

FOREVER WILD REAUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION

RESOLVED that the Diocese of Alabama supports in November 2012 the passage of the constitutional amendment re-authorizing the Forever Wild Program under Constitutional Amendment 543, thereby extending the Forever Wild Program.

Passed as Amended by
Mission of the Church Committee
02/17/2012

EXPLANATION

At our 2008 diocesan convention, Bishop Parsley invited us all to sign onto the Covenant for Stewardship of Creation, which calls on us to strive to be good stewards of creation;

God's Church and all God's people, are given the gift and responsibility of serving as stewards of creation, and since our diocese is blessed with a rich diversity of plants, forests, rivers and streams, wildlife, aquatic life and unmatched natural beauty, we recognize that in the past 19 years of its existence, the state of Alabama's Forever Wild Program has preserved and protected special places throughout the Diocese of Alabama, including, Monte Sano, Lake Guntersville, Tannehill and the Old Cahawba State Parks, the Walls of Jericho, Little River Canyon, Shoals Creek Nature Preserve, Fort Toulouse, Turkey Creek Nature Preserve, Ruffner Mountain, Sipsey River Swamp, Coldwater Mountain, Cathedral Caverns, State Cattle Ranch, and the Lowndes, Mulberry, Coosa, and the Cahaba River Wildlife Management Area.

More than 220,000 acres of Forever Wild lands are available for the enjoyment of all Alabamians and maintain open space that provides for clean air and water necessary for a healthy environment.

Forever Wild lands connect every generation, young and old, to the outdoors and brings us all closer to God's creation.

The funds supporting land acquisition by the Forever Wild Program are derived from the sale of Alabama's natural gas resources, thereby re-investing one natural resource into another, all without an increase in taxes;

The Diocese of Alabama Task Force for Stewardship of Creation unanimously supports the renewal of the Forever Wild Constitutional Amendment to be voted on by the people of Alabama in November 2012.