Dear Friend,

The 2021 state legislative session is well underway. Legislators met for a total of six days during the first two weeks, which means session is now 20 percent complete. While the first two weeks have been dominated by priority bills related to Covid-19, we're keeping a close eye on any legislation that may impact our natural resources. State lawmakers are currently on a planned break to assess the virus situation and will return on Tuesday, February 23. For a full review of what's happened so far, check out our weekly wrap-up blog. Also, don't forget to sign up for our Action Alerts so you can make your voice heard this session.

February is Black History Month. if you're looking for a way to focus on the intersection between Black history and conservation, we recommend watching An American Ascent. This award-winning film from 2017 chronicles the first all-Black expedition to tackle Denali and investigates the often overlooked issues of race and inclusion in the outdoor community. You can watch it free online here.

Read on for this month's feature stories about the 2021 Conservation Policy Guide and the Alabama Environmental Youth Council. As always, if you have comments, questions, or want to share your conservation priorities, I'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Tammy Monistere
Executive Director
2021 Conservation Policy Guide

Last week our sister organization, Conservation Alabama Foundation, sent its annual Conservation Policy Guide to state legislators. This document is created each year, with environmental partners throughout the state, to provide legislators a look at what we have identified as the most important conservation issues. We hope this guide will serve as a resource for them as they consider bills that could impact Alabama’s environment. It’s also a great resource for conservation voters across the state to stay informed and engaged on key policy issues for Alabama’s land, water, air, and communities. Be sure to check it out!

Want more? For the latest in conservation policy during the legislative session, make sure to sign up for our weekly Hot List email and subscribe to our blog.

Youth Program Update

The Alabama Environmental Youth Council (AEYC) has been hard at work since joining the Conservation Alabama family. Visit their website to check out their monthly newsletter, The Young Environmentalist, which features articles written by the students themselves on topics such as "How to Reduce Food Waste" and "Plant Trees by Searching the Web."

In the next installment of their webinar series, the AEYC will feature Dr. James McClintock, Professor of Polar and Marine Biology at UAB. Dr. McClintock, a world-renowned expert on Antarctic marine ecology, will give a presentation entitled, "From Penguins to Plankton -- The Dramatic Impacts of Climate Change on the Antarctic Peninsula."

Please join them TODAY, Wednesday, February 17th at 4:30 pm for an engaging discussion that will include penguins and whales, as well as a critical message about climate change! Find the Zoom link here.

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