

HELPING LANDOWNERS

The Mississippi Land Trust is a nonprofit, charitable conservation organization that works with willing private landowners to preserve Mississippi's rich bottomlands, bayous, longleaf pine forests, coastal savannas, prairies, red clay hills and scenic streams. Our primary tool for land conservation is the conservation easement. It is an alternative to selling the land for development. A conservation easement will allow a landowner to retain ownership of the land, protect important environmental or historical assets of the land from future development, and obtain certain tax advantages.

Formed in 2000, the purposes of the Mississippi Land Trust are:

- To improve the fish, wildlife and plant resources of Mississippi.
- To acquire and hold title to land and conservation interests in land in Mississippi. This may be done in cooperation with other land trusts and government agencies in order to ensure the benefits of land protected from industrial, commercial and residential development by private landowners.
- To educate the public about the conservation of fish, wildlife and plants and to encourage them to become responsible stewards of Mississippi's natural resources.
- To develop incentive-based conservation programs.
- To work with the major conservation agencies that affect Mississippi to identify problems and target strategies so that the agencies have cost-effective and efficient programs to improve the state's environment.
- To educate private landowners about the conservation options available to them.