants and animals in your area and share that knowledge with others.
- Consider selling or donating your lands to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, or a non-governmental agency such as the Nature Conservancy.
- Place your land in a conservation easement, which will protect the landscape as well as provide financial rewards and continued use of your property.
- Enter into a Habitat Conservation Plan with the Service to help protect both your land and salamander.
- Develop a conservation bank to help off-set impacts from adjacent landowners.
- Sign a Safe Harbor Agreement to help recover the salamander without incurring additional regulatory burdens.
- Be concerned about the quality of forestland in your area. Call the Service if you have any questions about management of land on or near salamander habitat.

To reach Jodie Smithem, call 251/441 5842 or e-mail jodie_smithem@fws.gov.

Tuttle Leaves Alabama Field Office for New Position

*Alabama Field Office
Contaminants Biologist Pete
Tuttle has accepted a new
position as Project Leader
for the Natural Resource
Damage Assessment
and Restoration office in
Montrose, Alabama.*

Pete has served as a research biologist and environmental toxicologist with the U.S. Fish and Service since 1984. His duties in the Alabama Field Office included the identification and characterization of the impacts of pollution to fish, wildlife, and their habitats throughout the State. Duties also include the identification of measures to avoid or alleviate adverse impacts, and to compensate for natural resource injured by pollution. Pete also served as the primary oil and hazardous materials response coordinator for the Alabama Ecological Services Office.

His experience in Ecological Services will be put to good use as he leads a new office in the Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration process, stemming from the Gulf oil spill. We'll miss you, Pete!



*Deputy Field Supervisor Dan Everson,
NRDAR Project Leader Pete Tuttle,
and Field Supervisor Bill Pearson*

Alabama Field Office Staff

Bill Pearson
Field Supervisor
251/441 5181
bill_pearson@fws.gov

Dan Everson
Deputy Field Supervisor
251/441 5837
dan_everson@fws.gov

Sergio Pierluissi
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Partners
for Fish and Wildlife, Private Lands
251/441 5872
sergio_pierluissi@fws.gov

Jeff Powell
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
FERC licensing,
Aquatic Species Recovery
251/441 5858
jeff_powell@fws.gov

Shannon Holbrook
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
Grants, Forest Service,
ESA Consultations
251/441 5871
shannon_holbrook@fws.gov

Patric Harper
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
Coastal projects, Wetlands
251/441 5857
patric_harper@fws.gov

Darren Leblanc
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
ESA Permitting and Consultation,
Alabama Beach Mouse
251/441 5859
darren_leblanc@fws.gov

Bruce Porter
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Linear
Projects, Gopher Tortoise, Sea Turtles
251/441 5864
bruce_porter@fws.gov

Dianne Ingram
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, ESA
Consultation, Sea Turtles, Manatees
251/441 5839
dianne_ingram@fws.gov

Josh Rowell
Fish and Wildlife Biologist, ESA
Consultations
251/441 5836
josh_rowell@fws.gov

Jennifer Pritchett
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
Aquatic Species Recovery
251/441 6633
jennifer_pritchett@fws.gov

Andy Ford
Fisheries Biologist, Consultations,
Aquatic Recovery, Contaminants Issues
251/441 5838
anthony_ford@fws.gov

Tracy Bush
IT Specialist
251/441 5869
tracy_bush@fws.gov

Drew Rollman
Cartographer, GIS Mapping
251/441 5866
drew_rollman@fws.gov

Denise Rowell
Public Outreach and Media Relations
251/441 6630
denise_rowell@fws.gov

Jill Carlton
Administrative Officer
251/441 5865
jill_carlton@fws.gov

Jodie Smithem
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
Terrestrial Species Recovery
251/441 5842
jodie_smithem@fws.gov

Sandra Mashner
Administrative Assistant
251/441 5184
sandra_mashner@fws.gov

Eric Spadgenske
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
Partners for Fish and Wildlife
State Coordinator
205/731 0874
eric_spadgenske@fws.gov

Karen Marlowe
Fish and Wildlife Biologist,
ESA Consultations, NRDAR
205/726 2667
karen_marlowe@fws.gov