

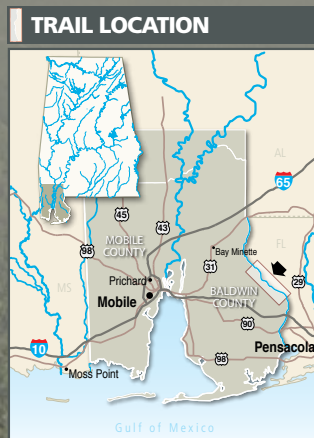
ALABAMA STATE LANDS DIVISION PERDIDO RIVER CANOE TRAIL



THE PERDIDO RIVER

Alabama's Perdido River Canoe Trail is a 19-mile segment along the Perdido River. This portion of the river is characterized by gently flowing tannin stained waters over southern white sands. The Perdido's many bends create numerous sandbars providing ample opportunities for canoeists and kayakers to take breaks or have lunch. The Alabama State Lands Division has provided multiple access points along the river with two launches and one boat ramp. Paddlers have the ability to stay overnight along the river in one of six reserveable camping shelters or by pitching a tent on the sandbars located at shelter locations. Paddlers can add a further 15 miles of trail south of the Alabama trail by using the Florida designated trail. For more information about the Florida trail visit their website at www.dep.state.fl.us.

To learn more or to make online shelter reservations, visit www.alabamacanoetrails.com
For general inquires, call (251) 625-0814.



Ver. 2.02/2017



SHELTER DESCRIPTIONS

Nelson Ditch Shelters

This site includes two shelters located approximately 4.3 miles downstream of Gravel Landing. Each shelter has room for 8 people and equipment. In front of the shelter is a medium-sized sandbar offering plenty of opportunities for relaxing or larger groups of campers. Located near the shelters is Nelson Branch, which empties into the Perdido River and gives the shelters their name.

Peaden Lake Shelter

The Peaden Lake Shelter is a single shelter located 7 miles south of Gravel Landing and 2.5 miles south of the Nelson Ditch Shelters. The Peaden Lake Shelter includes room for 8 people and equipment.

Loggerhead Creek Shelter

This site includes two shelters located approximately 12.5 miles downstream of Gravel Landing and 3.5 miles downstream of Staple Fork Landing. Each shelter has room for 8 people and equipment. This set of shelters includes one of the largest sandbars on the canoe trail. Located just downstream of the shelters is Loggerhead Creek, which gives the shelters their name.

Swamp Field Shelter

Swamp Field Shelter is a single shelter located 7.75 miles south of Staple Fork Landing and 2.25 miles north of Blue Lake Landing. Swamp Field Shelter includes room for 8 people and equipment.

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LANDING DESCRIPTIONS

Gravel Landing

Gravel Landing is the uppermost landing for the 19-mile State Lands Perdido River Canoe Trail. It provides boaters with access to all shelters and the southernmost two landings on the trail. To access Gravel Landing from County Road 112, turn onto Staple Fork Road, then follow the signs to the landing.

Staple Fork Landing

Staple Fork Landing is the middle and second landing on the 19-mile State Lands Perdido River Canoe Trail. It is located approximately 9 miles south of Gravel Landing. Staple Fork Landing provides access to the Loggerhead Creek Shelters, Swamp Field Shelter, and Blue Lake Landing. To access Staple Fork Landing from County Road 112, turn onto Staple Fork Road, then follow the signs to the landing.

Blue Lake Landing

Blue Lake Landing is the last and southernmost landing on the State Lands Perdido River Canoe Trail. It is located 19 miles south of Gravel Landing and 10 miles south of Staple Fork Landing. Blue Lake Landing provides no access to any shelters on the canoe trail and is the end of the State Lands Perdido River Canoe Trail. The southern terminus for the Perdido Hiking Trail can be found at the landing providing hikers with 4 miles of trail. To access Blue Lake Landing from County Road 112, turn onto Duck Road and continue past the Perdido WMA check-in station. Turn left onto Fairview Road then follow the signs around to the landing.



WILDLIFE & PLANTS

When canoeing the Perdido River, paddlers have excellent opportunities to view some of the southeastern United States' most diverse wildlife. Uncommon birds, amphibians, reptiles, and plant species abound while paddling one of Alabama's most scenic rivers.

Birds

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE

ERIC SOEHREN



Another bird species to look for while paddling is the Prothonotary Warbler. This common name refers to its similarity to clerks of the Catholic Church who wear yellow robes. These bright yellow birds are one of only two warbler species to nest in cavities.

Amphibians

Alabama is well known for its biological diversity in many categories, not the least of which is amphibians. With 31 different frog species, Alabama ranks second only to Texas (32 species) in frog biodiversity. The bird-voiced tree frog is a common frog species found in coastal swamps and lowland areas of Alabama. This tiny frog species is easily distinguished by its bird-like calls and is often mistaken for birds at night.

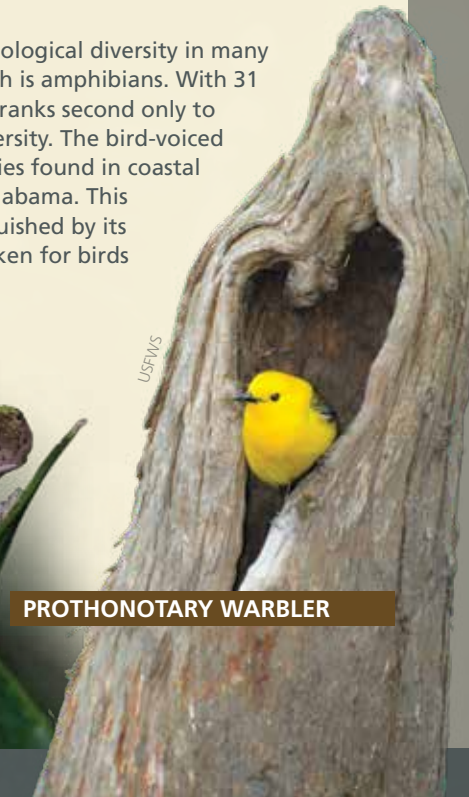
BIRD-VOICED TREE FROG



ANDY MCLEMORE

USFWS

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER



BETH TATTERSALL



RAINBOW SNAKE

ERIC SOEHREN

Reptiles

Alabama is also home to 49 different species of snakes with one of them being described as the most colorful snake in the Southeast. The rainbow snake is a semi-aquatic snake found in southern coastal plain habitats and feeds mainly on a diet of eels and amphibians. One of the last known locations for this snake in Alabama was along the Perdido River. Anyone observing this snake is encouraged to contact the Alabama DCNR.

Plants

With over 4,400 species of plants in the state, Alabama is sixth in the country for plant biodiversity. Ranging from the mountains of north Alabama to the Gulf Coastal region in the southern portion, the diversity of habitat throughout the state provides a unique opportunity to view a huge variety of plant species.

Many large tree species line the Perdido River, including the uncommon Atlantic White-Cedar. This tree species is only found in the southern part of Alabama, mostly lining rivers and cypress ponds. Valued for its strong, rot-resistant wood, entire populations of these trees were decimated by early settlers' demands for wood products.

Other, more diminutive plant species such as Sundews can also be observed lining the Perdido River. Wet, sandy, nutrient-poor soils are ideal for these carnivorous plants. These plants have adapted to trap mosquitoes and other insects in the sticky leaf pads which then can curl up and digest the insects. This provides an important source of nutrients, which would normally be limited, to the plants.



SUNDEW

