



Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water Is Life

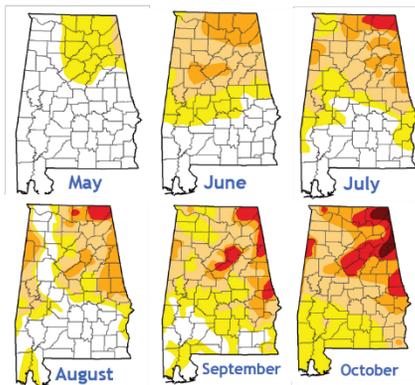
ALABAMA WATER CONSERVATION AND SECURITY ACT

- Protects Alabama’s way of life for generations to come by safeguarding the state’s 132,000 miles of rivers and streams
- Requires the state to protect the flow of water in each watershed
- Provides a science-based narrative standard for protecting stream flows
- Ensures that water resources are protected during times of drought or water shortage and clearly defines the conditions that would allow the state to step in
- Protects water users that conserve water ahead of time through conservation credits
- Makes key changes to the existing *Alabama Water Resources Act* to ensure that stream protections are coordinated with other management activities
- Maintains existing policy that human consumption is highest priority for Alabama
- Preserves water supply for drinking, irrigating crops, recreation and wildlife



Lake Purdy, source of Birmingham drinking water, in 2016.

No state agency is empowered to step in when water overuse threatens the security of Alabama’s water resources. The drought crisis of 2016 exposed the flaws in Alabama’s current system. The flows in many streams and rivers across the state were severely reduced due to continued water withdrawals during a declared state of emergency. All over Alabama, there were clear examples of streams getting dangerously low or even drying out completely because of unchecked water withdrawals.



The progression of the drought in 2016. Droughts can impact Alabama even after abundant rain.

Despite news reports and calls from citizens across the state, no agency stepped up to protect Alabama’s rivers and streams. We cannot afford to make the same mistakes the next time we face a water emergency—which is possibly just around the corner.

The **Alabama Water Conservation and Security Act** will modify existing state law to require the Alabama Office of Water Resources to balance water withdrawals with the protection of Alabama’s water resources. This bill clearly defines the conditions that will trigger state action to protect water resources. With this, we will be ready to meet future water shortages and keep our rivers and streams healthy and flowing.

For more information please contact:

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