

Handle With Care

Working Together to Care for Alabama's Environment

10 Steps to Caring for the Environment

1. Plant trees in critical areas that have little or no vegetative covers; particularly in areas damaged by wildfire, or along waterways. Trees and other vegetation serve as buffers to filter out pollutants and provide food, shade and habitat for fish and wildlife.
2. Wash cars on the lawn instead of streets or driveways to filter grime and soap suds, keeping nearby creeks and streams free of pollutants.
3. Recycle used motor oil and prevent oil spillage. If oil washes into nearby streams, it disturbs the ecosystem, potentially killing fish and other aquatic life.
4. Recycle your household trash to keep streams clean.
5. Keep all fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides away from streams and waterways.
6. Use the Leave No Trace code of ethics while camping by properly disposing of all garbage, including any litter you come across.
7. Identify and control invasive species such as cogongrass.
8. Prevent wildfires by remembering the three Cs: check fire restrictions before visiting a national forest; crush cigarettes in ashtrays and check to make sure campfires are completely out before leaving.
9. Use off-road vehicles only on designated roads or trails to protect soil resources.
10. Become involved in programs that promote the wise use of natural resources by visiting environmental organizations and agencies websites or contacting them directly about volunteer opportunities.

National Forests in Alabama
"Places of Great Escapes"

www.fs.fed.us/r8/alabama

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