



Give and Take



Hunters and anglers, sometimes contribute millions of dollars annually through user licenses to help ensure the wildlife resources and wildlife habitats are properly managed. They also pay an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment that provides funds for wildlife conservation.

Today, there is growing interest in bird watching and nature photography. This growing trend creates a unique funding problem. More people are interested in wildlife and have a desire to participate in wildlife related activities, but only hunters and anglers are required to pay a fee for wildlife management.

A major challenge facing wildlife managers in the 21st century will be how to continue to fund important projects while revenue from hunters declines. One way non-hunters can support conservation in Alabama in the short term is to purchase a hunting and fishing license. These funds will help conserve Alabama's precious natural resources.



NUCOR Steel Decatur, LLC operates a steel manufacturing facility that adjoins the Mallard-Fox Creek WMA to the east. NUCOR has been a generous supporter of this WMA and a valuable partner with the Alabama Department of Conservation on other WMA projects. At Mallard-Fox Creek WMA, Nucor has funded this kiosk and graveled the access road. They also contributed funds for the North Alabama Birding Trail. These efforts demonstrate NUCOR's continued commitment to being a good neighbor in conservation.

Maintaining Balance

Hunting is a very important management tool for wildlife managers. Populations of some wildlife such as White-tailed Deer are at record high levels due to abundant food sources and the elimination of predators. If these populations continue to rise to unnatural levels, they could out compete

other species or drastically alter their own environment. Such populations are also more susceptible to catastrophic disease outbreak or starvation. Hunting plays a very important role in keeping this population in check. An important role for wildlife managers is to monitor wildlife populations and hunting to ensure that balance is maintained.



ADCNR Photos



Cypress Forest/ADCNR Photos

The Threat of Habitat Loss

As our world continues to urbanize and more and more wild areas disappear, it is important to remember that hunting is not a threat to wildlife. The biggest threat to wildlife in America is habitat loss due to development and urbanization. Hunters, anglers, birdwatchers, and all other outdoor enthusiasts must work together to conserve the habitats and wildlife that they enjoy.



Food plot/ADCNR, Mark S. Sasser

Planting Food for Wildlife

One of many ways wildlife managers help wildlife is through the planting of additional food crops. Foods such as corn, wheat, oats, millets, and various legumes are planted annually to supplement wild food sources. These foods can help increase the survival rates and improve the health of many game and nongame bird species including Wild Turkey, Bobwhite Quail, Eastern Meadowlark, and many species of waterfowl.